

ATTENTION NEWS AND ASSIGNMENT EDITORS

MEDIA ADVISORY

Uncovering the mysteries of DNA

SIAS Basic Ed students explore career options in Biotechnology

September 24, 2008, Saskatoon – SIAS Basic Education students have an inside track on checking out one of Saskatchewan’s hottest industry segments: The institute’s Biotechnology program invites Basic Ed students to visit the lab for a hands-on experiment.

“Students have a lot of choices when it comes to selecting their future career path,” says Blaine Chartrand, SIAS Biotechnology program instructor. “One of the ways we can help them make the right choice is to give them a career experience in a real-life hands-on lab environment. It can bring a potential career path to light, one that perhaps was never really previously considered.”

Last year, SIAS had two Biotechnology students graduate who came from the Basic Education program. One is now working in animal neuroscience research, and the other is in the field of agricultural biotechnology.

In an upcoming visit to SIAS’s Biotechnology program, SIAS Basic Education students will be extracting DNA from cheek cells and analyzing DNA by gel electrophoresis. These are basic techniques that are used in molecular biology, and they will enable students to discover some interesting applications used in medical research and agricultural biotechnology.

Media are invited to attend the Biotechnology lab on:

Date: Thursday, September 25

Time: 11 a.m. sharp

Place: SIAS Kelsey Campus, Room 218

(Media will be met at the main entrance and escorted to the lab location.)

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 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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