

Telecommunications Student Profile

~ Tim Reid ~



Tim Reid – SAIT Telecom Grad - 2005

My name is Tim Reid and I am a graduate of the SAIT Telecommunications Technology program. I greatly enjoyed my time at the institute and gained the skills that help me every day in a very rewarding career. I did very well in the program through hard work, help from peers and help from the excellent staff teaching the program. There is a wealth of world-class talent at SAIT to help students through the program and I graduated with a 3.8 GPA.

I had worked in many different industries before entering SAIT such as construction, hospitality, sales and marketing, but I always knew that I would go to school for a technology position because that is what interests me. I truly believe that you need to be intensely interested in your chosen field to enjoy getting up for work every day and be successful in your career. I chose telecom because it is a field in which you never stop learning and the technology is always changing and being upgraded. This is proven by my

personal experience of being sent on training to the US four times, paid for in full by my company.

The first position I had was with Telus Communications as an installation and repair (I&R) technician. My time with Telus was brief, amounting to only four months, after which I found work at a small interconnect company called Telecommunications Technical (TelTech) Services, which installs and maintains Norstar key systems. This is the type of equipment and company that I had intended to work with right out of school. I worked on the Norstar and Call Pilot (Nortel) systems over the next year and got some amazing experience with cabling installation, phone systems installation, programming, and voicemail. I gained this position after only one day of job search, which shows how in-demand technicians even with little to no experience really are. The third position I gained was with Cygnal Technologies after being recommended by a friend who worked there. During my time at Cygnal I worked as a dedicated technician on site at SAIT taking care of the Option 81C and Meridian Mail on campus. I also worked with BCM and Norstar customers as well as many Option 11C (Nortel) clients as well in the Enterprise end of the industry. My time at Cygnal was very rewarding and I worked with an excellent team and great management.

There came a time when I was approached by my current manager at Blackbox Network Services to come there and work as a technician. I gave notice and started work at Blackbox over a year and a half ago and have enjoyed every minute since then. I have been working with Enterprise level clients such as Scotia bank, Star Choice/Shaw communications, SNC Lavalin, and Brookfield Properties. I recently installed a brand new Option 81C for a customer which was the most fun I have ever had at work, despite the challenges - a satisfied customer (and the overtime) was a great reward for all that hard work along with a company commendation.

In conclusion, I have managed to work my way through the industry to work as an Enterprise Telecommunications specialist aided by the exemplary education that I received at SAIT, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to attend the institute.

Sincerely,

Tim Reid
Technical Specialist