

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SIAS Woodland grad honours students**

*Juno-nominated country music star to be awarded honorary diploma*

**June 09, 2011** – SIAS Woodland Campus will honour students and special award recipients tomorrow during its annual graduation ceremony. Pamela Schwann, SIAS board of directors chair; Dr. Robert McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO; and other dignitaries will be on hand for the presentation of three major awards including a SIAS honorary diploma, an outstanding citizenship award and one Governor General's Academic Medal.

A **SIAS honorary diploma** will be awarded to Donny Parenteau, Saskatchewan Country Music Aboriginal Artist of the Year. Parenteau, who was born and raised in Prince Albert, overcame poverty to perform on the same stage with country legends Merle Haggard, Neal McCoy, Shania Twain and Garth Brooks. The multi-award winner can play five instruments and has entertained audiences nationally and internationally. When not performing, the self-taught musician continually gives back to the community. Parenteau will address the graduates.

SIAS's **Outstanding Citizenship Award** will be presented to Jeff Harder. The award recognizes students who have inspired and encouraged others to make positive changes, and who have made an extraordinary commitment to the SIAS community. Harder, a graduate of the Integrated Resource Management program, served two consecutive terms on the SIAS Student's Association for Kelsey and Woodland Campuses. He also worked with the Woodland Equity Awareness group and was captain of the Woodland Wild volleyball team for two seasons.

The prestigious **Governor General's Academic Medal** will be presented to Chase Davies by Dr. McCulloch on behalf of the Governor General of Canada. Davies, a graduate of the Forest Ecosystem Technology program in 2008-09 and the Resource and Environmental Law program in 2009-10, will receive the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal for the highest overall average upon graduation from a diploma-level SIAS Woodland program.

Media are invited to attend the graduation ceremony:

**Date: Friday, June 10, 2011**  
**Time: 1:30 p.m.**  
**Location: E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts**  
**Prince Albert, SK**

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.

For more information, contact:

Clayton Cunningham, SIAST Marketing and Communications  
Office: (306) 765-1653  
Mobile: (306) 961-3036  
Email: [cunninghamc@siast.sk.ca](mailto:cunninghamc@siast.sk.ca)

Information about SIAST can be found at [www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com).