

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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# **SIAS preps pros for global contest**

*Set to train on a specialized press simulator for WorldSkills in U.K.*

**September 15, 2011** – SIAS’s Graphic Communications program is helping a competitor and two print experts prepare this week for the 41<sup>st</sup> WorldSkills competition. The competition takes place in London, England, in early October.

“We are very pleased to be able to assist with additional training for the competitor,” says Rhonda McCorriston, SIAS’s dean of Community Services. “SIAS prides itself on providing the best and most up-to-date training, equipment and software for our students. This is a prime example of our commitment to our industry partners and graduates by providing the opportunity to further their training on our specialized software and equipment.”

Competitor Tom Middlebro, a graduate of Mohawk College in Ontario, will practise on SIAS’s sheetfed offset training simulator (SHOTS), a diagnostic program that uses custom-designed software to interactively problem-solve techniques off-press. Skills Canada print expert Bruce Kenworthy, director of digital print operations with Rhino Printing in Calgary, and Skills Canada technical specialist Jeff Polley of Heidelberg Canada, along with SIAS Graphic Communications instructors will guide Middlebro’s training.

Competitors in the offset printing category require an in-depth knowledge of handling and troubleshooting print elements, such as custom ink mixing, paper and equipment, using an ink-on-paper sheet-fed process. Quality control equipment such as spectrodensitometers is used to verify and adjust print quality.

Middlebro, Kenworthy and Polley will speak to the Graphic Communications students about competing in provincial, national and WorldSkills competitions.

Skills Canada Saskatchewan hosts annual Olympic-style skills competitions that provide a forum for secondary, post-secondary and apprentice students to compete in more than 40 trade and technology competition areas. Last year Team Saskatchewan had

approximately 30 competitors attending in various trades in the Skills Canada National Competition in Quebec City. SIAST Graphic Communications students Kaitlyn Rude and Stephanie Bramham participated. Rude earned a bronze medal in the graphic design competition, while Bramham earned a silver medal in the offset printing competition.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAST served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAST operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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