

NEWS RELEASE

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Distinguished business leader receives SIAS honorary diploma

Semple recognized for his contribution to the community and province

June 22, 2007 – Brandt Group of Companies' president and CEO, Gavin Semple, was awarded an honorary diploma in Business from SIAS. Semple received the award at the annual SIAS Wascana Campus graduation ceremony held today in Regina.

"Gavin is ... a living testament to the success one can realize through a commitment to lifelong learning and hard work," said David Walls, SIAS's senior vice-president, academic.

SIAS's honorary diploma program recognizes people for distinguished achievements and contributions aligned with SIAS's vision, values, goals and objectives.

Gavin Semple began his career at Brandt in 1972 in the area of sales and was promoted to president and CEO in 1976. Under Gavin's leadership, Brandt Group of Companies has been chosen seven times as one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies. Brandt has also been named ABEX Business of the Year by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and 2003 Business of the Year by Saskatchewan Business Magazine. In addition, Semple was also named Western Canada Entrepreneur of the Year in 1994, and in 2004, he was inducted into the Canadian Sales Hall of Fame. Semple has also been instrumental in providing employment opportunities for SIAS graduates in the province.

More than 300 SIAST Wascana grads were on hand for today's ceremony; they are among the approximately 4,000 students to graduate from SIAST this academic year. Semple was the guest speaker at SIAST Wascana Campus graduation ceremony today.

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.

– 30 –

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