



NEWS RELEASE

First Nations University of Canada and SIAST expand training options

*Agreement enables Aboriginal Police Preparation courses
to be offered at FNUUniv Saskatoon campus*

June 25, 2009 – The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today that details a unique arrangement for police preparation training in Saskatchewan.

“Today, the First Nations University and SIAST are making a commitment that will help eliminate barriers through a new transfer credit partnership, and that will create a new avenue for students to pursue their learning goals,” says Dr. Judy Harrower, dean of Community Services. Dr. Harrower added, “The benefit of today’s announcement is two-fold: It provides additional training seats for qualified applicants to take the Aboriginal Police Preparation courses, and it will assist in meeting the demand for personnel in the law enforcement agencies in Saskatchewan.”

“We are pleased to be partners of a program that will help students be successfully recruited into careers in municipal, federal or Aboriginal police services,” says Dr. Herman Michell, vice-president of Academic, First Nations University of Canada.

“Aboriginal people are overrepresented in Canada’s criminal justice system, and this program will help to address the issue of under-representation in the police force in Saskatchewan. The more Aboriginal people we have working in the system, the better chance we have at addressing crime prevention issues. To this end, we are excited to be partnering with SIAST toward bridging that gap in the system.”

The MOU identifies courses offered through FNUUniv that have been approved by SIAST for transfer credit to the Aboriginal Police Preparation courses. Over a period of seven

months, students will have six courses delivered by FNUniv and the remaining 14 courses will be provided by SIAST and the Saskatoon Police Service at the FNUniv Saskatoon campus.

SIAST currently offers the Aboriginal Police Preparation courses at SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert, SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina and through the Cumberland Regional College in Nipawin. More than 20 students will be able to enroll in the courses at the FNUniv campus in Saskatoon.

Founded in 1976, the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) is an independently administered university that offers university education to First Nations and non-First Nations students at campuses in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. FNUniv offers students undergraduate and graduate degree opportunities within an environment of First Nations culture and history, combining First Nations oriented and standard areas of study in each of its programs. The University also offers web-based classes, and distance-education and community-based university classes.

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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For more information, contact:

Clayton Cunningham
SIAST Marketing and Communications
Phone: (306) 765-1653
Mobile: (306) 961-3036
Email: cunninghamc@siast.sk.ca

Tina Pelletier
First Nations University of Canada
Office of Communications
Phone: (306) 790-5950 ext 2600
Mobile: (306) 530-9228
Email: tpelletier@firstnationsuniversity.ca

Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.

Information about First Nations University of Canada can be found at www.firstnationsuniversity.ca.