

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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# **Support for grads benefits rural patients**

*Grads from four SIAST nursing programs may qualify for loan forgiveness*

**April 9, 2013** – A new government loan forgiveness program will benefit nursing graduates and patients in remote and rural communities, says SIAST's dean of Nursing.

"The Saskatchewan Student Loan forgiveness program will provide welcome financial relief to eligible nursing graduates, while at the same time equipping health care services with an attractive recruitment tool," says Dr. Netha Dyck. "Ultimately, patients in remote and rural areas of the province will benefit."

The program may provide financial support to graduates from four SIAST programs – Practical Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Nurse Practitioner and the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing, which is offered in partnership with the University of Regina. Each year, approximately 525 new students are accepted into these four nursing programs. Almost 200 more students are accepted into SIAST nursing programs brokered through regional colleges.

Eligible graduates working in designated communities may apply to have up to \$20,000 in student loans forgiven over five years. More information about the government's loan forgiveness program for nurses is available at <http://www.ae.gov.sk.ca/loan-forgiveness-nurses>.

SIAST offers 16 nursing programs, including post-diploma and post-degree programs, and several courses to 5,000 students annually.

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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