

PARTNERS

Spring/Summer 2011

Meet your future at the Saskatchewan
Institute of Applied Science and Technology

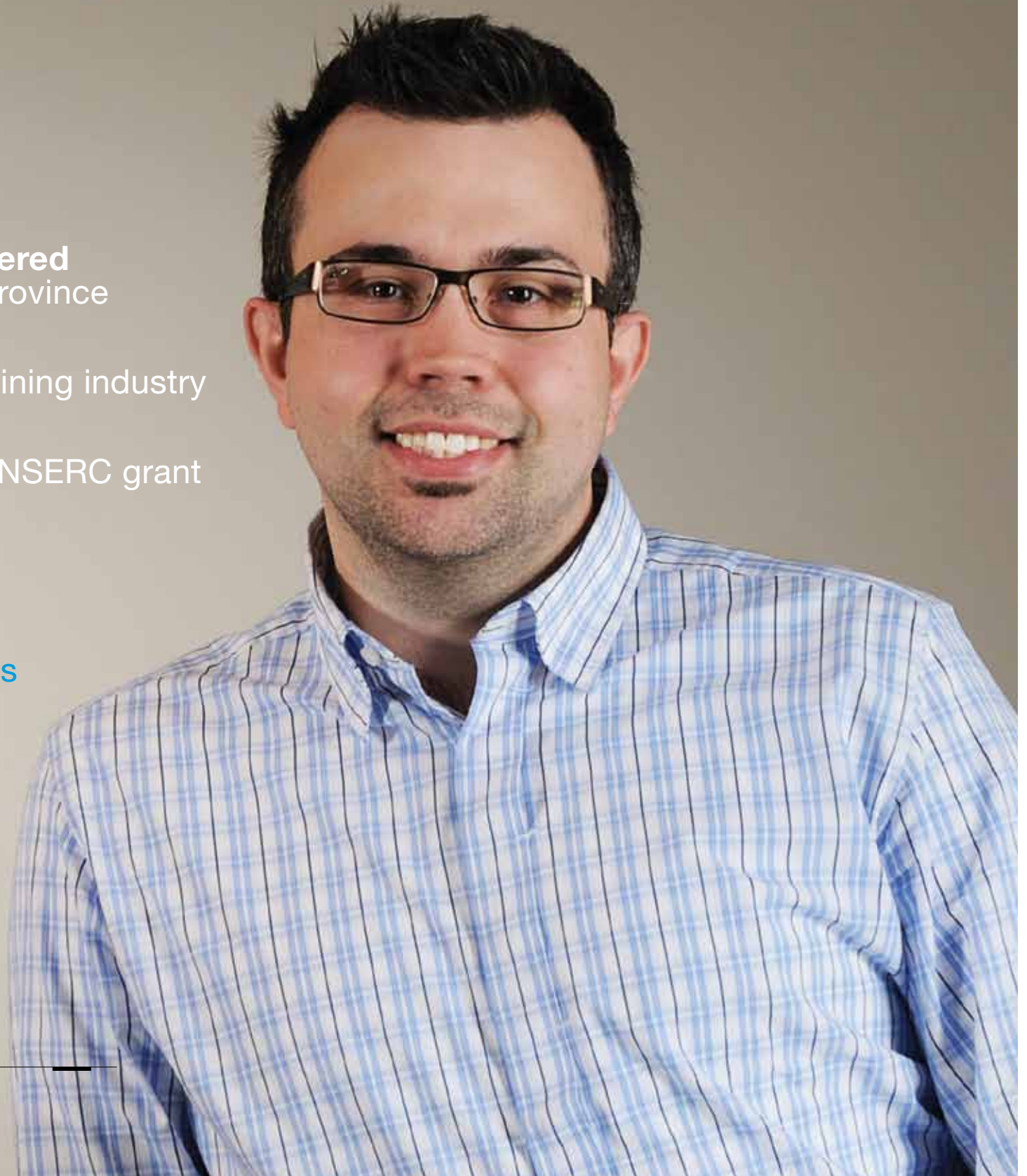
Saskatchewan Engineered
SIAST techs build the province

Mine Craft
How SIAST staffs the mining industry

Waste Not
Green technology wins NSERC grant



Class acts
The new internationalists
Award winners
Outstanding alumni
New courses





BUILDING OUR ASSETS

THERE COULD HARDLY BE a better time to be part of technical education in Saskatchewan, as our economy continues to outperform many in the country, creating career opportunities in a range of fields.

Students – our greatest asset – who recognize the rewards of a technical education have driven high demand for SIAST programs for several years. While many post-secondary institutions have struggled to fill seats, SIAST enrolment has grown 30 per cent over the last four years.

In part, demand has been accommodated – and perhaps even driven – by SIAST’s willingness to reallocate resources to the development of new programs and the expansion of others. A Mining Engineering Technology program currently under development, for example, and a Business Insurance diploma program being launched this fall will prepare graduates for new opportunities in their respective fields. Our Geomatics Engineering Technology program is being reintroduced in response to strong industry demand for grads.

Despite growing enrolment at SIAST, there are seats available in programs with excellent career prospects. For a taste, see page 03 (“Engineering Success”) to read about opportunities for prospective students in a range of engineering technology specialties. And, on page 6, take a look at the variety of SIAST program areas that prepare grads for careers in mining. In the coming year, we’ll explore program opportunities in other resource areas that similarly face bright prospects. Stay tuned.

Increased demand for SIAST programming hasn’t been without its challenges, one of the biggest of which has been infrastructure limitations. At every campus, we have struggled to provide suitable classrooms, lecture space, labs and shops. Sometimes, we’ve been forced to move programming off campus. We have also stretched the training day where necessary, starting earlier and finishing later. And we’ve turned to technology, such as video-conferencing and online learning, to expand learning options.

Sustained by the opportunities available to our grads and the demand from prospective students, SIAST continues to look for innovative ways to refresh programming and accommodate rising demand. We are encouraged by increased scholarship support from industry partners, and are optimistic that this support will continue to grow and will expand into other areas critical to the success of SIAST students and their eventual employers.

