

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

For immediate release

# **SIAST expands nursing programs**

*SIAST adds seats in NEPS, Psychiatric and Practical Nursing*

**Saskatoon, October 27, 2008** – SIAST marked the growth of its nursing education programs with a special event today.

This year, the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) and its Second Degree Entry Option are expanding by 74 and 18 first-year seats respectively, and SIAST launched the 30-seat Psychiatric Nursing program in Regina.

The organization's Practical Nursing program continued to grow as students accommodated through recent capacity expansions moved into their second year. SIAST added 70 seats in Practical Nursing, in part through innovative delivery methods such as partnerships with First Nations and expanded brokerage arrangements with regional colleges.

For first-year students alone, SIAST now directly provides or brokers programming for approximately 472 students in NEPS and 196 students in the Practical Nursing program.

The event today was held at the Cosmo Civic Centre, a City of Saskatoon facility where SIAST leases additional lecture space to accommodate the expansion. This summer, renovations took place at SIAST Kelsey Campus to convert classroom space to additional nursing labs.

"Increased accessibility to nursing education means increased accessibility to health care," said Dr. R.G. (Bob) McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO. "Our expansion is good news for people who want to pursue a nursing career, it's good news for health care consumers, and it's good news for health care employers."

"Nurses are a vital component of our province's health care system," said Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris. "Our government is committed to building high-quality post-secondary health education programs that meet the needs of our health care system, our learners and our citizens."

“SIAST Nursing Division is continually expanding its capacity as a primary provider of quality nursing education,” said Netha Dyck, SIAST’s dean of Nursing. “By expanding our programs and using a variety of delivery methods, we are increasing access to education and providing it closer to home.”

The SIAST Nursing Division delivers 15 innovative nursing programs to more than 3,000 students across the province of Saskatchewan. It offers NEPS in partnership with First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan.

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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Information about SIAST can be found at [www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com).

## ***BACKGROUND – SIAST NURSING DIVISION***

October 27, 2008

### **SIAST Nursing Division**

SIAST's Nursing Division team of 220 expert faculty and staff deliver 15 innovative programs to more than 3,000 students annually using teaching best practices, distributed learning and leading edge educational technology.

SIAST Nursing programs prepare graduates to practise as registered nurses, registered nurse/nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses, as well as for specialization in perioperative nursing, critical care, diabetes management and occupational health and safety.

### **Programs**

- Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) (degree) in collaboration with the First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan
- NEPS Second Degree Entry Option (degree) in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan
- Psychiatric Nursing (diploma)
- Practical Nursing (diploma)
- Advanced Diabetes Education Program for Health Care Providers (advanced certificate)
- Basic Diabetes Education Program for Health Care Providers (applied certificate)
- Basic Critical Care Nursing (advanced certificate)
- Nursing Re-entry (applied certificate)
- Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner (applied certificate)
- Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses (applied certificate)
- Perioperative Nursing/LPN (advanced certificate)
- Perioperative Nursing/RN (advanced certificate)
- Practical Nurse Re-entry (applied certificate)
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (advanced certificate)
- Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry (applied certificate)
- CPR/First Aid courses

## **Partnerships and Collaboration**

- NEPS – with University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada
- Practical Nursing – with regional colleges, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Kawacatoose First Nation and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
- Basic Critical Care Nursing – with health regions
- Perioperative Nursing – with health regions in Saskatchewan and in other provinces
- Preceptorship clinical experiences in student's community

## **NEPS, Psychiatric and Practical Nursing 2008-09 First-Year Capacity\***

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|-----------------------------------|-----|
| • NEPS Saskatoon                  | 199 |
| • NEPS Regina                     | 195 |
| • NEPS Second Degree Entry Option | 78  |
| • Psychiatric, Regina             | 30  |
| • PN, Prince Albert               | 14  |
| • PN, Saskatoon                   | 28  |
| • PN, Regina                      | 28  |
| • PN, Kawacatoose First Nation    | 18  |
| • PN, regional colleges           | 108 |

\*SIAST has also offered Practical Nursing online and through a partnership with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.