

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

# **SIAST celebrates inaugural offering of Aboriginal police prep courses**

*Courses developed in consultation with police agencies, expansion planned*

**Prince Albert, September 10, 2007** – As 27 students are set to begin their first day of the new Aboriginal Police Preparation courses at SIAST Woodland Campus, plans are underway to offer the courses at other locations in the province.

Demand for Aboriginal police preparation training has prompted an expansion to campuses in Saskatoon and Regina – 20 additional seats will be available at SIAST Kelsey and 20 more at SIAST Wascana starting in January 2008. A second intake is planned for Prince Albert in February 2008.

“We are very excited to see the excellent response to the new courses. The training will help provide qualified applicants to meet the demand for personnel in the law enforcement agencies in Saskatchewan,” says Dr. Judy Harrower, SIAST dean of Community Services.

The Saskatchewan Police Aboriginal Recruiting Committee and SIAST developed these courses to help prepare students to apply for a position with a Saskatchewan police force or the RCMP.

“The Saskatchewan Police Aboriginal Recruiting Committee’s (S.P.A.R.C) objective is primarily to develop a strategy that will explore ways to attract Aboriginal candidates into a career in policing and to ensure Aboriginal recruits are provided with the necessary supports to achieve career success,” says Audra Young, committee chair. “The Aboriginal Police Preparation courses will assist candidates in preparation for a career in policing. This is an integrated approach to recruiting; to share and build best practices that attract, develop and retain Aboriginal candidates to our respective police agencies.”

The Aboriginal Police Preparation courses take approximately five months to complete. The courses provide students with transfer credit towards a diploma in Correctional Studies, should they decide not to pursue a career in policing.

The Saskatchewan Police Aboriginal Recruiting Committee is comprised of personnel from various federal and provincial police forces. Membership includes the File Hills First Nations Police Service, Moose Jaw Police Service, Prince Albert Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Regina Police Service and the Saskatoon Police Service.

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 11,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 29,000 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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