SIAST
SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

SIAST expands nursing programs
SIAST adds seats in NEPS, Psychiatric and Practical Nursing

Regina, October 17, 2008 – SIAST marked the growth of its nursing education programs – and an expansion into new digs – with a special event today.

This year, the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) and its Second-Degree Entry Option has expanded by 74 and 18 first-year seats respectively, and SIAST launched the 30-seat Psychiatric Nursing program in Regina.

The organization's Practical Nursing program continued to grow as students accommodated through recent capacity expansions moved into their second year. SIAST added 70 seats in Practical Nursing, in part through innovative delivery methods and partnerships, partnerships with First Nations to deliver the program, and expanded brokerage arrangements with regional colleges.

For first-year students alone, SIAST now directly provides or brokers programming for approximately 472 students in NEPS and 196 students in the Practical Nursing program.

Its event today was held in the SIAST Wascana Parkway Centre, a facility adjacent to SIAST's Regina campus and into which SIAST expanded this year to accommodate additional nursing seats.

"Increased accessibility to nursing education means increased accessibility to health care," said Dr. R.G. (Bob) McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO. "Our expansion is good news for people who want to pursue a nursing career, it's good news for health care consumers, and it's good news for health care employers."

"Our government is working to ensure that the training capacity of our post-secondary institutions meets the demands of our growing economy," said Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour Minister Rob Norris. "This is especially critical in the training of front-line heath care professionals whose work ensures the people of Saskatchewan have timely access to quality health care."

"Saskatchewan citizens deserve high quality and accessible health care," said Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Hutchinson. "To ensure this, we are taking a balanced approach in partnership with the nursing community, health care providers, and post-secondary institutions to meet the needs of our health care system, our learners and our citizens."

"SIAST Nursing Division is continually expanding its capacity as a primary provider of quality nursing education," said Netha Dyck, SIAST's dean of Nursing. "By expanding our programs and using a variety of delivery methods, we are increasing access to education and providing it closer to home."

The SIAST Nursing Division delivers 15 innovative nursing programs to more than 3,000 students across the province of Saskatchewan. It offers NEPS in partnership with First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Almost 12,000 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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Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.

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BACKGROUNDER – SIAST NURSING DIVISION

October 17, 2008

SIAST Nursing Division

SIAST's Nursing Division team of 220 expert faculty and staff deliver 15 innovative programs to more than 3,000 students annually using teaching best practices, distributed learning and leading edge educational technology.

SIAST Nursing programs prepare graduates to practise as registered nurses, registered nurse/nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses, as well as for specialization in perioperative nursing, critical care, diabetes management and occupational health and safety.

Programs

- Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) (degree) in collaboration with the First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan
- NEPS Second Degree Entry Option (degree) in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan
- Psychiatric Nursing (diploma)
- Practical Nursing (diploma)
- Advanced Diabetes Education Program for Health Care Providers (advanced certificate)
- Basic Diabetes Education Program for Health Care Providers (applied certificate)
- Basic Critical Care Nursing (advanced certificate)
- Nursing Re-entry (applied certificate)
- Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner (applied certificate)
- Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses (applied certificate)
- Perioperative Nursing/LPN (advanced certificate)
- Perioperative Nursing/RN (advanced certificate)
- Practical Nurse Re-entry (applied certificate)
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (advanced certificate)
- Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry (applied certificate)
- CPR/First Aid courses

Partnerships and Collaboration

- NEPS – with University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada
- Practical Nursing – with regional colleges, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Kawacatoose First Nation and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
- Basic Critical Care Nursing – with health regions
- Perioperative Nursing – with health regions in Saskatchewan and in other provinces
- Preceptorship clinical experiences in student's community

NEPS, Psychiatric and Practical Nursing 2008-09 First-Year Capacity*

- NEPS Saskatoon   199
- NEPS Regina   195
- NEPS Second Degree Entry Option   78
- Psychiatric, Regina   30
- PN, Prince Albert   14
- PN, Saskatoon   28
- PN, Regina   28
- PN, Kawacatoose First Nation   18
- PN, regional colleges   108

*SIAST has also offered Practical Nursing online and through a partnership with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.