

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAST endorses fed support for innovation

Budget acknowledges role of tech institutes in economic development

March 5, 2010 – The federal government’s increased support of applied research in the 2010 budget is an investment in Canadian innovation and prosperity.

“The federal government’s allocation of dollars to research funds acknowledges the importance of innovation to our economic future,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, president and CEO of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST). “The government’s investment in applied research in particular is an important acknowledgement of the role colleges and technical institutes such as ours play in economic development,” Dr. McCulloch added.

In its budget announced yesterday, the federal government pledged an additional \$15 million to the College and Community Innovation Program (CCIP), which supports collaboration on applied research between colleges and business. The government also allocated an additional \$32 million to federal research granting councils, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

SIAST became eligible to apply for NSERC funding in 2009. The institution has been building applied research capacity in recent years, enabling faculty to innovate in a range of specialized areas.

“Our goal is to engage business and industry in applied research partnerships that find solutions and develop new opportunities,” Dr. McCulloch said. “In the process, we’ll be leveraging faculty expertise and equipping our students with the skills they need to contribute to innovation in the workplace.”

For additional information about applied research at SIAST, visit www.goSIAST.com/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.

– 30 –

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