*Dr. Bob McCulloch,
President and CEO*



Join us online:
facebook.com/SIAST
twitter.com/SIAST
YouTube.com/SIASTtv
www.goSIAST.com



SIAST board members: Chair Pam Schwann, Donna L. Birkmaier, Ralph Boychuk, Neil Buechler, Brenda FitzGerald, Sarah Ludwar, Terry Parker, Gay Patrick, Brenda Stevenson, Brent Waldo

CONTENTS

READ THIS

- 03** Engineering success: From bridges to software, meet SIAST techs at work
- 04** Mine craft: SIAST tech grads are as good as gold (and potash and uranium)
- 05** Liquid assets: Why the Water Survey of Canada has a thirst for our grads
- 06** Waste not: SIAST wins NSERC nod for cutting-edge green technology
- 07** Green at heart: Grassroots activism that packs a punch
- 08** The new internationalists: Going global

WHAT’S MORE:

- + SIAST’s Medical Lab Assistant program gets boost, a new program ensures jobs, Aboriginal skills training sees success, nursing innovators win a national prize
- + Meet a community-building donor
- + Support education: Grow student futures
- + Meet outstanding new alumni and much more >>

PARTNERS

Published by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
SIAST Marketing and Communications
Tel: 306.659.3793
Email: communications@siastr.sk.ca

Editors: Mifi Purvis, Liz Crompton
Art director: Malcolm Brown, grafikmilk.com
Photographer: Tom Bartlett, SIAST
Contributing writers: Tricia Radison, Lisa Ricciotti

SIAST campuses: Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon

Cover: SIAST’s engineering technicians, like ENGCAMP’s Nick Wright, are the backbone of industry in Saskatchewan.





ENGINEERING SUCCESS

Look at any engineering project – bridges, waterworks or software – and you'll find a SIAST engineering technology grad

SOME PEOPLE ARE DREAMERS, and some are doers. Engineering technologists fall into the latter category. They play a crucial role in applied technology, responsible for everything from the structural soundness of our roads and buildings, and the quality of our water to protecting our environment and helping our industries thrive. And SIAST is at the forefront of training these technologists.

The number of programs available at SIAST reflects the diverse range of work engineering techs undertake.

CAD/CAM AND MECHANICAL: BETTER TOGETHER

"Our clients, many in the mining sector, could not do without engineering technologists," says Nick Wright, technical services manager at ENGCOMP, an engineering and computing consulting company in Saskatoon. The company employs a variety of engineering technologists, many of them SIAST grads, including CAD/CAM techs who create drawings and develop designs for its industrial clients.

SIAST offers two-year diploma programs in CAD/CAM engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology, as well as numerous other types of engineering technology. The number of programs reflects the diverse range of work.

CAD/CAM engineering technologists train in mechanical engineering, just like mechanical engineering technologists. CAD/CAM students receive special instruction in computers and computer-aided manufacturing. Mechanical engineering technologists receive special training in thermodynamics, piping and large instrumentation. The two types are often found working together.

ELECTRONICS: MANY ROLES

Electronic systems engineering technologists are transforming ideas into applications in manufacturing, telecommunications, navigation, law enforcement, resource production and other industries.

Even within a company, there is a variety of roles. "We have electronics engineering technologists working in many different areas and groups throughout our company," says Roy Czinku, customer service sales manager at International Road Dynamics Inc.

International Road Dynamics has locations around the world and specializes in advanced traffic systems, weight enforcement, bridge protection and toll-management technologies. Some of its engineering technologists work directly with the engineering team, designing and deploying new traffic data collection and traffic safety product lines. Some are in the field acting as on-site representatives or supervisors, working in places such as Hawaii, China and South America. Others liaise with engineering, production and service groups.

"If our production group identifies opportunities for improvement on any of our CAD drawings or the engineering build processes, the engineering technologists are responsible for working with our group to implement necessary changes," explains Czinku.

photo / GREAT GRADS: ENGCOMP employs SIAST engineering techs such as (L-R) Nick Wright, Joanna Usselman, Steven Senenoff, Alex Schmidt and Louis Breton.

DOUBLE DOUBLE

In some circumstances, it's necessary for the engineering technologist to understand and tackle more than one technology area. "There are consulting companies that work in a range of fields, from civil to water resources to environmental," says Dave Richards, a SIAST engineering technology program head. "They may hire a water resources graduate who may be doing some highway projects, may be doing some water development and some environmental."

For that reason, SIAST structures these three programs to give students a general background that allows them to work in all three fields; the programs have a common first year. "But then each has some specific training that makes them unique in terms of the skills that they have when they leave here," says Richards.

THE CANDIDATE

Whatever field or industry, successful engineering technologists share common characteristics, many of which are developed through their training programs. Those characteristics reflect what employers look for when hiring.

A technologist could be considered an intermediary between the engineers and those who will be using the engineers' concepts and designs. As such, they must have a range of skills.

"We look for the ability to adapt and to learn," says Wright. The software that engineering technologists work with and the projects they work on are constantly changing. "We're looking for somebody who knows the basics, understands the tools and software, has some fundamental knowledge about the science and has the willingness to learn. The rest they're going to learn on the job."

Czinku looks for techs with a mix of technical skills and the ability to communicate and get along with people. A balance of theoretical knowledge and practical training is also critical. The real world presents unexpected, complex problems that students can't prepare for simply by studying why A leads to B.

INDUSTRY LISTENERS

"Industry looks to us for graduates who have skills and the ability to problem solve," says SIAST's Richards. "They look for people who are ready to take on challenges. Somebody, for example, who can gather data, evaluate it and come up with a technical solution."

AT THE FOREFRONT OF TRAINING, THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT SIAST REFLECTS THE RANGE OF WORK ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGISTS UNDER-

Both Czinku and Wright sit on advisory committees that help SIAST determine course content so that it meets industry's needs. By working closely with industry, SIAST builds these skills into its training programs.

The institution also listens to industry to evaluate courses and keep up with changes in the field. For example, where once technologists might have had been limited to more specific tasks, now they have more input with the engineering team, on design and fabrication, installation and maintenance. Courses reflect these changing roles. >>p.04



“We build in more inter-professional work, more understanding of where techs fit with the different roles,” says Brian Murdoch, program head, CAD/CAM and Mechanical Engineering Technology at SIAST. “We get the technologist thinking about what an engineer or a tradesperson thinks about.” Teamwork is part of SIAST programs through labs and exercises, strengthening the technologist’s ability to communicate and work collaboratively.

