# Transcript: IT Podcast - Ep 85 - C175 Tips with Michele McFarlane & Jessica Galterio

*The following transcript is a verbatim account of the video or audio file accompanying this transcript.*

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Hello and welcome to the IT Audio Series. My name is Jessica Galterio. I've been a program mentor here with WGU since 2015. Today, I am joined by Michele McFarlane. Michelle is a wonderful resource on the Data Management Team. Today she is here to speak with us specifically about data management foundations C175. Thank you so much for joining me today, Michele.

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Thanks for having me. I'm excited.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Great. Tell me a little bit about your course. What would you say your mission statement is?

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

I would say that the mission statement for C175 is all about gettingintroduced to the core concepts and the terms used in the field of data management. Students are introduced to SQL for the very first time, and it serves as a great primer for additional data management courses in the future.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Perfect. What would you say are the key resources used in this course?

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

I think the most important thing that a student can do in C175 is make their way through the course material. Before taking a look at any other supplemental material, that C175 material gives you a good core anda good foundation and structure around what you can expect on the exam. I'd say to start with, do the material.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Perfect. That's great to hear. Now, what are some of the typical barriers that students run into with this course?

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Sure. In this course, it's really in a lot of ways kind of like a foreign language. When you learn Spanish or French for the first time, everything's kind of new. You may have heard of educational commercial, but that certainly doesn't mean you know as much about the language. This course is truly an introduction to not just a new programming language in SQL, but also just to the architecture and the structure around data, which unless you have prior experience in data architecture, really is brand new. For students navigating the newness ofthe material and the new language in and of itself tends to be a challenge, which is why once a student has finished going through the material, we definitely recommend that they check out the course tipsin the course for the other supplemental textbooks, which really helped to provide if you will some meat on the bones andprovides an extra layer of knowledge that will definitely be helpful for the exam.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

That's great to know. The course tips will help reinforce a lot of that. Is that right?

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Absolutely.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Very good. Now, is there a way to get through this course quickly for our accelerators out there?

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Definitely. This is going to sound like beating a dead horse. But a lot of times students will want to commend and head straight to likeLinkedIn video or head straight toa YouTube series in the hopes of bypassing the core portion of the course. However, without doing the material, you don't know what your barriers are for the course. Databases are a very vast field and while the supplemental resources are really great, again, for reinforcing material, it doesn't really give you an inkling of what to expect on the test. It doesn't tell you, you're going to cover your part A, part B, part C only within the fields of databases. For students that are really wantingto gun it and get through this as quickly as possible, they could start with that course. Then from there, you're able to determine, what are my weak spots? Then you can focus on the weak spots withthe supplemental material and then ensure that you can pass the course on a first attempt instead of having to do a multiple attempts scenario.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Yes, which is so important to keeping students on pace overall. You want to make sure that you're going quick like you would like, but not going so fast that you miss things, and now we need a second attempt.

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Precisely. I would definitely say that that isa frequent stumbling block for students in this course in their quest to accelerate. It is how can I get through this material that isn't exactly the most fascinating always, hoping to got it in probably in a way that is familiar and that has worked in other courses. However, again, just like a student who had no Spanish exposure or no French exposure, wouldn't presume to watch a handful of videos and take a test to be competent. It works very much the same way with C175. It really requires a little bit of time in that material, proper pacing, it's in my mind means if you can dedicate a couple of hours a week, just to going through that material, it will definitely get you to the finish line a lotfaster than having a second or a third attempt.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

That's great advice. Thank you. Finally, what excites you about this course?

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Well, I'm a data nerd. So all things data really excite me about this course. I think in a lot of ways how students after completingthe course definitely have a much better understanding and foundation around data. Data is so fundamental in the field of IT. Just about every transaction that happens online involves data. It is just such a big part of our lives, whether we realize it or not. To see students geta better understanding ofa technology that they literally interact with every single day, just makes this nerdy girl happy.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

That's fantastic. I think it's great to even if you are not in a field directly related to data management, like you said, to have that background knowledge andunderstanding is really powerful in the IT industry.

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

Absolutely. I can't tell you how many times I've had conversations withstudents to remind them that they never know where their IT career will lead them. Being able to be in leadership conversationsabout IT solutions will always have a data component, and the ability to be able to follow along and contribute tothose conversations is a very powerful career tool, and C175 is definitely the first step towards acquiring that tool.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Talk about career security.

Speaker #3 (Michele McFarlane):

That's right.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Fantastic. Well, Michelle, thank you so much for sharing all of this wisdom and knowledge with us today. We really appreciate the time that you took to be a part of the IT Audio Series. Be sure to check back for more offerings in the future. Thank you.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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