

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAST faculty seek wastewater solutions

Chemical Technology program receives \$200,000 NSERC funding

June 23, 2010 – SIAST Chemical Technology program head Dr. Salim Khalid has been awarded \$200,000 by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to conduct applied research in wastewater remediation.

“The project is a joint initiative between the SIAST Chemical Technology program and two Saskatchewan small- and medium-sized enterprises,” said Dr. Khalid. “The goal is to improve water quality in Saskatchewan.”

One aspect of the research will focus on the rural challenge of extracting ammonia from sewage and livestock manure, and the other will focus on the industrial challenge of removing hydrocarbons, PCBs and heavy metals from industrial wastewater. Hydrocarbons, PCBs and heavy metals in industrial wastewater and the use of open air sewage lagoons are common worldwide.

“At SIAST, applied research focuses on finding solutions for practical problems,” says Cristina Holguin-Pando, director of Applied Research. “The objective of the research is to develop new technologies to reduce water contamination and to create value-added by-products by recycling the contaminants into a reusable form. The resulting technologies will be employed in municipal wastewater recycling, water purification, sewage treatment and wastewater management.”

The grant is funded by the College and Community Innovation (CCI) program, which provides institutions with funding to stimulate applied research transfer in their communities. CCI supports projects in environmental science and technologies, natural resources and energy, health and related life sciences and technologies, and information and communication technologies. CCI, a joint pilot project of the three federal granting agencies, is managed by NSERC in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

SIAST's goal is to become a leader in applied research among Canadian colleges and institutes of technology, with an emphasis on sharing benefits with local industry and the community. For more information about SIAST's Office of Applied Research and Innovation, visit <http://www.siastr.sk.ca/research/>.

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 14,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 30,000 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.

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