



## **ASTTBC Guides Skilled Immigrants into Technician and Technology Careers**

### **Receives IEC-BC Leadership Recognition Award**

VANCOUVER, BC - In his home country of the Philippines, Edzel Escala was a qualified engineer, but like many skilled immigrants, when he arrived in Canada, he learned his credentials didn't qualify him to work in his field.

Through the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC), Escala was able to get the certification he needed to work as an engineering technologist.

Geoff Sale, who represents ASTTBC to immigrant-serving organizations, said it is upsetting for foreign-trained professionals to find they can't work at the level they held in their country of origin because they lack Canadian qualifications and experience. He said ASTTBC has an alternative for those who choose not to go through the rigors of becoming Canadian-qualified professional engineers. "We tell them, you can be an engineering technologist and get your certification through us."

At its inaugural leadership awards event on April 9, the Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IEC-BC) recognized the contributions of 13 individuals and organizations that are helping skilled new Canadians integrate in BC workplaces. ASTTBC's received a Leadership Award for its solutions to integration and support through mentoring.

To help skilled immigrants adapt to the expectations of Canadian workplaces, ASTTBC provides guidance and coaching through IEC-BC's MentorConnect program.

In the past two years ASTTBC has had 11 mentors and 14 mentor match partnerships. One of these is Escala who is now employed as a technologist in an elevator and cable car firm. Sale described Escala as a "star mentor" who recently coached an engineer who worked in car manufacturing in Indonesia. That person, who had been concerned about his job prospects, now has a job as a quality control inspector and, in Sale's words, "he's dynamite."

ASTTBC also established a website, [www.ittpbc.com](http://www.ittpbc.com) where new Canadians can get information about accreditation and certification. Sale said by certifying as technologists or technicians, many skilled immigrants are establishing themselves in satisfying careers.

Funded by the Government of Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Province of BC, IEC-BC is a provincial non-government organization that stimulates the integration of skilled immigrant talent into the province's workforce by fostering solutions, building connections and being a champion to help employers attract and retain skilled immigrant talent.

To learn more about the IEC-BC Leadership Recognition awards visit <http://iecbc.ca/2015-leadership-awards>