

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SIAST builds on health and safety record**

*System to position SIAST as a leader in health and safety management*

**May 7, 2010** –SIAST announced today that it is developing a SIAST-wide health and safety management system. As the development process moves forward, SIAST employees will be involved in planning for and implementing the system in their own particular work areas.

“SIAST has an enviable health and safety record at all our SIAST locations,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO. “Our ongoing commitment to health and safety is part of our continued advancement as a leader in post-secondary education and technical training.”

Health and safety management systems are a relatively new standard for organizations nationally and internationally. SIAST’s approach to this initiative reflects a commitment to combine the strengths of a decentralized campus model with organization-wide policies and systems that ensure a consistent standard of health and safety across all of SIAST. It builds upon existing initiatives and follows a review and evaluation of health and safety practices across the organization.

“Effective health and safety programs are successful when safety becomes the first consideration of every employee, for every action undertaken,” says Dennis Johnson, SIAST dean of Industrial Training and chair of the SIAST Health and Safety Project Steering Committee. “Whether they are working in an office, a classroom, a lab, or a medical or mechanical shop area, the first consideration should be safety before beginning any instruction or task.”

Next month, SIAST will join with other organizations, including the Workers’ Compensation Board and Safe Saskatchewan, as co-signers of a Health and Safety Leadership Charter that commits the organizations to work in partnership with others toward the health, safety and well-being of employees, contractors, clients, customers, visitors and, wherever possible, surrounding 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 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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