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SIAS programs get national nod

External review provides independent assessment for grads, employers

January 11, 2005 – In one fell swoop, nine engineering technology programs offered by SIAS have received national recognition from the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board. As a result of the independent review, graduates of the programs are assured that their qualifications meet national standards and will be recognized across the country.

“Accreditation provides an important measure of quality for both students and their future employers,” says Arnold Boldt, SIAS’s dean of Technology. “It confirms for business and industry, for example, that Saskatchewan companies recruit from the best the country has to offer,” he says, noting that SIAS requires all programs to seek external accreditation.

Accreditation of the engineering technology programs brings to 13 the number of SIAS programs to receive national or international recognition recently. The engineering technology programs are Civil Engineering Technology, Computer Aided Design and Drafting Technology, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Environmental Engineering Technology, Geomatics Technology, Water Resources Engineering Technology and Instrumentation Engineering Technology.

SIAS worked with the Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians (SASTT) to obtain accreditation of the engineering technology programs. SASTT, now in its 30th year of operation, is the provincial registration body that registers members in the applied science/engineering technology professions. It authorizes individuals to use the professional designation of either A.Sc.T. (applied science technologist) or C.Tech. (certified technician).

Other SIAST programs accredited recently are:

- The Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), delivered jointly by SIAST, the University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada, was granted five-year accreditation by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.
- SIAST's Chemical Technology program has received the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board's national accreditation certificate.
- The Architectural and Building Technology program received five-year accreditation from the American Council for Construction Education.
- SIAST's Biotechnology program was the first of its kind in the country to be accredited by the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board.

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 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 29,000 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.

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