

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAS Palliser honours outstanding students

Annual graduation and awards ceremonies recognize achievements

Caronport, SK & Moose Jaw, SK, May 2, 2008 – SIAS Palliser Campus honoured students today at two important ceremonies – the awards ceremony in Moose Jaw followed by the graduation ceremony in Caronport, Saskatchewan.

The morning awards ceremony included 134 awards valued at more than \$130,000 to students at SIAS Palliser Campus. During the 2007-08 academic year, SIAS will present more than \$1-million in scholarships and awards across the province. “Numbers like those simply aren’t possible without support from businesses, organizations and individuals who contribute to SIAS awards, scholarships and development programs,” said Dr. Robert McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO.

Four major awards were presented at the afternoon graduation ceremonies – the Governor General’s Academic Medal, a SIAS honorary diploma, the SIAS Student Innovation Award and a SIAS Student Outstanding Citizenship Award.

The prestigious **Governor General’s Academic Medal** was presented to Drew Haubrich and Lynette Reynolds by His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan on behalf of the Governor General. Haubrich, a graduate of the Computer Information Systems program (now Business Information Systems), received the collegiate bronze medal for achieving the highest overall average upon graduation from a diploma-level SIAS Palliser program. Reynolds, a graduate of the Basic Education program, received the bronze medal for achieving the highest standing in secondary programming at SIAS Palliser Campus.

A SIAS honorary diploma was awarded to James Bingaman. His commitment to SIAS and surrounding communities, particularly in the hiring of SIAS grads and serving on the SIAS Business Information Systems program advisory committee, makes Bingaman a deserving recipient of this honorary diploma.

Two new SIAST-wide awards were presented to SIAST Palliser students – the **SIAST Student Innovation Award** and the **SIAST Student Outstanding Citizenship Award**.

The Student Innovation Award was awarded to the 2008 graduating class in the Architectural and Building and Interior Technologies at SIAST Palliser Campus for achieving a high standard of excellence on three applied research projects over the course of their studies with SIAST. The projects include the Share the Warmth Home Energy Efficiency Program, Green Roof Project and Active Living by Design. The nomination for this group was supported by letters from SaskEnergy, Saskferco and Wakamow Valley. Only one Student Innovation Award is presented across SIAST.

The Student Outstanding Citizenship Award was awarded to Kendra Mountney for her demonstrated commitment to SIAST and surrounding area communities, for her contributions to the advancement of the campus and SIAST's mission and values, and for the benefits and impact she has made on a number of students. Notable achievements include serving as the president of the Palliser Students' Association and on the SIAST board of directors, as well as her involvement in other Moose Jaw community groups including the Economic Development Commission, Chamber of Commerce and the Youth Advisory Committee.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Almost 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 29,000 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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