Industry appreciates the ability to have a say in what graduates and future employees can do. “I find it quite encouraging as an employer, knowing that the program is being defined by what the employers want,” says Wright.

RAPID CHANGE

Programming is under the scrutiny of industry advisors, instructors, advisory committee members, the professional association and an accreditation board. SIAST faculty stay current with industry through activities such as training, industry tours and conferences. That kind of currency is tough to maintain in a quickly-changing field.

While the work engineering technologists do – drafting, designing, project management and so on – hasn’t changed much over the years, how they do it has. Advancing technology creates rapid change in all sectors, some more than others.

“Electronic systems technology is arguably one of the most rapidly changing technologies offered at SIAST,” says Anthony Voykin, program head, Electronic Systems Engineering Technology and Electronics Technician programs at SIAST Kelsey Campus. “We strive to keep our programming up to date with industry needs.”

The grasp SIAST grads have on the latest technology is expected to make them even more valuable to their employers and clients in the future. “Engineering technologists’ roles can be so varied right now. There are so many opportunities,” says Wright. “But the value is going to continue to increase just by the fact that they are going to be our high-tech experts.”

That’s critical in more ways than one. Wright focuses on helping clients, so he relies on new technologists to fill him in on the latest software and the possible benefits it could have for the company. “It helps to have a fresh set of eyes with exposure to new concepts.”

NUMEROUS NICHES

As Saskatchewan’s economy heats up, the variety of possible positions available to engineering technologists and the crucial roles they play guarantee them places in the workforce.

Recent co-op students in the Civil, Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Technology programs

typically have a choice of job offers. The department also gets calls from industry wondering when the next group of graduates will be ready to hire. Richards expects that trend to continue.

“The kind of growth that we see in the oil and gas industry, mining, urban growth – these are all areas that require civil, water resources and environmental people,” he says.

For every potash mine under construction there are requirements for roads and drainage infrastructure and a demand for water supply. There are environmental issues related to every kind of construction. Geomatics technology, the collection of digital data and mapping, is a growing field in industry and at SIAST. These techs help mining and other companies determine land requirements and define the impacts their activities will have. “Every project like this brings an added value for people in these areas,” says Richards. >>



REASON TO SMILE:
Steven Semenov is part of the ENGCOMP team.

MINE CRAFT

Brand new to her job as head of SIAST’s new Mining Engineering Technology program, Karen Coates brims with enthusiasm. “Until now, there was nothing like this program between BC and Ontario,” she says. Coates and her team look forward to the first intake of students in September 2012. “Our goal is to produce grads who can help get mines running more efficiently,” she says. Mining Engineering Tech is just the latest in a family of SIAST engineering technology programs. From initial surveys on new properties to decommissioning old mines, the mining industry in Saskatchewan has already profited from the skills of SIAST grads.



Geomatics engineering technologist. These grads are among the first to visit a potential mine site. They measure and map the land to help determine where infrastructure, building and shafts or pits will go.



Environmental engineering technologist. Also involved from the start, these techs use engineering skills to minimize the effects of mining on the environment. They monitor and assess air and water quality, and use this information in site remediation. Grads work in the office or the field.



Mechanical engineering technologist. In a mine, these grads might focus on mechanical design, industrial systems and instrumentation. They might develop, test and make products for use in mining systems. You can find them working on power systems, engineering design and instrumentation.



Power engineering technologist. Grads of this program can be found operating power (steam) plants or other industrial processes. They are behind the power and heat that keep a mine and its infrastructure going. They are involved in boiler operations, water treatment, pumps controls, air conditioning and communications.



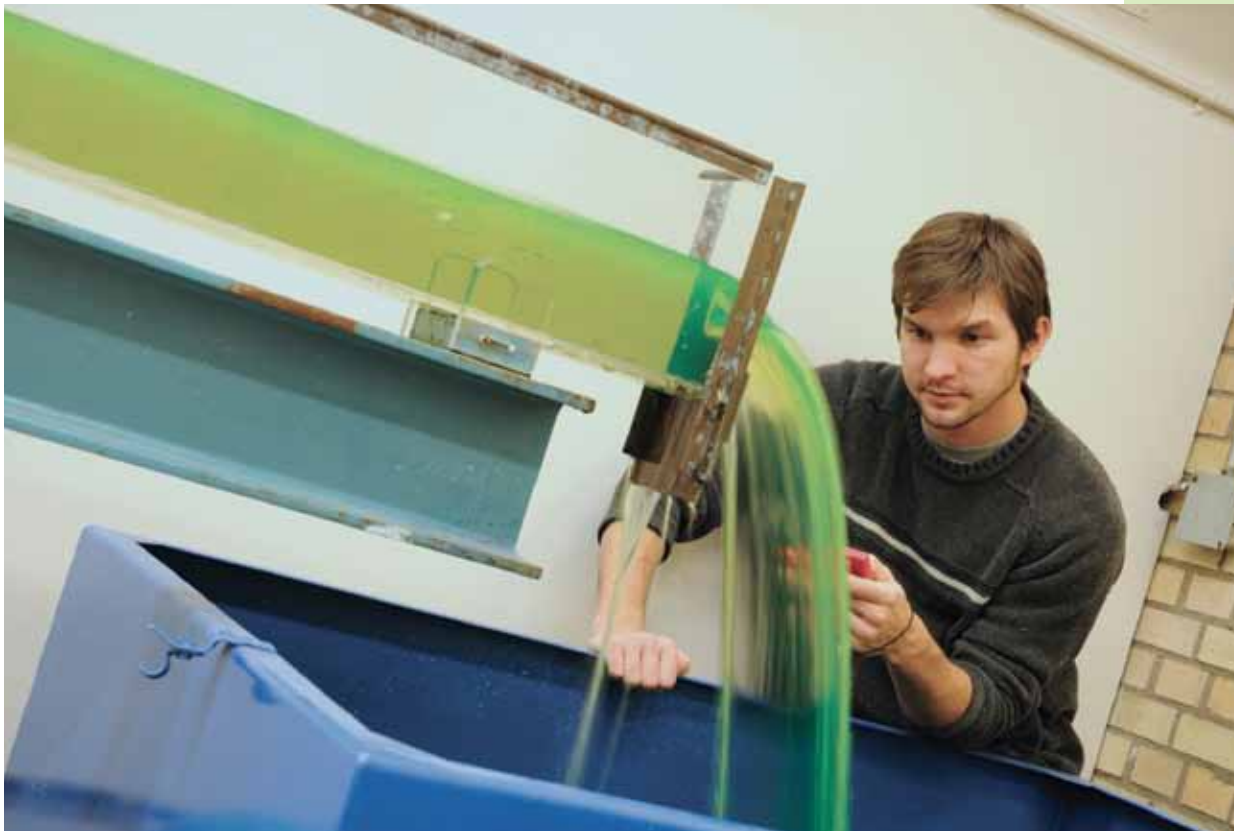
CAD/CAM engineering technologist. These grads may work on-site for a mining operation, but more often are found working for a consulting engineer contracted to the mining company. Grads use their computer training to solve engineering and manufacturing problems in engineering design, drafting, production, quality control and the programming and operation of CNC machinery. They might design products, prototypes or models.



