

SENECA TAKES FLIGHT

COURSE PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH AN EXTRA EDGE

Seneca College offers a wide range of bachelor degree programs from nursing to software development to accounting and finance. In this spotlight on Seneca's Bachelor of Applied Technology — Flight Program, we examine how the school provides a rigorous aviation curriculum and prepares students to assume the professional responsibility associated with becoming a commercial pilot.

Lynne McMullen is the director of academic operations and has been with the program for 11 years. "I work with the best group of instructors and pilots that has been put together in Canada at a flight school. The enthusiasm and the level of performance that we get from our staff and our students, I'd say, is



Alex Johnston, left.

COURTESY SENECA COLLEGE

the best there is. I also get to work with the best equipment in the country. We have an excellent fleet of very well-maintained aircraft because we do the maintenance in-house."

Alex Johnston is a recent graduate of the Flight Program. Throughout his time at Seneca, he demonstrated the highest scholastic achievement in the School of Aviation and Flight Technology. He is currently working as a pilot with AFS Aerial Photography in London, Ont.

"The degree, coupled with the flight training, is what gives us an edge on everyone else," Johnston says.

"If you go to other flight schools, you can get a degree, but what you end up doing is a three-year diploma and

then you transfer to a different university for your degree, whereas at Seneca we do it all at once."

The Flight Program has been around for 43 years, and responds to emerging industry demands and prepares students to work for the airlines. Three to four graduates each year are selected for the Air Canada Jazz award, which grants them an interview with the airline.

"We work with Jazz's standard operating procedures, we work with their aircraft operating manuals, so we get to learn about the company," Johnston says. "We get to learn about how they operate their aircraft and then if one of us goes for the interview, we also have that experience of being able to know what they're looking for."

DIFFERENT THAN OTHER SCHOOLS

What differentiates Seneca from other Canadian flight programs?

- Seneca's Flight Program is the only aviation technology-based degree program in Canada.
- The school maintains close associations with airlines like Jazz, Air Canada and Georgian Air.
- The only Canadian school accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI).
- Member of the University Aviation Association (UAA)
- Seneca has a CRJ flight training device, which gives students 50 hours of multi-crew time on a complex aircraft.
- Important relationship with the Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC)
- Reputation: Seneca pilots have worked all over the world.
- Seneca has been granted consent by the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities to offer this degree for a five-year term.

Seneca has a CRJ flight training device that teaches students a wide variety of skills valued by the industry.

"The CRJ experience gives us a huge step forward in the multi-crew environment, and that's what we're all working toward — it gives us a huge amount of experience before we leave the school to go into the industry," Johnston says.