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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR RELEASE May 26, 2006**

**Editors:** A bio on Cliff Wright follows this release.

# **Former mayor receives honorary diploma**

*Wright recognized for contributions to education and business*

**Saskatoon** – A prominent Saskatoon resident has been awarded an honorary diploma in business and entrepreneurship from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. Cliff Wright received the diploma at the annual SIAS Kelsey graduation ceremony held today in Saskatoon.

“Cliff has contributed to Saskatoon and to the province in myriad ways – as a business leader and as a community leader, and we’re very pleased to add our voice to those who have recognized his contributions,” says SIAS president and CEO Dr. Bob McCulloch. “We feel we have a special connection with Cliff because in his business role, and as an employer of skilled tradespeople, he has been an enthusiastic supporter of SIAS.”

“I am both thrilled and honoured in learning that I am to receive an honorary diploma from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology,” says Cliff Wright. “I have had a long relationship with this institution in both the capacity of involvement with the original construction of the Saskatoon campus and as a major user of the services over the years since its origination.

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“I believe very fundamentally that the future of our province and our country depends very heavily on the degree to which we are prepared as a society to invest resources in post-secondary education, but also how we are motivated to use those resources when they are available.”

Wright was the guest speaker at SIAST Kelsey Campus's two graduation ceremonies today. Almost 1,400 students are graduating from SIAST Kelsey Campus this year; they are among approximately 4,000 students who will graduate from SIAST across the province.

SIAST's honorary diploma program recognizes people for distinguished achievements and contributions aligned with SIAST's vision, values, goals and objectives.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Almost 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 27,000 individual course registrations. It operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

**Additional information about SIAST is available at [www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com)**

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## **Clifford Emerson Wright**

Born in 1927 in Saskatoon, Clifford Emerson Wright has spent his entire life in this community. He attended Albert and Victoria schools, and Nutana Collegiate. Before entering the labour force he spent two years in the Engineering College at the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1951 Cliff married Betty Dye, and together they have raised four children and now have 10 grandchildren. This month they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

After his second year at university, Cliff Wright joined the firm of Smith Bros. & Wilson Construction Limited in 1947 and for the next 40 years worked with that firm, becoming Saskatchewan manager and senior vice president. In 1987, he and his four children, in particular his youngest son Lorne, formed the company of Wright Construction Western Inc. Although working throughout the four western provinces, Wright Construction has maintained Saskatoon as its head office and the centre of its western operation. The company has been involved in all aspects of the construction industry with the exception of single family dwellings. They have particularly been a major player in the institutional, commercial and industrial fields of the construction industry.

In addition to full-time involvement in the construction field, the Wrights have been very active in the community of Saskatoon and the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Wright served as an alderman for the City of Saskatoon from the years 1967 to 1976, at which time he became mayor – he served four terms before retiring from that office in 1988.

In 1983, he was appointed chairman of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and spent five years in that position. In 1988 he was made president of the Future Corporation, an organization whose primary purpose was to get the province, its institutions and its people thinking about the future and how we would address the challenges that would arise from the changes in the future.

From 1989 to 1993 he served as treaty commissioner. This was a joint appointment of the Government of Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to propose settlements for outstanding Treaty Land Entitlements. In 1991, the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations signed an agreement that brought about the settlement of 26 outstanding land entitlements and formed the basis of several that have since been finalized.

In 1991, Mr. Wright was appointed by the Government of Saskatchewan to the position of chairman of the Saskatoon District Health Board. The purpose of this appointment was to bring together and coordinate all the health services being provided by several individual organizations under a single board and a single administration to maximize the services that could be provided with the available resources.

In 1988, Cliff Wright was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University of Saskatchewan. In 1998, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. The following year he was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.