

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAS enrolment increase in double-digits

Nursing education, apprenticeship training contribute to growth

Friday, November 14, 2008 – Enrolment at SIAS was up almost 11 percent in 2007-08, and preliminary reports point to another significant increase in the current academic year.

“Enrolment trends at SIAS are good news for the Saskatchewan economy,” says David Walls, senior vice president, academic. “The increases demonstrate that we’re making good on our commitment to respond to labour market demand.”

SIAS operates with year-round intakes, which means the organization calculates enrolment after an academic year is complete. Its annual census this fall showed an enrolment increase in 2007-08 of 10.9 percent to 14,823 full-load equivalent (FLE). Full-load equivalent is a measure of full- and part-time training activity, and course registrations.

Nursing education, apprenticeship training and several technology programs were among the areas experiencing growth last year.

Apprenticeship enrolment increased by 19.4 percent to 3,547 FLE in 2007-08. This year, apprenticeship enrolment is forecast to climb 26.7 percent. Areas of growth include construction trades such as carpentry, electrician and plumbing, as well as mechanical trades.

Nursing diploma and degree enrolment is up year-to-date by 9.3 percent in 2008-09. Paramedic, dental and medical diagnostics programs are also up year-to-date.

“Despite these increases, it’s important to note that prospects are still very good for people who want career-oriented training,” Walls adds. “We have excellent opportunities in many program areas, including engineering technology, science, community services, business and computer programs, and natural resources.”

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 13,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 32,000 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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