Electronic systems engineering technologist. Grads work in the design, development, production, installation, sales and service of electronic products and systems. Expert in electronics and circuitry, on a mine site they might work in data and radio communications and on automation systems.

WATERWORKS:

Adrian Prybylski is a new water resources engineering tech.



The growing alternative energy sector will also need the skills of engineering technologists, and SIAST has come up with an innovative way to make sure its graduates are ready: The institution is running a wind turbine and solar panel test project. Students monitor a remote weather station and measure the energy produced by the devices.

As Saskatchewan's energy production gets greener, we can be assured that somewhere behind the scenes the engineering technologists will help ensure that everything goes smoothly.

LIQUID ASSETS

Graduates of SIAST's Water Resources Engineering Technologist program have a set of skills that Water Survey of Canada's Saskatchewan division has come to depend on.

"There's a big benefit in having the hands-on technical background," says Scott Hill, head of operations at the Water Survey of Canada. "People come out of the program with the right balance of theoretical and technical knowledge so we can slot them into a working role right away."

The Water Survey of Canada collects, analyzes and manages data about river flows and lake levels, so engineering technologists are critical. Trained in hydrometrics, they collect surface water data in the field, then return to the office where the data is analyzed.

"Our grads have the skills needed to collect and analyze stream-flow data and to work with models to predict floods and their impacts," says Dave Richards, program head, Civil, Water Resources, Environmental Engineering Technology programs at SIAST. "They also have the tools to be involved in the construction of flood protection works."

SIAST's Water Resources Engineering Technology program started in the mid-1970s. Located at SIAST Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw, the program is affiliated with the Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology programs and includes a set of courses focusing on hydrometric data collection, instrumentation and river engineering. Organizations such as the Water Survey of Canada need employees with this kind of training, says Richards. "Industry has consistently told us it values those skills."

The Water Survey of Canada runs 160 stations in Saskatchewan and typically employs 13 engineering technologists. The organization runs an internal four-year apprenticeship program that allows technologists to hone the skills they develop at SIAST and develop additional skills related to the job. Hill, himself a graduate of the forerunner of the SIAST program, and his colleagues are working hard to collect all the required data about the high level of runoff this year. With record runoffs, this year has been especially challenging – and rewarding.

"There are essentially three groups of people you'll find on a mine site," says acting dean of Technology Bill Allen. "On one side, there are operators and on the other are the degree people – the engineers. Then there is the huge middle ground: the supervisors, the managers, the technicians and technologists." SIAST prepares its students to meet the demands of this middle ground. **Here's where you'll find them:**



Electrical engineering technologist. These grads generate, distribute and transmit electrical energy for a mining operation, including automated industrial control systems. They can be found in operating plants and helping to power mine sites.



Instrumentation engineering technologist. For a mining company, these grads work with pneumatic, electronic and microcomputer instruments to measure and control pressure, flow, temperature, chemical composition and other variables. Due to the heavy processing required by potash and uranium, these techs are in demand in the province's instrument shops.



Water resources engineering technologist. On a mine site, these techs find out where the water supply is, assess potential water-related risks and design water systems. On-site, they look at surface and groundwater hydrology and arrange for water treatment and infrastructure.



Computer engineering technologist. With a strong knowledge of hardware, grads test and design analog and digital circuits, fabricate and populate circuit boards, and program computers. They also install and administer networks.



Civil engineering technologist. Concentrated on the surficial side, civil engineering techs design and build such infrastructure as roads, highways, bridges, buildings, water distribution systems and sewage collection systems. They are active in concrete and asphalt testing, evaluation and design.

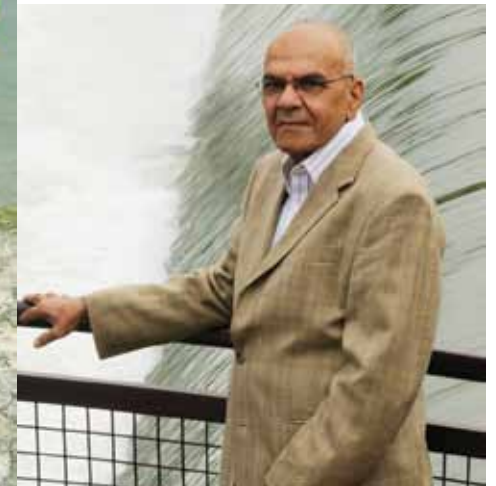


Chemical engineering technologist. These grads perform chemical analyses and undertake chemical plant operations at many mine sites in Saskatchewan. They also work in offices and in labs. Expert in handling chemicals required in potash and uranium mining, they service and maintain scientific instruments to record and process data about organic, physical, analytical and environmental chemistry.

WASTE NOT



CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH:
Students Christina Frayne (L) and
Danielle Bader assisted Dr. Salim
Khalid (R) in the ground-breaking
research that caught NSERC's
attention.



SIAST wins NSERC grant with cutting-edge green technology

NOT EVERYONE THRILLS TO THE CLEAN, green potential of a lagoon of livestock sewage or a pond of industrial wastewater. But Dr. Salim Khalid can hardly contain his enthusiasm about two SIAST applied research projects focused on cleaning them up.

