

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SIAS on the fast track with applied research**

*SIAS faculty eligible for both NSERC and SSHRC grant funding*

**April 27, 2010** – SIAS’s successful bid for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) eligibility means that faculty working in the social sciences and humanities sector can now apply to an additional source of funding to support their applied research efforts.

SSHRC, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) are collectively known as the Tri-Council. NSERC supports research in the natural sciences and engineering, and CIHR supports research in the health sciences. SIAS became eligible to apply for NSERC funding last year.

“Applied research projects have strong potential for practical learning experiences for students and their employability,” says Dr. Barb Bremner, SIAS’s associate vice-president of Educational Services. “Adding SSHRC eligibility to SIAS’s research capabilities will provide new opportunities for faculty to develop research projects that will benefit the people of Saskatchewan and contribute to economic development in the province.”

At SIAS, applied research focuses on finding solutions for practical problems.

Research in the social sciences and humanities advances knowledge and understanding about individuals, groups and societies. SSHRC grants and fellowships are awarded through an independent, national, peer-review process. Submissions are reviewed by volunteer selection committees that recommend to SSHRC which projects to fund. To help the review committees with their decision making, an additional 5,200 experts are available to provide written assessments of selected proposals. SSHRC adjudication committees and expert proposal evaluators include scholars from outside Canada.

SIAS’s goal is to become one of the leaders in applied research among Canadian colleges and institutes of technology, with an emphasis on sharing benefits with local

industry and the community. For more information about SIAST's Office of Applied Research and Innovation, visit <http://www.siastr.sk.ca/research/>.

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 14,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 30,000 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)