

MEDIA RELEASE

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Heavy competition at SIAST myRobotRumble

\$11,000 in tuition money up for grabs at SUMObot Challenge 2009

March 26, 2009 – With \$11,000 in tuition money and iPods up for grabs, electronics programs at SIAST campuses in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon hosted more than 160 high school students today for their first-ever SUMObot robotic competition.

Thirty-six high schools from across Saskatchewan registered for the competition. SIAST provided the schools with a robot kit that contained enough parts for two SUMO robots. High school teachers then worked with their students to build, program and test their robots.

SIAST's myRobotRumble competition gave high school students, working in teams of two, 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. The top prize for today's competition was a \$1,500 entrance award and an iPod Touch for each team member.

While the focus of the day was the competition, students also had the chance to tour SIAST electronics programs and gain knowledge of potential careers in the field of electronics and telecommunications. This was also their opportunity to learn about SIAST's new entrance award program for five of its electronics-related programs.

"This new entrance award gives students an added incentive to enrol in one of five electronics-related programs," said Arnold Boldt, dean of Technology. "It's a cash back option to help students with tuition costs and to help meet labour market demand for electronics grads."

This fall, 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.

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," Boldt added.

For more information on the entrance awards and programs click on News and Events at 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 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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