"I like to take up a challenge, that's my nature," says the Chemical Technology program head. "There are many green applications that could come from our research down the road. We could give water back for reuse by industries or replenish the lakes where the water came from."

Dr. Khalid is energized about the potential future benefits of removing ammonia from rural sewage lagoons and extracting harmful contaminants such as heavy metals, hydrocarbons and PCBs from industrial wastewaters. So energized, in fact, he almost forgets to mention a significant fact: These two applied research projects represent SIAST's first Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) grant. The \$200,000 awarded in 2010 for the two-year initiative marks a significant milestone, further establishing SIAST's mission to become a leader in applied research.

"This is our opportunity to show we can do what we say we can do," says Dr. Khalid. "We spent a lot of time in 2009 laying the groundwork for our application – building relationships, finding partners and networking. We had to get our house ready before we put it on the market, so to speak, and NSERC was impressed."

"WE'VE GAINED CREDIBILITY FOR FUTURE FUNDING TO SUSTAIN THE ENVIRONMENT," DR. KHALID SAYS. "OUR GOAL IS IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN SASKATCHEWAN."

Dr. Khalid describes the initiative as "a team project" in partnership with two Saskatchewan-based companies: EcoLibra Systems and Ground Effects Environmental Services. He's also quick to praise the contributions of SIAST students Christina Frayne and Danielle

Bader. Over the past year, research focused on optimizing lab techniques; later testing will move into the field. "We're making good progress," says Dr. Khalid.

Dr. Khalid hopes the innovations underway – improvements in specialized equipment for more efficient ammonia extraction and an electrical coagulation technique to separate out industrial by-products – will create practical solutions. He'd like to see the research applied to municipal wastewater recycling and put to use by the oil-and-gas and agricultural sectors to clean up the wastewater that is a by-product of both industries. He's also exploring how to recycle contaminants removed from the wastewater to create reusable products.

"Along the way we're also exposing students to the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills they'll need in the future as researchers," says Dr. Khalid. The work he and his students are undertaking positions SIAST as an applied research leader. And it puts Saskatchewan forward as a leader in green technology.

GREEN AT HEART



SIAST's green groups show that grassroots activism packs a punch

IT'S ALMOST AN UNDERSTATEMENT to say SIAST is keen on green.

"We introduced paper recycling long before it became fashionable," says SIAST Wascana Campus director Bill Coulthard. The bulk of waste at the Regina campus was paper. "Over the past decade we've reduced that to almost nothing."

Signs of SIAST's eco mindset pop up across its four campuses. There's the easy stuff, such as "turn-off-the-lights" reminder stickers, and there are special events that require more work, such as eco-fairs with educational exhibits on recycling, composting, energy conservation and hybrid cars. And then there are research projects, like the small urban wind turbine that instructor Ron Thompson and students are testing at SIAST Palliser Campus.

The cumulative impact of these initiatives is impressive, more so when you consider they all sprouted from the grassroots. Faculty, staff and students have embraced sustainability with such passion, there's no need for a directive to reduce their carbon footprint. They're already on it, voluntarily, in teams called green groups.

"Around 2005, people like me started getting together to discuss how to increase environmental awareness," explains Curt Schroeder, a SIAST Wascana Campus instructor with enviro-sciences training. "We started with the low-hanging fruit, simple projects like the light-switch stickers. Now green groups are everywhere, and there's a SIAST-wide steering committee that shares ideas. Every campus is greening in its own way."

The institute is upping its green quotient off-campus as well. SIAST Palliser Campus instructor Reg Forbes and a group of students constructed pavilions topped with "green roofs" – living roofs that grow indigenous plants, mostly grasses and other hardy perennials. "This demonstration project shows the public how green roofs conserve energy," says

Forbes. The structure stays cooler in summer and warmer in winter as the layer of soil and plants acts as an insulator. "Seeing how it works connects people with nature and starts them thinking about other environmental issues," he adds.

Forbes also developed a community energy-conservation program that expanded into a province-wide partnership with SaskEnergy and the Salvation Army, renamed the Home Energy Efficiency Program. The five-year, award-winning project concluded last fall, having helped more than 2,000 families capture energy savings. The project identified homes that needed energy upgrades. With SaskEnergy and the Salvation Army, SIAST volunteers helped do the work at no cost to homeowners with economic limitations. The group cleaned furnace filters, installed programmable thermostats, created better seals around windows and doors, and installed low-flow showerheads and toilets.

"The big breakthrough for green groups," says Coulthard, "came in 2009 with \$30,000 in seed money from the President's Office. Now we can try new ideas that require capital to get off the ground." SIAST Woodland Campus, for example, is buying four bicycles to launch its loaner bike program, which will give students the option of pedal power instead of using a cab or personal vehicle for short trips.

Green group volunteer Sherry Buller knows exactly how SIAST Kelsey Campus plans to use some of that funding. "We're buying two compost collection units for the Professional Cooking program's kitchen," says Buller. "Composting food waste on-campus in the middle of the city isn't an option because of our limited space, so chef Maurice Matthieu volunteered to empty the units daily and take the contents home to his composter." Going green doesn't get more grassroots than that.



SPECIAL ADVISOR

<< **Myrna Yuzicapi**, SIAST's special advisor on Aboriginal initiatives, received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, which recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the province and its residents. Yuzicapi has been instrumental in advancing Aboriginal education throughout her career, and has served on the board of Saskatoon Regional College and on the Child and Family Services Review Board of the Ministry of Social Services.

THE NEW INTERNATIONALISTS

NATIONALLY, the number of students registering in post-secondary education is on a downward trend, says Miles Fahlman, development officer at SIAST. Forward-thinking schools like SIAST are responding by broadening the scope of education. In 2005, SIAST asked Fahlman to look at delivering select courses overseas – in Vietnam.

“We found a good local partner,” Fahlman says. “Building local trust is crucial.” Local faculty at Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry now deliver the SIAST coursework, supported by SIAST staff. Instructors are supported online by SIAST faculty, and Saskatchewan faculty visit twice a year, building local capacity. Fahlman explains that they teach in a typically SIAST style, which involves lots of practical, hands-on participation by students.

