

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Note to editors:** Media are invited to West Wind Aviation on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. for a demonstration of the King Air 200 Flight Simulator. On hand will be flight instructor Frank Jones and SIAST Commercial Pilot graduate and scholarship recipient Josh Lepp, who is now flying for West Wind Aviation.

**For immediate release**

# **West Wind Aviation establishes simulator training award**

*\$45,000 in-kind donation provides flight simulator training for winners from SIAST Commercial Pilot program*

**April 17, 2008** – Thanks to the generosity of West Wind Aviation, a new scholarship award for SIAST's Commercial Pilot program will allow recipients to enhance their marketability. West Wind has donated training time valued at \$45,000 in its state-of-the-art flight simulator.

West Wind's King Air 200 simulator enables pilots and co-pilots to experience all aspects of the aircraft's controls before they even step into the cockpit. Over the next three years, 12 award recipients who have completed SIAST classroom training will benefit from 15 hours each of flight simulator time.

The King Air 200 flight simulator mirrors the cockpit of the actual aircraft and uses a 180-degree screen to simulate all types of weather including severe conditions. Enroute and approach training uses a database that features hundreds of airports located throughout North America.

"We are proud to partner with SIAST," says Lisa Hryciw, manager of communications, West Wind Group of Companies. "This scholarship commitment provides training time in a state-of-the-art simulator where future commercial pilots can gain valuable experience in a controlled setting."

Instruction is based on a combination of cockpit training and aircraft system operations. The simulator instructor provides instructions for the operation of the aircraft and sets the flight scenario right from take off through landing. Students then take over the simulator controls and experience different situations based on flying in and out of various airports.

"The West Wind award enables recipients to practise scenarios where every second and every decision count," says Arnold Boldt, SIAST dean of Technology. This award expands the range of aircraft that recipients will have experienced, thus increasing their employment options, he added.

West Wind Aviation is Saskatchewan's largest aviation support group. Their accumulated expertise focuses on aircraft charter, aircraft maintenance, corporate aircraft management, Aerocentre operations, including fueling and other ground support services. West Wind offers a business-class scheduled service between Saskatoon & Regina with their ExpressAir operation. Pronto Airways offers scheduled passenger and cargo service to the North.

Additional information about West Wind Aviation can be found at [www.westwindaviation.ca](http://www.westwindaviation.ca).

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Almost 12,000 students are registered in SIAST 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.

Additional information about SIAST can be found at [www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com).

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