

The Geoscience Professional Development Centre: Beginnings

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ABSTRACT

The Geoscience Professional Development Centre (GPDC) was formed through the initiative of the Canada Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), with the goal of meeting the training needs of post-degree, mid-career petroleum industry professionals, by providing quality, low-cost courses in a broad array of cross-disciplinary geoscience topics applied to petroleum exploration, reservoir characterization and exploitation. In Canada, as well as world-wide, industry professionals are increasingly expected to possess a broad range of technical skills, including expertise in the use of computer software packages designed to facilitate and enhance data analysis and interpretation applied to hydrocarbon exploration and production. Up-to-date knowledge of rapidly evolving geoscience sub-disciplines and the upgrade of abilities to efficiently use increasingly integrated interpretative software have become essential requirements to seek and maintain employment within the very competitive modern Oil & Gas Industry.

Hosted by the Department of Geology and Geophysics of the University of Calgary, the first GPDC-sponsored course was offered in February 2001. Donations from the AAPG and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) enabled the centre to set-up and equip a computer lab of 20 high-end, dual-monitor PC's, inaugurated in June 2002. With this lab the GPDC is committed to progressively offer more computer-based courses to integrate the teaching of geoscience concepts and methods with corresponding computer applications that take advantage of the former. In addition, to fully utilise the installed capability, the computer lab is used for UofC courses as well as for '3rd party' software training courses.