“There is lots of activity for students,” agrees Daisy Thuy Huynh, a graduate of the SIAST diploma at Ho Chi Minh University, now finishing her business degree at the University of Regina. “The course in Vietnam gives students a great opportunity for a different view and builds business skills.”

Vietnamese students get a North American business education without leaving home. Many people value a foreign education, especially in business, but it can be cost prohibitive to study overseas. Students who get a SIAST business diploma at Ho Chi Minh University, don’t incur the added costs, but they can expect a salary that’s three to five times higher when they start work. Later, like Thuy Huynh, they can complete a business degree at the University of Regina, without spending the full four years there.

“It gives students great opportunities for a different view,” she says of her SIAST experience in Vietnam. “And it gives students skills in business that they need.” Work is underway on similar courses in other countries.



HOME AND ABROAD:

These students started their business education in Vietnam and continue it in Saskatchewan. (L-R) Do Duy Quang, Huynh Thi Ut Thuy “Daisy” and Nguyen Dang Khoi.

MED LAB ASSISTANT PROGRAM GETS CRED

DECEMBER BROUGHT GREAT NEWS for SIAST’s Medical Lab Assistant program. It became the first program of its kind to be recognized by the Canadian Medical Association Conjoint Accreditation Services, meaning that grads are accredited to work across Canada. Graduates of the 21-week applied certificate program are becoming known for the skills they bring to the job, working in such facilities as medical offices, clinics and hospitals, collecting and preparing specimens for analysis.

The association’s standards can serve both students and potential employers as a gauge of competencies and skills. The fact that SIAST is the first to get this national nod speaks volumes about this practical training program, and sets students up for a great future in a growing field.

QUICK RESPONSE, INSURED

WHEN IT COMES TO RESPONDING to the requirements of industry, SIAST’s already proven that it can provide programming in a timely manner. The most recent call for assistance came from the Insurance Institute of Saskatchewan, which reports that as much as a quarter of the national insurance industry workforce will retire over the next six years.

The industry is looking for a cohort of well-trained new talent, says Dan Mackay, SIAST’s dean of Business. “SIAST’s new Business Insurance diploma responds to that need,” he says. The program aims to graduate a set of professionals who possess mid-career-level skills.

Representatives from the insurance industry are working with the school to provide relevant course material for the new program. It will be SIAST’s seventh Business diploma program, and the first intake is fall 2011.



MAKE THE LEAP:

Angeline Dubois completed her Essential Skills, setting her up for success.

ABORIGINAL ESSENTIAL SKILLS

SIAST HAS ONCE AGAIN blazed a trail, this time in the quest to increase the employment success of Aboriginal people in the health-care field. It led a national project to develop materials meaningful to the Aboriginal experience that would teach Essential Skills, needed for work, learning and life. “Essential Skills provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change,” says Lou Charlebois, a business and industry consultant at SIAST, who served as the project’s ES expert.

SIAST’s role, part of a larger Association of Canadian Community Colleges initiative, was to produce materials proven by piloting at test colleges and validated by employer partners to benefit Aboriginal workers in the health sector. The project wrapped up this spring.

“It was more successful than we anticipated,” says Charlebois. “It will help senior stakeholders understand the value of Essential Skills in providing the foundation required for learners from different backgrounds to be successful in their endeavours and, ultimately, their careers.”



GO RIDERS, GO SIAST

WERE YOU WONDERING why last fall your Facebook friends started posting profile pictures of themselves in Saskatchewan Roughriders regalia, rockin' a melon head hat in support of the team? Blame it on SIAST. During the build-up to the 98th Grey Cup game, a showdown between the Riders and the Montreal Alouettes, the crew at SIAST's marketing and communications office thought it would be great to drum up some additional support for the home team. "My vision," says Tess Hodgins, marketing and communications consultant, SIAST Kelsey Campus, "was to take the 'sea of green' that you see at the game and try to create an online sea of green."

Hodgins commissioned a local company to devise a Facebook app that allowed users to create a picture of themselves in a virtual stadium wearing the iconic melon head. Thousands of Riders fans showed their virtual support. It's not too late to download the app in anticipation of the 99th Grey Cup in Vancouver. And hey, who doesn't look good in a melon head?

\$160,000

NURSING INNOVATORS

A TEAM OF NURSING FACULTY members won a nod from SIAST for innovation. It started back in April 2007, when the group secured \$160,000 from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to foster transcultural nursing through the Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education. Participants come from a half-dozen post-secondary institutions in Mexico, the United States and Canada, and their initiatives include curriculum work and student exchanges, with a strong focus on clinical experience. The SIAST team consists of project director Reny Loewen, Sharon Dixon, Robyn Kobussen, Bernice Suehwold, Frankie Verville, Heather Shouse and Carrie Allen.



THE PRESIDENT'S MAN

ROBERT O'NEIL, program head of Library and Testing Services at SIAST Woodland Campus, has won the SIAST President's Award of Excellence for his outreach initiatives involving both students and community. His efforts, which have also garnered him a Canadian Library Association Award, include a mini-mobile library on campus, a library art gallery, a project with a local municipal golf course and an award-winning video. A local favourite, O'Neil says, is Tuesday Morning Coffee at the library. On the first Tuesday of the month, staff brings in storytellers, musicians and other entertainers. It's a major draw that expands the concept of "library."

MEET SOME MORE SIAST AWARD WINNERS

SIAST Woodland Campus

David Koester received an honorary diploma. Koester has been a member of the Prince Albert Real Estate Board, and served as a director and chairperson. A former SIAST board member, he provided guidance on the development of the first student housing project. **Jaelyn Willness**, a graduate of the Geographic Information Science for Resource Management certificate program, garnered the Student Outstanding Citizenship Award. Willness served terms on the SIAST Students' Association Kelsey and Woodland Campuses and holds certificates in Welding and Professional Cooking and a diploma in Integrated Resource Management.

>> p.10



CLASS ACTS

These SIAST employees and students were recognized over the past year for contributing to their communities:

Jim Bahr, instructor, Integrated Resource Management: Recognized for his contributions to the Saskatchewan Trappers Association, for which he has given many demonstrations over the years. "He's a very knowledgeable person in his field," says Don Gordon, president of the association.

