



SIAST

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

New nursing program at SIAST

30-seat Psychiatric Nursing program launched in Saskatchewan

Regina, November 17, 2008 – SIAST marked the launch today of a Psychiatric Nursing program that will enhance care for patients of mental illness.

"The government has been working diligently to increase the number of nurses in this province," said Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Rob Norris. "The Psychiatric Nursing program will help to ensure that we can better meet the mental health needs of the people of Saskatchewan."

One in five Canadians will experience mental illness in their lifetime, whether personally as the client or with a significant other. By establishing therapeutic relationships and partnerships, psychiatric nurses help clients speak for and help themselves.

"We are delighted to celebrate the launch of our new Psychiatric Nursing program," said Netha Dyck, SIAST's dean of Nursing. "Graduates of this innovative program will assist in addressing the growing mental health needs of the citizens of Saskatchewan."

"The benefits of providing specialized programming such as the Psychiatric Nursing program are not only about expanding capacity and accessibility to health care education, but also about enhancing the quality of health care for all of the people of Saskatchewan," said Dr. Bob McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO.

The SIAST Nursing Division delivers 15 innovative nursing programs to more than 3,000 students across the province of Saskatchewan. It offers the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan in partnership with First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan.

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 13,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 32,000

additional 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.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Eileen Janz
SIAST Communications
306-775-7713
306-527-5583 (cell)

Patricia Gillies
SIAST Communications
306-659-3782
306-230-9233 (cell)

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

BACKGROUND – SIAST NURSING DIVISION

November 17, 2008

SIAST Nursing Division

SIAST's Nursing Division team of 220 expert faculty and staff deliver 15 innovative programs to more than 3,000 students annually using teaching best practices, distributed learning and leading edge educational technology.

SIAST Nursing programs prepare graduates to practise as registered nurses, registered nurse/nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses, as well as for specialization in perioperative nursing, critical care, diabetes management and occupational health and safety.

Programs

- Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) (degree) in collaboration with the First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan
- NEPS Second Degree Entry Option (degree) in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan
- Psychiatric Nursing (diploma)
- Practical Nursing (diploma)
- Advanced Diabetes Education for Health Care Providers (advanced certificate)
- Basic Diabetes Education for Health Care Providers (applied certificate)
- Basic Critical Care Nursing (advanced certificate)
- Nursing Re-entry (applied certificate)
- Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner (applied certificate)
- Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses (applied certificate)
- Perioperative Nursing/LPN (advanced certificate)
- Perioperative Nursing/RN (advanced certificate)
- Practical Nurse Re-entry (applied certificate)
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (advanced certificate)
- Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry (applied certificate)
- CPR/First Aid courses

Partnerships and Collaboration

- NEPS – with University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada
- Practical Nursing – with regional colleges, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Kawacatoose First Nation and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
- Basic Critical Care Nursing – with health regions
- Perioperative Nursing – with health regions in Saskatchewan and in other provinces
- Preceptorship clinical experiences in student's community

NEPS, Psychiatric and Practical Nursing 2008-09 First-Year Capacity*

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| • NEPS Saskatoon | 199 |
| • NEPS Regina | 195 |
| • NEPS Second Degree Entry Option | 78 |
| • Psychiatric, Regina | 30 |
| • PN, Prince Albert | 14 |
| • PN, Saskatoon | 28 |
| • PN, Regina | 28 |
| • PN, Kawacatoose First Nation | 18 |
| • PN, regional colleges | 108 |

*SIAST has also offered Practical Nursing online and through a partnership with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.