

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAST students rebuild '92 Chevy

Automotive Service Technician students get hands-on experience

June 23, 2010 – Twelve Automotive Service Technician (AST) students at SIAST Palliser Campus volunteered for extra hands-on experience this academic year. Their project was named myRide and involved students completing a frame-up rebuild and customization of a 1992 Chevrolet C1500 Step Side Short Box Truck. Participation in the nine-month project took place outside of classroom time.

Darwin Hazell, SIAST Palliser AST program head, says, “We wanted to give the students a fun learning experience.” He adds, “The project also gave the students and instructors an opportunity to interact outside of classroom time.”

The truck was completely disassembled by the students, and then the frame was sandblasted and painted. The truck was reassembled adding a Bell Tech drop suspension, new springs, shocks, steering components and braking assemblies. A chrome package was installed on the engine, along with high-compression pistons. The transmission and differential were rebuilt, upgrading to a locking differential assembly. A performance exhaust system was built and installed on the truck as well.

The body work on the truck was done by students in the Autobody Technician Program at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina and by a local body shop in Moose Jaw. The body work included new fenders, hood, bumper, roll pan and grill, as well as new Euro style head lights and taillights.

NAPA Auto Parts is the title sponsor of the SIAST myRide project. “At NAPA, we recognize the importance of the SIAST AST program for the automotive industry for developing qualified, skilled automotive technicians,” says Gord Epp, business development manager at NAPA Auto Parts. “These skills are in high demand in the industry right now and the foreseeable future. We feel an investment in the SIAST AST program is an investment for the future – the future of a skilled workforce and the successful future of our industry.”

Over the next few months, students and instructors will attend events to display the truck and sell raffle tickets raising money for scholarships and AST projects at SIAST Palliser Campus. Tickets are available at NAPA associate stores in Regina, Swift Current, Nipawin, Yorkton and Saskatoon. Tickets are also available at Murray GM and Cruisers Custom Collision in Moose Jaw, as well as at shows and promotions that the AST staff will be taking the truck to.

Practical learning is an integral part of the AST curriculum. Students who worked on the project developed teamwork and leadership skills, as well as communication skills. Students were engaged in decisions related to the project, increasing the confidence in their abilities.

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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