

**Putting knowledge to work.**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **SIAST wins award for online course**

*Virtual Campus, Nursing team recognized at technology conference*

**May 3, 2005** – SIAST has won the inaugural Campus Saskatchewan *Award for Collaborative Design and Development*. SIAST's Virtual Campus and the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) were the joint developers of this innovative nursing course, which focuses on interpersonal relationships.

The award was presented Monday night at the Campus Saskatchewan-sponsored Teaching, Learning and Technology Conference hosted at SIAST's Wascana Campus in Regina. The conference drew 175 delegates, mostly from Saskatchewan's institutions of higher learning and K to 12 education system.

Speaking on behalf of the [award-winning team](#), Denise Nelson, SIAST Virtual Campus course designer, noted that it was "thrilling to see this large and diverse team come together to create such a powerful online learning experience for nursing students." The team's 15 members were not only drawn from different divisions within SIAST, but also from locations across the province.

After announcing the award, Campus Saskatchewan executive director Phillip Cameron said that it was "encouraging to formally recognize the degree of collaboration that is possible within and among institutions of higher learning in Saskatchewan for the betterment of students."

SIAST's Virtual Campus currently offers more than 80 online courses, which draw approximately 1,500 registrations annually. Each year Virtual Campus employees work with colleagues across SIAST to develop additional courses for online delivery, thus expanding access to SIAST programs.

The Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) is a degree program designed to prepare graduates for professional nursing practice. NEPS is a partnership between SIAST, the University of Saskatchewan and the First Nations University of Canada.

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 27,000 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 –

For more information, contact:

Patricia Gillies  
Director of Communications, SIAST  
306-933-5376

More information about SIAST, NEPS, and Virtual Campus learning opportunities can be found at <http://www.goSIAST.com>.