

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAST gives students their 'reality cheque'

Making the grade means hard cash for electronics students

January 19, 2010 – SIAST is presenting scholarships to 64 students in electronics-related programs, thereby helping meet employer demand for job-ready technology grads.

First-year students in Electronics Technician, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology and Electronic Systems Engineering Technology programs who have met their semester course requirements now know that hard work does pay off.

"The reality is that Saskatchewan's electronics and communications industries need qualified employees to keep up with demand, and we had space available in our programs," said Arnold Boldt, SIAST dean of Technology. "Students who have met the criteria are now seeing the payoff – literally. Over the next two days, SIAST will be handing out \$55,500 in the Reality Cheque program to students who have successfully completed their semester."

Over the next few months, students who continue to meet the course requirements will be in line to receive their final cheques. In total, students in eligible certificate and diploma programs could receive either \$1,000 or \$2,000 cash back for making the grade.

SIAST electronics grads work with business, industry and government employers in areas such as manufacturing, communications, resource processing and consulting. With entry-level salaries for new grads averaging around \$3,300 per month, it's a solid career choice.

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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Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.

Reality Cheque Presentations:

Media are invited to attend.

Saskatoon: **Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2010**
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: SIAST Kelsey Campus
 Electronic Systems Engineering Technology lab area

9 Electronic Systems Engineering Technology students
5 Electronic Technician students

Moose Jaw: **Date: Thursday, January 21, 2010**
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: SIAST Palliser Campus
 Electrical Engineering Technology lab area

12 Computer Engineering Technology students
8 Electronics Engineering Technology students
21 Electrical Engineering Technology students

Regina: **Date: Thursday, January 21,**
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: SIAST Wascana Campus
 Classroom 342 east

12 Electronic Technician students