

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SIAS educating for sustainable development**

*Earth Day session focuses on SIAS's involvement with UN initiative*

**April 22, 2009** – Today, SIAS Kelsey faculty, staff and students learned more about SIAS's involvement with the United Nations University initiative, the Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Development (RCE). Lyle Benko, a coordinator with the Saskatchewan RCE, spoke about the initiative during Earth Day presentations on campus.

In 2006, SIAS, the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan and diverse organizations in the communities of Craik, Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon joined forces to develop a United Nations University – Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE). One of only seven in North and Central America, the RCE goal is to educate and empower others to act for positive environmental and social change.

"Re-orienting education toward sustainable development is in the interests of everyone," said Dr. Bob McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO. "For the past four years, we have been working with our partners and the United Nations University to empower people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating and enjoying a sustainable future."

In addition to being active with Saskatchewan's RCE, SIAS has been educating internally to make change:

- We have established Green Groups at all four campuses to increase awareness and provide educational sessions for faculty, staff and students.
- New program initiatives create understanding and awareness of sustainability for both staff and students. Examples include the Green Roof Project developed by the Architectural programs at SIAS Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw and SIAS's participation in the Share the Warmth project.
- Earth Hour promotion SIAS-wide.

- Professional development day at SIAST Palliser Campus went green this year. More than 300 faculty and staff learned about greening their campus, homes, and communities.

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 13,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 32,000 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](http://www.goSIAST.com).

Information about Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise can be found at <http://www.saskrce.ca>.