

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAS applied research gets national nod

*SIAS recognized for its expertise and research capacity
by national funding council*

April 28, 2009 – Saskatchewan’s potential for the commercialization of new technology and technology transfer took a step forward with SIAS’s successful bid for “NSERC eligibility.” SIAS is now able to apply for grants for applied research through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

“NSERC eligibility is a milestone moment for SIAS and the province,” says Dr. Barb Bremner, SIAS’s associate vice-president of Educational Services. “To be recognized as eligible, we needed to meet eight requirements, a process that took approximately two years and that included demonstrating our capacity for research.”

According to the federal agency’s website, the ultimate goal of NSERC is to “help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians.” NSERC promotes and assists university students and postdoctoral fellows who are pursuing their advanced studies by providing financial support. NSERC supports each year approximately 26,500 university students and postdoctoral fellows, 11,800 university professors and about 1,400 university/industry projects.

“At SIAS, our focus is finding practical solutions to real problems,” says SIAS’s director of Applied Research and Innovation, Dr. Shashi Pathak. “We have the expertise and capacity to boost students’ learning experience by incorporating applied

research that is based on commercial and social innovation. It teaches students to be critical in their thinking and become more inquisitive in their approach to solving practical problems.”

With assistance from SIAST’s Office of Applied Research and Innovation, Salim Khalid from SIAST’s Chemical Technology program is working on an application for \$2.3 million for a five-year environmental project. “The proposed project entails the development of a collaborative made up of business, industry, SIAST faculty and students that will address issues in environmental technologies to offer sustainable solutions for Saskatchewan and Canada,” says Dr. Pathak.

Next steps in applied research at SIAST include applying for grant eligibility to the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). These two funding agencies and NSERC are known as the Tri-Council.

For more information about SIAST’s Office of Applied Research and Innovation, visit <http://www.siastr.sk.ca/research/funding.shtml>.

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.

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