

## Project Management Education Creates New Opportunities

When Rod Heath began studying project management, he had three goals; earn a master's degree, gain enough professional development units to re-certify with the Project Management Institute's Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, and increase his marketability in the civilian job market before retiring from the Air Force. Given the demands of his job, he felt the only way to make timely progress was to attend a distance education program. "I simply didn't have time to go to a classroom for a few hours a night several times a week. I had to have a program that was flexible where I could study on my own and make progress as fast as I could."

After taking a few online courses, Rod felt he still was not on track to achieve his goals. "It became obvious that the school I was attending wasn't for me: tuition rates increased beyond what I could afford even with the military tuition assistance and the growing dissatisfaction I felt with the course work it became clear that I had to find a better school." Rod called the University of Management and Technology and discussed his problems and, more importantly, his goals. At first, he was a bit skeptical, but finally he decided to try the program. "I knew what I was looking for, and UMT worked hard to accommodate my schedule. Their willingness to work with me to create a learning plan was a major step towards achieving my long-term goals."

At UMT, Rod was able to pursue studies on his own terms, becoming a stellar student and earning his Master of Science in Management with a concentration in Project Management. And Rod was able to get his assignments done despite many changes and challenges at work.

"My experience at UMT was absolutely great. I felt I received a world class education that would rival many other larger (and more expensive) universities. The course work was challenging and relevant to today's business and government environments. I was attracted to UMT at first by the degree program but soon realized the faculty and staff was so helpful and genuinely cared about me achieving my goals that I was sure I made the right decision. I was able to quickly develop a plan to get my degree finished on my timeline and prepare for job hunting in the civilian world. The courses I took were challenging, timely and prepared me well for my post-military career. The knowledge I gained from my time at UMT has given me the confidence to pursue a career in the field I wanted once I left the military."

Today, Rod works for Booz Allen Hamilton as a Program Manager on a major government contract. "I have actually been surprised by the amount that I have been able to directly apply from my studies to my current position. I feel that I made the right decision to change schools and finish my degree at UMT. The reduced tuition rates for active-duty military and the book scholarship program were also a tremendous help. UMT really understands the military more than any other school I've attended. I may have been skeptical at first but I soon realized that this was a school truly concerned with educating its students first and foremost. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and would highly encourage anyone seeking to advance their education to seriously consider UMT."

Since 1998, the University of Management and Technology has established itself as a world-renowned leader in online education. UMT offers associate's and bachelor's degrees in business administration and computer science. UMT's MSM and MBA programs draw students from around the globe. UMT also offers MSCS and MSIT programs. Students may concentrate their studies in management, IT management, project management, acquisition management, software engineering, information systems, or information technology.

UMT offers scholarships to all active duty personnel and honorably discharged veterans. UMT is affiliated with DANTES, SOC, and is approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs for students to use their G.I. Bill benefits. "Our goal is for our military students to have no out of pocket expense," says Dr. Kirkland. "For active duty personnel, we offer a book scholarship to make sure this is true."

In late 2005, UMT decided to offer matching scholarships for spouses of active duty personnel. This makes UMT as military friendly as any school can possibly be!

For more information about UMT, please visit their website at <http://griffon.umtweb.edu> or call 800-924-4883 ext 15