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MEDIA RELEASE

Research Partnership to Pilot Data Literacy Training Program at GSU

(Sudbury, ON) Greater Sudbury Utilities (GSU) and Cambrian College are thrilled to announce a new project partnership to develop and pilot a data literacy training program (DLTP) at GSU. “In this knowledge-based economy, data literacy has become as important as reading and writing,” said GSU Innovation Officer, Paul Giroux. “The program is being designed to continually improve the organizations’ overall data skillset, allowing us to maximize the benefits of data to inform decisions and streamline operations.”

“This project is a fantastic opportunity for our Cambrian students to gain real life experience by taking what they learn in the classroom and enhancing it by developing a program that will benefit GSU. By extension, the entire community will see long-term advantages of more data literate employees,” said Sidney Shapiro, Professor and Program Coordinator of the Graduate Certificate Crime and Business Data Analytics Programs at Cambrian College.

This partnership is particularly timely, noted Mike Commito, Director of Applied Research & Innovation at Cambrian College. “A recent review of data literacy education in Canada noted a shortfall of ‘data-savvy’ employees. This project will help provide in-house training using sector-specific data sources and case studies to ensure GSU’s workforce remains cutting-edge and current,” he explained.

As our lives become more and more data-rich, data literacy training becomes increasingly important. Decision-makers must be able to sort data effectively, ask the right questions, and critically evaluate outcomes. To measure and track the success of this initiative, the DLTP integrates the Databilities® framework. This data literacy training program is a foundational component of GSU’s digital transformation effort coordinated and led through GSU’s Innovation Office, The Workshop. Benefits include better predictive and preventative maintenance of critical infrastructure and assets, as well as greater reliability in service delivery to residential and commercial customers.

Both Cambrian College and GSU expect this program will serve as a model and resource for delivering data literacy programs to other utilities and organizations working to positively transform their organizations with data.

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For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact Wendy Watson, Director of Communications, GSU at 705-675-0511 or wendy.watson@gsuinc.ca



Photo of DLTP Team. All affiliated with Cambrian College unless otherwise noted. In photo:
Front row, L to R: Jenna Guse, Anne Cooper, Prapti Choudhary, Karthika Mahadevan, Richa Chaudhary, Taryn Glazier, Samira Hadadi, Cesia Fernandez Ruiz, Raymond Barrios Tercero, Sijo Francis, Manny Medeiros
Back Row, L to R: Raili Lakanen, Sidney Shapiro, David Chisholm (GSU), Evan Bate (GSU), Victoria Benkovich (GSU), Paul Giroux (GSU), Alison Dawson, Sean Grant