



ASET News

TAC's Executive Director sets sights on a course for success



When Sam DiGiandomenico took the helm of Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC) in January, he was prepared to help lead national accreditation to where it hasn't gone before – a world-class level.

No stranger to navigating unknown waters, DiGiandomenico, a weekend sailor, is buoyant about serving as TAC's executive director.

"When TAC was being formed, I asked to be on the board of directors and I was fortunate that my request was accepted. I have been involved since its inception and now that we are truly ready to roll it out, I would like to play a larger role in its success," said DiGiandomenico.

DiGiandomenico, a University of Western Ontario graduate, served as OACETT registrar for the past 14 years as well as for other professional organizations. He also has experience with academic institutions.

He is clear about what's on the immediate horizon: orientation for the incoming board; communication with the provincial professional associations (PPAs) about expectations and the alignment of efforts; and especially an outreach to the colleges.

However, his vision for TAC over the long term has a more expansive scope. He would like to see it become the undisputed accrediting organization in Canada for engineering technology and applied science programs, ultimately proving its merits as a model for other accrediting bodies and potentially achieving international recognition.

He is looking forward to developing and watching TAC grow in terms of number of annual accreditations applied for and performed, and third party acknowledgement and verification of TAC as a superlative accreditation model.

A key challenge in captaining TAC may be increasing college interest in applying for accreditation. However, he jokes about the daily logistics of heading up a smaller organization in its early stages. "I will have to learn how to sharpen my own pencils and file," said DiGiandomenico.

He replaces former TAC executive director Barbara Chappell who aptly steered TAC through its initial start-up phase – from branding to the creation of a website to the launch of its first pilot project at a Canadian college. Chappell, who was on secondment from OACETT, managed the dual responsibilities of TAC executive director and OACETT deputy registrar. She recently received the permanent appointment of registrar for OACETT.

DiGiandomenico is impressed with TAC's progress to date, including the dedication from everyone associated with TAC and particularly from the Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) provinces in their unified commitment for a better national accreditation model for Canada's colleges. He praised the excellent work of the provisional board and looks forward to his involvement with the new board which continues to include representation from academia.

"I really believe in national accreditation and that the colleges contribute greatly to our economy and well-being. I sincerely hope that TAC can play an active part in assisting our colleges in fulfilling their mandate," added DiGiandomenico.

TAC will officially begin accrediting engineering technology and applied science programs at post-secondary educational institutions this year. For more information, visit www.technologyaccreditation.ca.

