



SIAS

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAS launches insurance diploma program

Industry projects high demand for new employees

December 13, 2010 – The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAS) has expanded its Business programs portfolio to prepare students for growing opportunities in the insurance industry.

“The insurance industry is projecting high demand for new talent in the coming years,” says Dan MacKay, SIAS’s dean of Business. “SIAS’s new Business Insurance diploma – the only full-time program in the province focusing on insurance – responds to that need. We must acknowledge the strong support from our industry partners, and in particular SGI. Their support and guidance was critical to the successful launch of this program.”

The Insurance Institute of Saskatchewan estimates that as many as 25 percent of the insurance industry nationally will retire within the next six years, MacKay notes.

SIAS’s new program, developed in consultation with the institute, will provide grads with mid-career level skills. Students will write the Chartered Insurance Professional exams to receive industry accreditation.

“The insurance industry workforce in Saskatchewan is aging and there’s a real need to draw youth in,” says Insurance Institute of Saskatchewan president Colin Warnecke. “Partnering with SIAS to provide relevant industry course material for a new insurance diploma program will assist in providing a new talent pool that would be attractive for the insurance industry in Saskatchewan to employ. With the current support received from the industry, this program should be more attractive to prospective students.”

The new program brings to seven the number of Business diploma programs offered by SIAS, with specialties ranging from accounting to human resources to marketing. The two-year programs share a common first year – the Business Certificate program. The next intake for the Business Certificate program is January 2011; the first intake for the

Business Insurance program is August 2011. For additional information, visit www.goSIAST.com/business.

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.

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