

# Virtual school interactive

**The ability to obtain an education via the Internet was something The Academy of Learning did not overlook.**

In fact, the Richmond Hill-based, private, post-secondary institution took so-called distance learning a step further by recently introducing their own online classroom.

Students can access the "online campus," dubbed the Integrated Learning System, by logging onto the school's Web site ([www.academyoflearning.com](http://www.academyoflearning.com)) and entering an assigned username and password. Students benefit from a variety of interactive options, said Allan Ebedes, director of The Academy of Learning.

"The problem with some online learning sites is that they are like reading a book - with not much else besides (text and diagrams)," Ebedes said.

To make the Integrated Learning System more unique, The Academy of Learning added interactive features to give its students the feel of being on an ac-

tual school campus.

"The online campus has instructors online, so students can communicate with them live," he said.

"This means that students would be able to communicate with professors from around the world in the future," he added. "For example, a student in Canada could be instructed by a teacher based in Australia."

## Online bookstore

Ebedes also says that the entire process of being a student of the online campus - from registration to research - can be done online. "There is a virtual bookstore, where students can buy books online, and a virtual library," he said.

Currently, there are about 200 students enrolled across Canada and the U.K.

The programs offered by the learning facility include IT, accounting, office administration, customer service, health-care services, graphics and Web design. For more info, visit the school's Web site.

**BEN KONG/METRO TORONTO**