



SIAS

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

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Huge response to SIAS robot challenge

\$6,500 in tuition money up for grabs at myRobotRumble Challenge 2011

March 24, 2011 – With \$6,500 in tuition money and iPods up for grabs, electronics programs at Saskatoon's SIAS Kelsey Campus hosted more than 250 high- school students today for the third annual SUMObot robotic competition.

Last November, SIAS sent SUMObot kits to high schools around the province and 49 schools registered for the competition. Each robot kit contained enough parts for two SUMO robots. Since then, high-school teachers have worked with their students to build, program and test their robots.

"This event has been very successful over the past three years," said Bill Blok, recruitment coordinator for SIAS and coordinator of the myRobotRumble event. "Student enrolment in the competition continually increases each year, so we know this is an event that students enjoy."

The SIAS SUMObot Challenge gave high-school students – working in teams of two – the chance to demonstrate their problem-solving skills, technical knowledge of electronics and teamwork as they competed against other students from across the province.

Similar to what happens in traditional Japanese sumo wrestling matches, two SUMObots faced off against each other in a ring. The goal was to stay in the ring while pushing the opposing robot out of the ring. The robot that stayed in the ring the longest won the match.

"It's a great way for high-school students to develop the skills they would need in one of our electronics programs, as well as to experience what SIAS has to offer in a fun environment," says Bill Allen, SIAS's acting dean of Technology.

SIAST electronics grads work with business, industry and government employers in areas such as manufacturing, communications, resource processing and consulting. With entry-level salaries for new grads averaging around \$3,300 per month, it's a solid career choice.

For more information on SIAST's entrance awards and programs, click on News and Events at www.goSIAST.com.

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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