Glenis Clarke, Chemical Dependency alumna and former SIAST employee, now with Addictions Services, Prince Albert: Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in the 2010 Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority Health Excellence Awards. Notable achievements include her work with parents struggling with their substance-abusing children. Clarke won the Angus Campbell Award for Excellence in the Field of Addictions for 2011, from the Addictions Professionals Association of Saskatchewan.

Hamilton Greenwood, head of SIAST's Natural Resources programs at SIAST Woodland Campus: Recipient of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation's 2011 Resource Management Conservationist of the Year Award, which goes to a conservation professional who has demonstrated dedication to preserving Saskatchewan's natural heritage. Greenwood is the first academic in 25 years to win the award.

Stephanie Hildebrand, Architectural Technologies student: Recognized for making a difference by the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation for her work in Thailand with Global Students Helping Students, which she co-founded with three other students. They organized a dozen rural Saskatchewan students to build two schools and donated relief supplies and money to refugees from Myanmar.

Jared Mathieson, pictured above, a SIAST alumnus who is now a minefield instrumentation technologist at HD Management: As part of a group, received the 2010 Moose Jaw Health Foundation Philanthropy Silver Moose Award. Mathieson and his friends organized two Concert of Hope fundraisers, which raised \$275,000 for breast cancer equipment at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital, far exceeding their goal. He says of the award, "It was completely unexpected as we were just a group of friends having a good time, trying to give back to the community. Not in our wildest dreams did we expect it turn out so successful."

Darlene Scott, Nursing faculty and clinical coordinator: Received the 2010 Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Award of Excellence in Nursing Education (non-tenured). The association stated the award was "for being a pioneering and enduring champion in the exploration of non-traditional settings and academic partners to maximize relevant student learning opportunities."

<< p.09 SIAST Palliser Campus

Garry McKay, city manager for Moose Jaw, received an honorary diploma. He has contributed significantly to the City of Moose Jaw, providing leadership for the development and renewal of parks, playgrounds and other facilities, and serving on many boards of directors. An alumnus, McKay has been the chair of the Palliser Campus Development Foundation for eight years. **Jenna Wilchuck**, a recent graduate of the Business Administration program, won the Student Outstanding Citizenship Award. She served on the campus students' association, most recently as president, as the student representative on the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce, as co-chair of the SIAST Palliser Campus Binge Drinking Awareness Campaign and as co-host of the "Off Campus" radio show.

SIAST Kelsey Campus

Steve Webster received an honorary diploma in Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technology. A proponent of the safe uses of medical radiation, Webster has worked in the Radiation Safety Unit at the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration for 25 years. He has delivered papers, lectures and presentations, and served on several boards of directors and committees, including the SIAST Medical Diagnostic Programs Advisory Committee.

Courtney LeGrand, a Medical Radiologic Technology program graduate, won the SIAST Student Outstanding Citizenship Award. She has helped many fellow students with her unique ability to reword technical information, and has been involved in fundraisers such as Ronald McDonald House and the Children's Wishmaker Walk.



SIAST Wascana Campus

Harry Watson, president of Triple 4 Advertising Ltd., received an honorary diploma. Instrumental in forming a buying group for independent grocers, Watson is active in a number of community organizations, including the Regina Food Bank, to which he donated 25 acres of land and six buildings.

David Ross earned a SIAST Citizenship Award. A Grade 12 graduate through Basic Education, he's a role model for effective student behaviour, encouraging others to make the changes they need to be successful.

SELF MADE:

René Dufour-Contreras completed most of his SIAST studies online.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

THE SIAST ALUMNI OFFICE is up and running, and our priority is to track down SIAST alumni. We want to know where all our alumni are so that we can send them information about the programs and services we're planning. Whether you graduated a few years ago or a few decades ago, we'd love to hear from you.

There are several ways to get in touch: Register at www.siastr.sk.ca/alumni.shtml, email alumni@siastr.sk.ca, call Mindy Herauf at 306.775.7358, or complete the SIAST alumni registration form on page 11 and mail it to us at SIAST Donor and Alumni Relations, 400 - 119 4th Ave S, Saskatoon SK, S7K 5X2. The Alumni Relations office provides support for alumni programs, communications, events, branch and chapter outreach and other initiatives. As membership grows, we'll be able to increase the number of services and programs in our portfolio.

MEET OUTSTANDING NEW ALUMNI



WHEN KAYLA DMYTRIW was searching for a career direction, SIAST provided the perfect answer. Dmytriw, now 22, had tried an arts program at university, but it wasn't for her. Surfing the web one day in 2008, she came across a list of computer classes available through SIAST.

"I love technology because it's constantly changing and I wanted a job with lots of variety," she says. She chose SIAST's Computer Systems Technology (CST) program because she wanted a practical, hands-on approach. "The program is accredited," Dmytriw says, "and I liked the fact that I could get a diploma in two years."

Software programming and website development were highlights for Dmytriw, who also had an opportunity to create games. The program's small class size ensured that instructors had plenty of interaction with students. "They were always available and provided assistance to any student who was struggling," she says.

Additional on-campus support included resumé writing, oral presentations, mock interviews and an in-house job site at SIAST. Dmytriw found her current job (she's a systems support specialist with the Saskatoon-based Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation) when she visited the site shortly before graduation last May.

Now part of a four-person IT department, Dmytriw runs a help desk and provides both hardware and software support. "I'm setting up a wireless infrastructure for the building as well as providing web development and printer support."

Like Dmytriw, René Dufour-Contreras was also keen on new technology. But when he enrolled in SIAST's New Media Communications program in 2008, he never expected he'd be teaching at SIAST. The 22-year-old was such a standout performer that on graduation he was hired to teach the program's entry-level online course in Flash, a software platform often used to design games.

Programming Flash was a long-time passion for Dufour-Contreras, who worked as a baker before entering the two-year program. "I taught myself the programming language but didn't completely understand the field, and I lacked credentials," he explains. "I needed a broader understanding of new media to find work." SIAST gave him that. The fully online program allowed him to study at his own pace. In the process, he obtained additional applied certificates.

