

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

SIAST expands Practical Nursing program

SIAST Kelsey Campus adds capacity in downtown Saskatoon

Saskatoon, February 14, 2008 – SIAST marked another milestone today in its response to nursing education needs in Saskatchewan with the expansion of its Practical Nursing program into Saskatoon.

Through innovative delivery, partnerships and on-campus expansion, SIAST now directly provides or brokers programming for approximately 600 seats for first-year nursing students, including students training to be licensed practical nurses and registered nurses.

“SIAST plays a critical role in our province’s training system which is vital to the province’s labour market needs and ultimately our economic and social prosperity,” Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said. “I am particularly pleased with the success that SIAST has achieved in the Practical Nursing program.”

“SIAST responds to nursing education needs in a variety of ways and with a range of programs,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAST’s president and CEO. “In addition to delivering the Practical Nursing program across the province, we partner on the delivery of the nursing degree program and on a special program for people who already have one degree. Our Nursing Division also offers a dozen continuing education programs.”

The launch of the Practical Nursing program in Saskatoon is an important part of SIAST’s overall response to meeting the needs of health care employers in Saskatchewan. In addition to the new 28 Practical Nursing seats in Saskatoon, SIAST has converted its program in Regina and Prince Albert to an annual intake. This year it has also added seats in the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), and further NEPS expansions are planned.

“The Practical Nursing program prepares graduates to provide high quality care and service in urban and rural settings such as acute care, home care, community, and

long-term care,” says Netha Dyck, SIAST’s dean of nursing. “The Practical Nursing program continues to expand to meet the growing demand for caring and competent professional nurses.”

Increasing accessibility to programming is a key SIAST priority. In addition to increasing on-campus capacity for Practical Nursing, SIAST has expanded online delivery of Practical Nursing, entered into partnerships with First Nations to deliver the program, and expanded brokerage arrangements with regional colleges.

The launch of SIAST’s Practical Nursing program in Saskatoon coincides with the expansion of its SIAST Kelsey Campus into a downtown facility – the program is currently offered at SIAST Kelsey Campus Fourth Avenue Centre.

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.

BACKGROUND – SIAST NURSING DIVISION

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SIAST Nursing Division

SIAST's Nursing Division team of 200 expert faculty and staff deliver 14 innovative programs to more than 3,000 students annually using teaching best practices 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
- Practical Nursing (certificate)
- 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 (under development)
- 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 nine regional colleges, Dumont Technical Institute, Kawacatoose First Nation, 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 and Practical Nursing Capacity*

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| • NEPS Saskatoon | 174 |
| • NEPS Regina | 146 |
| • NEPS Second Degree | 60 |
| • PN, Prince Albert | 7 or 14 (alternates each year) |
| • PN, Saskatoon | 28 |
| • PN, Regina | 28 |
| • PN, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation | 15 |
| • PN, Kawacatoose First Nation | 18 |
| • PN online | 10 |
| • PN, regional colleges | 136 |

*Only first-year figures provided unless otherwise indicated.