



SIAST

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAST students practise health care in near-to-real learning lab

Project funded through federal, provincial cost-sharing program

March 30, 2012 – The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), with representatives of the federal and provincial governments, cut the ribbon on a state-of-the-art Simulation Learning Centre at SIAST Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon this afternoon.

The learning centre provides near-to-real interprofessional learning opportunities for nursing, paramedic and continuing care students. It was part of a \$4.2-million renovation project funded by the federal and provincial governments' Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

"Our government's investment in post-secondary infrastructure has given SIAST's students and researchers the facilities they need to be global leaders in their fields," said Member of Parliament Kelly Block. "This project will allow SIAST to strengthen its capacity and build on its reputation as a leading institution of higher learning."

"Our government remains committed to ensuring excellence for our students in the post-secondary system, and this includes investing in infrastructure," Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Rob Norris said. "The simulation lab provides students with the innovative hands-on training needed to prepare them for their careers in the health-care system."

The 10,000-square-foot simulation learning centre includes treatment and assessment rooms, an apartment with cutaway walls for observation, a birthing unit, control rooms and debriefing rooms. "Patients" – computerized mannequins – are programmed to react as students administer CPR and drug therapies, intubate and ventilate, insert IVs

and catheters, and perform various other procedures in response to dozens of scenarios. The mannequins can speak, breath, blink and – in one case – give birth.

“The centre offers SIAST students leading-edge learning opportunities,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAST’s president and CEO. “It provides a safe environment where students can develop critical thinking and practise clinical skills without risk of harm to patients.”

The Simulation Learning Centre makes innovative use of training resources in an era when clinical learning opportunities are in high demand. It allows SIAST to focus on specific clinical situations, and it allows faculty to teach multiple skills at the same time. The centre was part of a larger 30,000-square-foot renovation that included six hospital units with 48 beds, as well as some classrooms. This year, more than 500 nursing, paramedic and continuing care students will use the learning centre. That number will increase as the facility is used by students in medical diagnostics and Pharmacy Technician programs.

SIAST is Saskatchewan’s primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Through program and course registrations, SIAST serves 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAST 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:

Brad Kraft
SIAST Communications
306-659-4041 306-281-2896 (cell)

Stephanie Thomas, Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Gary Goodyear
Minister of State (Science and Technology)
613-960-7728

Marieka Andrew, Communications Consultant
Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration
306-798-3170

Information about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program can be found at <http://ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure>.

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