

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SIAST expands training for plumbers**

*Federal and provincial governments fund renos to accommodate expansion*

**June 17, 2011** – Federal and provincial government representatives joined SIAST today to cut the ribbon on new training space for plumbing apprentices at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina. The project marks a significant expansion of training for plumbing apprentices – until now, all SIAST training for plumbers was conducted in Saskatoon.

“Our government has invested in innovation and knowledge infrastructure to set the foundation for economic prosperity,” says Ray Boughen, Member of Parliament for Palliser. “This project not only created jobs for people in our community, but also provided infrastructure that will benefit SIAST for years to come.”

“Our government is maintaining Saskatchewan’s strong and steady economy through infrastructure investments in Saskatchewan’s post-secondary education sector,” Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Rob Norris says. “Saskatchewan has a growing need for skilled workers. The provincial government is pleased that the new plumbing shop will support that need by providing apprenticeship training for plumbers in Regina.”

Through the federal government’s Knowledge Infrastructure Program, each level of government committed \$250,000 to the 4,500-square-foot project. The project involved refitting a multi-purpose shop to allow SIAST to offer the first two of four levels of training for plumbing apprentices in Regina. The new shop accommodates 140 apprentices per year.

“SIAST has experienced a 30 percent increase in enrolment over the last four years, much of it due to increased demand for training from the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission,” says Dr. Robert (Bob) G. McCulloch. “This repurposed space helps us respond to some of that demand, and it allows many apprentices to complete some of their training closer to home.”

Across Saskatchewan, SIAST provided training this academic year for approximately 5,000 apprentices in 25 trades. The largest apprenticeship increases were in construction trades, including carpenter, electrician and plumber. SIAST has also seen enrolment increases in nursing programs and in certificate and diploma programs.

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