

# VERMONT



## James J. McNichol, 76

LEARNING PARTNER  
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT

**MR. MCNICHOL HAS MADE SOME SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AREA OF E-LEARNING, INVOLVING IMPROVED USE OF LEARNING TECHNOLOGY FOR DISTRIBUTED LEARNING.**

His contributions are the result of an unusual educational partnership in which Vermont Technical College employees are stationed onsite at IBM facilities as learning partners, working with the company to facilitate the capture and transfer of knowledge to a global internal audience. They use readily available technology and standard corporate communication infrastructure to accomplish this goal. Some of this work was described in a paper he co-authored and presented in January 2008 in Florida at the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) Workforce Development Forum.

Mr. McNichol has been associated with IBM for many years. The first of his Irish immigrant family to attend college, one of his proudest moments was graduating with high honors: summa cum laude with highest Math Award. After graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he started a 35-year career with IBM. His first job was with the IBM Watson Labs in New York City and involved engineering analysis of an advanced computer technology, work that he describes as unsuccessful because it was too far ahead of its time. He was transferred to Vermont, continuing his work in engineering and computer technologies.

After retiring from IBM in 1993, he was a self-employed semiconductor industry consultant for two years, work that led directly to a consultant positions with CDI Corporation, the University of Vermont, and finally to his current position.

He and his wife have four children. While they were growing up, he was involved in family activities, including coaching, managing and refereeing in little league baseball. In addition, he has been chief referee and officer of the Essex Youth Hockey Program, a member of a school board study group for the new high school, treasurer of the Essex Children's Choir and active with his church.



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