

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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# **SIAST Kelsey cuts ribbon on new facility**

## ***Training space expands for trades and paramedic programs***

**November 6, 2009** – SIAST Kelsey's new Ontario Ave Centre was officially unveiled at a ribbon cutting ceremony this morning. The centre's 37,000 square feet features 11 classrooms and five shops focused on paramedic and trades training.

Programs include Carpentry, Masonry, Welding, Steel Fabrication, Electrician applied certificate and Primary Care Paramedic.

Formerly the Sask Power maintenance repair depot, renovations began in fall 2007 to turn the space into a learning facility.

"The provincial government recognizes the important role that SIAST plays in post-secondary education to ensure that learners are ready to participate in the knowledge economy," said Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris. "This new facility will provide flexible, relevant and quality training opportunities that respond to the needs of students and employers within our community."

This new facility features a state-of-the-art exhaust system in the welding shop, a dust collection and ventilation system for the building trades, a separate cutting room with a designated exhaust system for masonry and a simulation area for electrician training. Students training as paramedics benefit from a top-notch facility that includes scenario rooms and an ambulance bay.

Each of the classrooms is set up with the latest in new classroom technology that uses interactive multimedia. The new facility also includes expanded parking for staff and students.

“Rehabilitation of the Ontario Avenue building provides SIAST with much-needed contemporary educational space,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO. “The additional classrooms and shops allow us to add capacity in a number of programs and free up space for renovations elsewhere.”

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.

– 30 –

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