

# Academy helps return to work

**Richmond Hill-based Academy Of Learning on Friday announced its plans to help those in the GTA who have been deeply affected by severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).**

The company will offer scholarships to the first 500 people who register in the GTA by the end of this month, and can prove they have lost their employment or had hours reduced as a result of the health crisis.

The value of the scholarships – up to \$1 million – is to assist Torontonians in getting back to work.

Eligible students will receive a scholarship of up to \$2,000 each. The only up-front payment that will be required is 10 per cent of the program cost, which will include the cost of all the books for the program.

Any balance that may be owing for the program, after the \$2,000 scholarship, will need to be repaid once the student returns to work and will be payable in equal instalments over a 10-month period.

Those affected could include many in the social ser-

vices, food services, hospitality and tourism, and health-care industries, which have been hit hard by SARS.

Allan Ebedes, CEO of The Academy Of Learning, said, "We recognized that SARS has cost as many as 27,000 jobs in the greater GTA and York Regions and that there are many people in various industries who have been laid off due to the SARS crisis.

"We want to do our part to help Toronto get back to work."

All 11 centres in the GTA, including Mississauga and Richmond Hill, will participate in this program. Potential students can call 310-JOBS for more information.

Operating since 1987, The Academy Of Learning allows students to learn in a professional environment with the academy's unique integrated learning system.

The programs offered by the Academy of Learning include IT, accounting, office administration, customer service and health-care services.

The Academy Of Learning has more than 100 locations across Canada.



**Ebedes**