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Accountants innovate

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario is putting up its own money to make accounting education more relevant to the real world.

“We’re trying to connect what they are doing in university with what they will be doing when they reach the real world” says Brian Leader, the institute’s vice-president of learning.

The professional regulatory body will give \$100,000 annually to a program of innovation in accounting education at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management. If the program is a success, the institute hopes to finance similar programs at other universities, Mr. Leader says.

Traditionally, accounting is taught in courses that are structured by topics such as tax, accounting and financing, he says. “What we want to do is allow universities to integrate these areas, so a student does not think just in terms of tax but in terms of problems in the real world that generally combine areas of expertise”.

Joan Kitunen and Irene Wiecek, accounting professors at the University of Toronto, have been named program co-ordinators.

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