When he graduated last year, Dufour-Contreras received SIAST's Student Innovation Award, recognizing a high standard of excellence on an innovative project. For his final project, he chose a programming assignment, learning the software and completing a 3D pool game in Flash. The specialized programming was far beyond anything expected of a first-year Flash programmer, and it earned him a job at Talking Dog Studios in Regina on another specialized project in augmented reality.

Dufour-Contreras is excited about the future. "Talking Dog does sound post-production for commercials, films and radio," he explains. "They're diversifying, using technology in interesting and creative ways, and it's great to be a part of it."



AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY

MONICA BOUVIER is in her final year of the Practical Nursing program at SIAST Kelsey Campus and is looking forward to entering the workforce. "I was already in the health care field before I started this program," she says. "I was an emergency medical responder at Île-à-la-Crosse. Now my education will help me make more of a difference."

Small class sizes, an emphasis on hands-on learning and instructors who care about their students were

all factors in Bouvier's decision to enrol at SIAST. "I just knew SIAST would give me a quality education," she says.

In her first year she earned a Centennial Merit Scholarship. "I'm a single mom with two kids, so it's sometimes hard to make ends meet. The scholarship took some of the burden off."



A DONOR BUILDS COMMUNITY

BY SUPPORTING SIAST student awards, the Regina & Region Home Builders' Association (RRHBA) is investing in the future of the province.

"The customized scholarship program SIAST developed with us helps students access our industry in a very real way," say Stu Niebergall, executive director of the RRHBA. "Regina builds some of the best-quality housing in the world. The residential

construction industry provides opportunity for diverse, qualified and accomplished people."

The RRHBA supports awards for students enrolled in applied certificate or certificate carpentry programs and the Architectural Building Technology program at SIAST. The annual program includes four Centennial Merit Scholarships, four bursaries, four achievement awards and three graduate awards. "Through these scholarships we can help individuals build successful, sustainable careers in the industry," Niebergall says, "while ensuring high-quality housing for our community."

MAKE YOUR MARK

SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND AWARDS can be funded through contributions to the Growing Student Futures Fund, or by establishing a trust or endowment. SIAST can help you develop a student award that fits your needs and meets your objectives.

If you support a Centennial Merit Scholarship, we can double your investment. Make a gift of \$750 and we'll turn it into a \$1,500 scholarship. Make a gift of \$1,250 and we'll turn it into a \$2,500 scholarship. And we'll direct the scholarship to a program of your choice, and name it after you or your company. The program is funded in part by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, which provides half the funding for a scholarship; donors provide the other half.

SIAST provides skills and technical training for many successful careers. This year individual, business and industry donors will fund \$1.4 million in student awards to more than 1,110 SIAST students. To talk about establishing an award, please contact Tawnia Stephanson at 306.691.8226 or email stephansont@siastr.sk.ca.

Growing futures for SIAST students

"Prior to Growing Student Futures, there was no way for regular people to contribute modest funds to help students in a meaningful way," says Pam McLellan, SIAST's director of Donor and Alumni Relations. The Growing Student Futures fund is an initiative aimed at financially supporting SIAST students. You don't have to be a millionaire or endow a chair on behalf of a multinational. It works like this: People donate to the fund, the donations are pooled, and the fund is used to support scholarships and bursaries that acknowledge all kinds of student achievement.

Increasing the power of your dollar is the Centennial Merit Scholarship program (funded in part by Saskatchewan's Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration). It matches each donation up to 50 per cent. If a person donates \$20, for example, the CMS kicks in \$10 for a total of \$30. It adds up to a big difference in a student's life.

Make a difference ... grow a future ... start today.

YES! I want to grow futures for SIAST students

My gift amount: \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 \$_____ (other)

Name: _____

Company name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name to appear on charitable receipt: _____

Payment method (below)

Visa Mastercard Cash Cheque

Make cheques payable to SIAST

Account #: _____ Exp. date: ____/____/____
Credit card security code: ____ (last 3 digits of number on back of card)

Name of card holder: _____

Signature of card holder: _____

Please include me in SIAST's donor recognition program

I would like to remain anonymous

Please send me information about other ways I can support SIAST students

Please send me information about how I can make a planned gift

Clip this form and return it to SIAST Donor and Alumni Relations

By mail: 400 - 119 4th Ave S, Saskatoon SK, S7K 5X2

By fax: 306.933.8214

CALLING ALL SIAST ALUMNI...

Help us keep in touch with you. Give us your current contact information, and we'll keep you informed of events and reunions.

We'll also send you an alumni pin!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Home phone: _____

Employer: _____

Business phone: _____

Email: _____

SIAST campus: _____

Program: _____

Year of graduation: _____

Clip this form and return it to SIAST Donor and Alumni Relations

By mail: 400 - 119 4th Ave S, Saskatoon SK, S7K 5X2

By fax: 306.933.8214

HIRE education

Complete your education in two years or less and get hired.



Apply now!

At locations across the province, the following certificate and diploma programs have seats available this fall. For more information, visit goSIAST.com and click on **Choices for 2011**.

Applied/Visual Media

Media Arts Production Certificate
Media Arts Production Diploma

Business

Business Accountancy
Business Administration
Business Certificate
Business Financial Services
Business Human Resources
Business Insurance
Business Information Systems
Business Marketing
Entrepreneurship and Small Business
Office Education

Community/Human Services

Aboriginal Police Preparation
Disability Support Worker
Early Childhood Education Certificate
Educational Assistant
Youth Care Worker Diploma

Engineering Technology

Computer Engineering Technology
Electronic Systems Engineering Technology
Engineering Design and Drafting Technology
Geomatics Technology
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Water Resources Engineering Technology

Health Services

Continuing Care Assistant
Health Information Management

Hospitality/Food Services

Food and Nutrition Management
Hotel and Restaurant Administration
Professional Cooking

Industrial/Trades

Auto Body Technician
Automotive Service Technician
Carpentry
Industrial Mechanics
Machine Shop
Parts Management Technician
Welding

Natural Resources

Forest Ecosystem Technology
Geographic Information Science
for Resource Management
Integrated Resource Management
Resource and Environmental Law

Science

Biotechnology
Chemical Technology

Technology

Building Systems Technician
Computer Systems Technology
Electronics Technician

1-866-goSIAST (467-4278)
www.goSIAST.com

