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Finishing School does wonders for placement

Photo: R. Ashok



Preparing for the job: Venkatesan Seshadri (right), vice-president-Talent Acquisition, Cognizant Technology Solutions, and Karthik Krishnaswamy, Head, Strategy and Operations, Tata Consultancy Services, at the Finishing School Programme at NIT-Tiruchi.

The Finishing School Programme that the National Institute of Technology-Tiruchi (NIT-T) conducted during May and June to reinforce skills and infuse industry-specific knowledge into 58 students drawn from various engineering colleges in the State has resulted in 32 of them securing placement in prestigious companies including TCS, CTS, Wipro and Dextrasys.

The purpose of the programme that was conducted as per the directives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, was to provide opportunities for students who had not secured jobs through campus placements. They acquired the skills and knowledge from trained faculty of NITs and experts of IT and ITES industries. The students underwent the residential programme spanning eight weeks utilising the facilities including library and computer centre at NIT-T, said the institute director M. Chidambaram.

The curriculum was designed and delivered based on inputs provided by TCS and CTS, said G. Kannabiran, programme coordinator.

Similar programmes were held simultaneously at IIT-Rourkela and NITs at Kozhikode, Durgapur, Kurukshetra, Suratkal and Warangal. The pilot effort was meant to address the serious situation that threatens India's position as a leading provider of IT and ITES. According to the predictions of McKinsey Global Institute Study and the National Association of Software and Services Companies, only 25 per cent of the engineering graduates are in the employable category and India could face a shortfall of five lakh IT professionals by 2010.

At NIT-T, the effort aimed at bridging the gap between industry requirement and academic input was well addressed. Of the 32 students who were placed, TCS appointed 20 students. A.K. Bakthavatsalam, Professor and Head, Training and Placement, NIT-T, views the finishing school programme as a College Social Responsibility Initiative.

The remaining candidates, to be placed after undergoing the finishing school programme, mostly belong to IT, CSE, and ECE backgrounds. Companies interested in absorbing these candidates can contact Mr. Bakthavatsalam at 94860 01174 or by mailing tp@nitt.edu.

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