

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAST responds to skills shortage

More seats, more training hours, innovative course delivery

June 28, 2011 – SIAST is responding to growing skills shortages with more program seats, more training hours and innovative course delivery options for apprentices. That's good news for Saskatchewan's construction and mining sectors, which are facing shortages of skilled tradespeople.

"In the last few years alone, demand for apprentice training has grown by about 30 percent – and most of that training happens at SIAST," says Dennis Johnson, SIAST's dean of Industrial Training. "We're responding with more seats and more training hours, as well as with innovations in program delivery.

Johnson says SIAST is expecting to deliver more than 200,000 training hours for apprentices next year. "That's an all-time high," he says. "We're also increasing seats – Electrician, Carpenter and Plumber are seeing the largest increases, but there are also smaller increases in programs across the board."

SIAST is the province's largest provider of trades training. SIAST's almost 160 programs include close to 30 pre-employment certificate and applied certificate trades programs. SIAST provides the in-school training portion of 22 apprenticeship programs to more than 5,000 apprentices a year through a contract arrangement with the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC). Programs are designed with input from industry and emphasize hands-on learning.

Certificate and applied certificate programs are offered at all four SIAST campuses and, where numbers warrant, through Saskatchewan's regional colleges. SIAST also has several mobile training labs, which deliver training to students in remote areas. One recent innovation is the development, in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) and industry, of online apprentice upgrading programs for Carpenter and Electrician apprentices, with more in development. The online programs are designed for apprentices who have completed their training but need upgrading to successfully write the journeyman exam.

"This is an exciting time for apprenticeship training, but such rapid growth does present challenges," says Rick Ewen, director of apprenticeship at SATCC. "SIAST has risen to the challenge and they continue to be very innovative in their response. You've got to be proud of that."

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 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAST served almost 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.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Tess Hodgins
SIAST Communications
Phone: 306-659-4041
Cell: 306-281-2896
Email: hodginste@siast.sk.ca

Further information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.

BACKGROUND

Apprenticeship is a formal agreement between an individual who wants to learn a skill and an employer who needs a skilled worker. Apprenticeship training is an “earn while you learn” arrangement for a required term. Apprenticeship skills learned on the job are supplemented with a required number of weeks each year of technical training. Upon successful completion of an apprenticeship program, a person is eligible to write an examination to become certified in the trade.

Apprenticeship Contract

Apprentices must be:

- 16 years old or older
- have the proper educational requirements
- work in a designated trade (either as an employee, employer or self-employed shop owner)

Apprenticeship contracts are registered with the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC), which contracts with SIAST for the provision of technical training. Apprentices do not register directly with SIAST.

Technical Training

SIAST is the province’s largest provider of trades training. The Industrial Training Division offers close to 30 pre-employment certificate and applied certificate trades programs and provides apprenticeship training to more than 5,000 apprentices a year.

Programs are designed with input from industry and emphasize hands-on learning. Training provides theory, testing and hands-on experience. Technical training is available at SIAST campuses in Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, as well as through regional colleges and other training providers.

Training Programs and Other Information

For more information about the following trades or start dates for specific training periods, please contact the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC).

Program Name	Campus	Term of Apprenticeship	Length of Training at SIAST per Year/Level
Agricultural Machinery Technician	Kelsey	4 years	8 weeks per year
John Deere Agricultural Technician	Kelsey	4 years	Level 1: 12 weeks Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 12 weeks Level 4: 8 weeks
Auto Body Technician	Kelsey & Wascana	4 years	Level 1: 6 weeks Level 2: 6 weeks Level 3: 7 weeks Level 4: 7 weeks
Automotive Service Technician	Kelsey & Palliser	4 years	8 weeks per year
Automotive Service Educational Program (ASEP)	Kelsey & Wascana	4 years	8 weeks per year
Bricklayer	Palliser	3 years	8 weeks per year
Carpenter	Palliser & Woodland	4 years	7 weeks per year
Cook	Kelsey & Palliser	3 years	40 days per year
Electrician	Palliser & Woodland	4 years	Level 1: 8 weeks Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 9 weeks Level 4: 8 weeks
Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic	Kelsey	4 years	8 weeks per year
Industrial Instrument Technician	Palliser	4 years	10 weeks per year
Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)	Kelsey	4 years	8 weeks per year
Ironworker (Structural)	Palliser	3 years	Level 1: 7 weeks Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 7 weeks
Machinist	Kelsey	4 years	Level 1: 8 weeks Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 8 weeks Level 4: 6 weeks
Meat Cutter	Kelsey	3 years	8 weeks per year
Motor Vehicle Body Repairer	Kelsey & Wascana	4 years	Level 1: 6 weeks Level 2: 6 weeks Level 3: 7 weeks Level 4: 7 weeks

Partsperson	Kelsey	3 years	Level 1: 8 weeks (offered via distance learning) Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 6 weeks
Plumber	Kelsey	4 years	Level 1: 8 weeks Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 7 weeks Level 4: 7 weeks
Refrigeration Mechanic	Kelsey	4 years	8 weeks per year
Roofer	Woodland	3 years	6 weeks per year
Sheet Metal Worker	Kelsey	4 years	8 weeks per year
Steamfitter-Pipefitter	Kelsey	4 years	Level 1: 8 weeks Level 2: 8 weeks Level 3: 7 weeks Level 4: 7 weeks
Steel Fabricator	Kelsey	3 years	8 weeks per year
Truck and Transport Mechanic	Kelsey	4 years	8 weeks per year
Welding	Kelsey & Palliser	3 years	Level 1 - 7 weeks Level 2 - 7 weeks Level 3 - 8 weeks