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THE POWER OF TECH CERTIFICATIONS & APPRENTICESHIPS: CELEBRATING MS-102 CERTIFICATION AT DIGETEKS LLC

LARAMIE – In a notable achievement highlighting the effectiveness of tech certifications and apprenticeships, Dylan Wood of Laramie has successfully obtained his MS-102 certification while apprenticing at DigeTekS LLC. This accomplishment underscores Wood's dedication to professional development and the supportive environment provided by DigeTekS.

Registered technical apprenticeships are redefining career pathways. These structured learning plans, approved by the Department of Labor, blend on-the-job training with mentorship, rewarding apprentices as they reach milestones. In addition to traditional programs for trades like welding, today's apprenticeships morphed to accommodate "new collar" jobs in tech, nursing, and beyond.

Wood, an IT consultant at DigeTekS, embodies this evolution explaining, "My role is evolving. While I mainly handle Help Desk tasks, I'm exploring different avenues within the company." Wood's daily use of Microsoft products at work motivated him to pursue the MS-102 certification. The MS-102 certification equips IT professionals with essential skills for managing security, compliance, and identity within Microsoft 365. It covers deploying threat protection, managing security incidents, and using tools like Microsoft Defender and PowerShell.

Given the newness of the MS-102 certification, Wood faced the challenge of limited study materials. "I scoured the web and found some YouTubers with good content, bought online courses, and practiced tests," he recalled. Despite these difficulties, Wood's perseverance paid off. The dynamic nature of the tech world and the constant updates to Microsoft 365 posed additional challenges. "It was a lot of information to take in, and it changes almost every week," Wood explained. "But that's the nature of the tech industry." The certification deepened Wood's knowledge of Microsoft Purview and Microsoft Defender, tools he hadn't previously used extensively. "I learned a ton about these areas, which are crucial for anyone in an IT role," he noted. Achieving the MS-102 certification has significantly impacted Wood's role at DigeTekS. "It has improved the way I do my job, going in-depth on managing the Microsoft portal and users, which is part of my daily responsibilities," he said.

Looking ahead, Wood plans to continue expanding his certifications. "I am still new to the IT world, having transitioned from audio-visual installation. My next steps include pursuing A+ certifications and more CompTIA credentials," he shared. Wood offers practical advice for those considering the MS-102

certification: "Make sure you know all the information thoroughly, as there's not enough time to rely on Microsoft Learn during the exam. Also, be cautious of practice tests, as some may not be reliable."

Wood's apprenticeship at DigeTekS has been instrumental in his success. "DigeTekS has been phenomenal. They covered the cost of the exams and provided ample study time," Wood praised. "The hands-on, step-by-step approach of the apprenticeship program is far more practical than theoretical learning."

Apprenticeships offer more than just technical training—they're essential for succession planning and career development. As companies anticipate retirements, they use apprenticeships to cultivate future leaders. Programs now incorporate office etiquette and business skills, ensuring apprentices are well-rounded professionals.

Wood's success in earning the MS-102 certification exemplifies the transformative power of tech certifications and apprenticeships. His journey reflects dedication, continuous learning, and the invaluable support of DigeTekS. As Wood continues to grow in his role, he sets an inspiring example for aspiring IT professionals.

About DigeTekS LLC: DigeTekS LLC is an IT consulting firm established in 2005 in Colorado. With a client-centric approach, they provide a wide range of services including cybersecurity, co-managed IT solutions, managed services, system integration, and more. Their experienced team is dedicated to helping clients optimize technology, manage risks, and achieve growth.

Learn more here: https://www.digeteks.com/

About CyberWyoming: Founded in 2017, CyberWyoming, a 501(c)6 nonprofit, promotes the cybersecurity welfare and prosperity of the Wyoming business community including hands-on, high-touch education of small business stakeholders and technical registered apprenticeship.

Learn more here: https://cyberwyoming.org/

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Joined the team in 2023.

DigeTekS