

MEDIA RELEASE

SIAS faculty celebrate their own grad

Inaugural participants mark completion of Faculty Certificate Program

August 17, 2007 – Ten SIAS faculty members today celebrated their success as the first graduates of a new and innovative three-year SIAS Faculty Certificate Program offered through SIAS's Instructional and Leadership Development Centre.

"This program will help instructors implement best practices and offer innovative and relevant programming," says Barb Bremner, associate vice president of educational services for SIAS. "It advances their personal learning and leadership goals, it is consistent with our commitment to lifelong learning, and it provides high-quality, enriched learning experiences."

"The knowledge and practical skills I gained are invaluable to me in the classroom, and help provide students with the best possible instruction and learning experience," says Jeff Chow, a carpentry instructor at SIAS Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon and a Faculty Certificate Program graduate. "The program shows a commitment to faculty development and sets high standards for the type of instructors we strive to be."

"This program is a good example of a successful collaborative venture between the Faculty of Education, University of Regina, and SIAS that benefits both instructors and students, and contributes to the improvement of the quality of instruction and education in Saskatchewan," says Dr. Michael Tymchak, dean of the Faculty of Education at the U of R.

The graduates began the program in 2004 as relative newcomers to their roles as SIAS instructors. They participated in the program to grow professionally in a rapidly changing post-secondary technical education and skills training environment. SIAS and the Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit (SIDRU) in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina collaborated on program development.

The three-year Faculty Certificate Program consists of an initial summer institute, six additional courses and a final summer institute. Participants earn credit toward the Bachelor of Adult Education and Training degree at the U of R.

SIAS 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 SIAS 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.

SIDRU is a U of R research unit that develops resources on instructional strategies, conducts literature reviews, produces the *Policy and Practice in Education* journal, and undertakes a variety of projects for clients across Canada, such as evaluations, feasibility studies and needs assessments.

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For more information, contact:

Patricia Gillies
SIAST Communications
Telephone (306) 933-5376
Cellular (306) 230-9233

Stephen King
U of R Communications
Telephone (306) 585-5439
Cellular (306) 536-4312

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

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