

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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# **Huge response to SIAST robot challenge**

*\$13,000 in tuition money up for grabs at myRobotRumble Challenge 2010*

**March 25, 2010** – With \$13,000 in tuition money and iPods up for grabs, electronics programs at SIAST campuses in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon hosted more than 230 high school students today for the second annual SUMObot robotic competition.

Last November, SUMObot kits were sent to high schools around the province, and 44 schools registered for the competition. SIAST provided the schools with a robot kit that contained enough parts for two SUMO robots. Since then, high school teachers have worked with their students to build, program and test their robots.

“We had great success with the competition last year,” said Bill Blok, recruitment coordinator for SIAST and coordinator of the myRobotRumble event. “Student enrolment in the competition has grown by over 40 per cent. The students really enjoyed themselves and were eager to participate again this year.”

Working in teams of two, the SIAST SUMObot Challenge gave high school students the chance to demonstrate their problem-solving skills, technical knowledge of electronics and teamwork as they competed against other students from across the province.

Similar to traditional Japanese sumo wrestling matches, two SUMObots face off against each other in a ring. The goal is to stay in the ring while pushing the opposing robot out of the ring. The robot that stays in the ring the longest wins the match.

“It’s a great way for high school students to develop the skills they would need in one of our electronics programs, as well as to learn about what SIAST has to offer in a fun and engaging environment,” said Arnold Boldt, dean of Technology.

SIAST is currently offering an entrance award that gives students an added incentive to enrol in one of five electronics-related programs. It’s a cash back option to help students with tuition costs and to help meet labour market demand for electronics grads.

Applicants accepted into one of the following electronics-related programs will be eligible to receive either a \$1,000 or \$2,000 entrance award: Electronics Technician, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology and Electronic Systems Engineering Technology. By combining the program entrance award with the winnings from this competition, the top winners would have a good portion of their tuition paid for the first year of their program.

SIAST electronics grads work with business, industry and government employers in areas such as manufacturing, communications, resource processing and consulting. With entry-level salaries for new grads averaging around \$3,300 per month, it's a solid career choice.

For more information on the entrance awards and programs click on News and Events at [www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com).

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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