

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAS nursing team wins award for excellence in health care

Contributes to "the enhancement of healthy public policy"

March 8, 2007 – The SIAS Nursing Division has received a Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award (SHEA) for its significant contribution to health care in the province. SHEAwards recognize those in healthcare who have shown excellence and commitment to their work.

"On behalf of the SIAS Nursing Division, I would like to thank SHEA for this prestigious award", said Netha Dyck, dean of nursing. "I am proud of our dynamic team of leaders, expert faculty and staff who all contributed to the achievement of this award, which recognizes the team's leadership and scholarship."

"Excellence in nursing education and research contribute to the enhancement of healthy public policy," says Chris Smith, executive director of the SHEAwards. "It is through opportunities for nursing education that an adequate supply of highly educated nurses will be ensured and ultimately advance the health of individuals

"Graduates of the SIAS Nursing Division programs are viewed by employers as having the knowledge and skills necessary to function in today's complex health care environment," says Dyck.

In addition to the on-site delivery of high-quality nursing and health care education, the division is innovative in ensuring broad access to programming, says Dyck. Working with SIAS's Virtual Campus, the division has developed award-winning interactive online courses using leading-edge technology. The division has also partnered with Aboriginal stakeholders to provide the Practical Nursing program in Quinton, Sask., offering close-to-home nursing education to Kawacatoose, Gordon and Day Star First Nations.

SIAST's Nursing Division is a partner in the delivery of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan, a nursing degree program. The division also provides extensive continuing nursing education programming. It serves more than 2,300 students each year.

The Group Medical Services Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards is made possible by volunteers and sponsors who support the recognition of excellence in healthcare. The annual Gala Banquet and Awards Presentation, which this year recognized 19 individuals and teams, is hosted by founding sponsor Dr. Roberta McKay.

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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