

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAS targets international students

SIAS Palliser and Moose Jaw identified as international student hub

April 12, 2011 – SIAS today unveiled a strategy to better compete in the international student marketplace. Plans include a proposed \$15-million student residence at SIAS Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw, where strong programming in business and engineering technologies are expected to attract students from abroad.

“The SIAS strategy will work in conjunction with recent initiatives set forth by the Government of Saskatchewan,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO. “It will also work toward the goals of the provincial government by helping to increase the number of international students who become permanent residents in Saskatchewan.”

Recruitment of international students will enhance the learning environment at SIAS and improve Saskatchewan’s access to potential immigrants with Canadian credentials.

“A student residence would help with Moose Jaw’s very tight rental market and increase attractiveness of Palliser campus for both Canadian and international students,” says Glenn Hagel, mayor of Moose Jaw. “Moose Jaw is prepared to be a partner to make this plan a reality.” Last night, the City of Moose Jaw’s Executive Committee of City Council approved funding of \$350,000 in support of the student residence.

Plans to provide student support critical to the success of recruiting international students include a proposed 200-bed, \$15-million student residence for both Canadian and international students, as well as academic counselling and language instruction.

“SIAST has approximately 60 international students currently studying at our campuses, and we expect international student enrolment to exceed 450 students by September 2013,” says David Harvey, director of SIAST Business Development and International Partnership. “Once international students consider the potential for immigration, together with the robust employment potential, Saskatchewan and SIAST are very competitive with even those Canadian institutions well established in the international student market.”

In addition to housing, the SIAST strategy includes:

- Articulation and partnership agreements with Saskatchewan universities to offer uninterrupted pathways from SIAST diplomas to university degrees – primarily in business and engineering technologies;
- Establishment of dedicated academic English as a Second Language programming for those students requiring language instruction before entering SIAST certificate or diploma programs;
- Marketing the clear advantages to studying in Saskatchewan for those interested in potential work permits and permanent residence through the Saskatchewan Immigration Nomination Program (SINP) upon graduation at SIAST.

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.

– 30 –

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