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APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NEWS RELEASE

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Future energy and environmental impact focus of SIAST conference

Students learn about issues and demands on the environment to fuel future energy plans in the province

March 15, 2007 – Today, SIAST Woodland Campus hosted the 4th Annual Resource Issues in Saskatchewan Conference. Organized by SIAST Integrated Resource Management students, the conference “Our Energy Future” focused on Saskatchewan’s energy development, energy needs and the quest for alternative greener fuel sources.

“The Integrated Resource Management students have done a great job to bring together industry experts to exchange ideas, learn about the future of our energy resources and environmental management requirements,” says Arnold Boldt, SIAST dean of Technology.

Speakers at the conference included Jack Kinnear, Saskatchewan Environment’s director of Aboriginal affairs, who addressed land use issues related to energy development in the area of oil sands. Dr. Mark Johnson from the Saskatchewan Research Council highlighted climate change and provided an insight into the significance of carbon credits for industrial companies around the world, and Mike Simpson with Nexen focused on exploration for unconventional gas resources including coal bed methane.

Hamilton Greenwood, SIAST Natural Resources program head, says "Oil sand development, climate change, carbon sequestration and biofuels are all topics that will have an impact on the careers of our natural resources grads as they move forward into the workforce." He adds, "This conference provides our students with important linkages with industry representatives and the knowledge of future demands and impacts on the environment in our province."

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 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 28,000 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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