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and in demand. Know-how must be cultivated, to accompany wisdom, if we aim to excel in this knowledge economy.

What is know-how? In this case it is not the learning of a trade per se. Know-how is having both understanding and applied skill. Know-how is having the ability, when needed, to do a job well even when it requires putting together pieces or fragments of knowledge from what traditionally might be considered different areas. So know-how is integrated; it knows nothing of the artificial barriers that exist between fields, faculties, or institutions. In this age of high technology, know-how involves using powerful new tools. And know-how is also having the means to express oneself effectively when needed.

Well, for those of you who would like to develop more know-how, given our current model of imparting fragmented knowledge in isolated streams, we may have a problem. Clearly, we want to do more than just impart a body of knowledge. The world is changing so fast it is difficult to say what good knowledge is today, let alone what we might need for tomorrow. We don't want to just push out or "broadcast" knowledge from a central source as would a television network. We don't want to just "produce" knowledge in you like we were a factory. So what do we want? Our leaders say we want to cultivate ability, innovation, and new business. They say we want to empower you, our youth. We've heard that before. The real question is how can and should we do this? Well, we in the BEAT program, say the answer lies not in our traditional approach. We say to do this we must enable you to go out and seek for yourself the skills, know-how, relationships, and understanding that you need in order to achieve your life's goals. And how do we do that? We start with understanding, ingenuity, and the coordination of motivated young people like you. We integrate them, and then they apply themselves to real life usable projects using new tools like the Internet and the World Wide Web.

To understand the nature of the BEAT program and the initiatives it supports, start with the Internet. The Internet is a unique creation of human intelligence with far-reaching social and commercial forces and the potential to fuel the most significant global transformation since the Industrial Revolution. It is as much a linguistic concept as it is computer science – a universal communication medium that will codify and train, in its distributed information links, all human knowledge and understanding. BEAT treats it as such. By embracing new modes of communication and new means of expression and knowledge sharing we can give power to individuals to learn more, freely, for important projects and for themselves.

We used to simply lack the ability. But now we can use tools to create integrated knowledge networks, to coordinate our resources and independent learning paths, to enable us all to share in and benefit from each individual discovery. What's more is that we learn most in the process. In this unity of form, function, and content the integrated learning network becomes the university's greatest asset.

The BEAT Program

The BEAT program builds upon

this understanding. BEAT is special program that takes an applied, integrated approach to IT training and development at the post-graduate level to foster learning, to accelerate technology provisioning, to spark creativity and innovation, and to enhance our community.

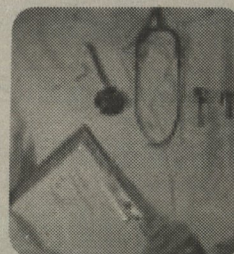
BEAT students are already hard at work on an important first project that will produce web-based services which offer anyone in our campus community the ability to create a powerful yet easy-to-manage web presence. The service is called Weblogs@UPEI and it is already the technology partner of The Cadre Online and a rich source of campus conversation. Check it out at <http://weblogs.upei.ca>.

If you're a student who is passionate about the web, a group in need of a partner to help carry out a project, or someone who just wants to know more, check out the BEAT program at <http://beat.upei.ca>.

See you online!
Mark Hemphill
Program Director,
BEAT

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