

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAS launches search for new president

Current top executive scheduled to retire next June after 10 years

August 11, 2011 – The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology will launch an international search later this month for a new president and chief executive officer. Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAS's current president and CEO, informed the board in January of his intent to retire June 30, 2012.

"We are very fortunate to have benefited from Dr. McCulloch's dynamic and collegial leadership" says Pam Schwann, SIAS board chair. "Through Dr. McCulloch's direction, SIAS has experienced remarkable growth, responding to the province's increasing labour market needs and positioning SIAS as a leading post-secondary technical institute in the country. "Our next president's challenge will be to sustain this momentum and capitalize on new opportunities, while ensuring SIAS students have continued access to a high-quality, innovative post-secondary education, and ensuring employers have access to a highly skilled and qualified workforce who will continue to contribute to Saskatchewan's prosperity."

Dr. McCulloch joined SIAS more than nine years ago, following 27 years as a university educator and senior manager. During his time at SIAS, enrolment has increased significantly, growing 30 percent over the last four years. Additionally, the organization has continued to emphasize Aboriginal student recruitment and retention with initiatives that include student family housing and an Aboriginal advisory council. SIAS has more Aboriginal students than any other post-secondary institution in the province.

"I am privileged to work with a great team at SIAS," says Dr. McCulloch. "Through their student-focused, employer-driven approach, SIAS has been agile in developing programs and initiatives aligned with contemporary needs."

The search for a new president and CEO is being led by SIAS's board of directors, which is being assisted by the consulting firm of Caldwell Partners.

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 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 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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Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.