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News Release

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CENTENNIAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS DOUBLED

Learning Minister Andrew Thomson visited SIAST's Woodland Campus in Prince Albert to celebrate the expansion of the Centennial Merit Scholarship Program. Funding for this program has been doubled to \$1 million for 2005-06, and for the first time will include scholarships for apprentices and graduate students.

"The provincial government is committed to recognizing academic excellence and to ensuring that these students continue their education right here in Saskatchewan," Thomson said. "This increase in scholarship opportunities is one of the ways government is working to keep our best and brightest here at home."

"Centennial Merit Scholarships have provided a very welcome financial boost to many deserving students since the program was implemented. Its expansion to a broader group of students is indeed good news," SIAST president and CEO Dr. Bob McCulloch said.

The Centennial Merit Scholarship program provides scholarships to Saskatchewan students that attend a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution. For the first time this year, they are also being awarded to local university students pursuing graduate degrees as well as Saskatchewan apprentices seeking journeyman certification.

In most cases the value of each scholarship is approximately the cost of one year's tuition. It is estimated that 665 Centennial Merit Scholarships will be awarded in 2005-06. Funding was increased to all post-secondary institutions currently delivering the Centennial Merit Scholarship program. Under the expansion, the universities of Saskatchewan and Regina will receive an additional \$350,000, \$100,000 more will go to SIAST and the eight regional colleges will receive \$25,000 more collectively. The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission will receive \$25,000 for the first time under the program.

Centennial Merit Scholarships are matched by funds from the institutions' business and industry partners, resulting in a total of \$2 million being available for scholarships this year.

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