

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Willis College announces prestigious new scholarship for women in technology as part of 150th anniversary

The Jim Watson Women in Technology Scholarship worth \$150,000

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Opportunities for women in technology just became more exciting thanks to Willis College announcing the prestigious new Jim Watson Women in Technology Scholarship (the Scholarship) as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations.

Over the next three years, six Scholarships valued at a total of \$150,000 will be awarded to women who pursue education in cybersecurity at Willis College in Ottawa. Three of the six awards will be dedicated to Indigenous female students who enroll in the program.

Willis College, Canada's first regulated career college established in 1866, and Mayor Watson are proud to have a shared commitment of empowering women and Indigenous youth in Canada. Willis College named the Scholarship in appreciation of Mayor Watson's work to promote technology careers in Ottawa and also empower women in the sector.

The Scholarship will be administered by the newly appointed Board of Trustees. Comprised of community and sector leaders, this Board will convene annually to evaluate and award the candidates.

Mayor Watson will officially accept the Scholarship at the Spring 2016 graduation ceremony where he will be awarded a genuine Inukshuk statue, symbolic of the important role that Indigenous people play in Canada's cultural mosaic. This presentation will take place on the evening of May 19, 2016.

Applications for the 2016 Scholarships will open May 19, 2016 and will be accepted until July 1, 2016. Successful recipients will be advised prior to the start of the fall semester.

QUOTES

"As a part of our 150th anniversary celebrations at Willis College, we are delighted to announce the new Jim Watson Women in Technology Scholarship, valued at \$150,000, that will encourage more women to pursue careers in technology. We are particularly pleased to dedicate three of these awards to Indigenous students.

By producing a pipeline of expert cybersecurity talent, Willis College is helping play a role in meeting the global needs of the technology sector both today and in the future." - ***Rima Aristocrat, President and CEO, Willis College***

"It is an honour to accept the namesake for this scholarship from Willis College, and I hope more talented young women are encouraged to enter the cybersecurity sector with the financial help it offers. Education is the key to a better tomorrow for our young people and to addressing skills requirements by our businesses. Initiatives like this make a difference in Ottawa, and throughout Canada, and I congratulate Willis College for helping to lead the way." - **Mayor Jim Watson**

QUICK FACTS

- Applications for 2016-2017 will open on May 19, 2016 and may be submitted until July 1, 2016. Information is available at www.williscollege.com.
- The Scholarship provides tuition, books, industry certifications and use of Canada's only Fortinet and Sophos technology labs for a one-year program at Willis College of Business, Technology and Healthcare.

RELEVANT LINKS/BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Willis College

Mayor Jim Watson

ABOUT WILLIS COLLEGE

Established in 1866, Willis College is Canada's first regulated career college. This year, Willis College is celebrating 150 years of excellence in education, an outstanding example of the strength and agility of career colleges in Canada. With over 150,000 graduates and an outstanding faculty, Willis College is proud to be a pipeline for producing some of Canada's top talent. Complemented by our ground-breaking industry partnerships, we specialize in employer-led, job-ready skills training programs in business, technology and healthcare that are highly tuned to the demands of a global job market. With an unwavering commitment to our community, Willis College plays a vibrant role in the National Capital Region, with campuses in downtown Ottawa, Smiths Falls and Arnprior. To learn more about Willis College and our training programs, visit <http://www.williscollege.com>

ABOUT WILLIS COLLEGE ADVANCED NETWORK SECURITY PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Willis College is a truly Canadian institution and a leader in technology training. Our Advanced Network Security Professional Program is second-to-none with Canada's only Fortinet and Sophos technology labs, and we are proud to produce a pipeline of talent to fill critical technology jobs and skills shortages. The Advanced Network Security Program at Willis College is Canada's first employer-driven, government-approved and industry-recognized diploma program leading to full-time, well-paying local jobs through hands on network security courses. The program was developed in partnership with leading Fortune 500 companies in Ottawa, North America and the UK.