

NEWS RELEASE

SIAS Woodland grad honours students

Awards recognize innovation and commitment to community

June 11, 2009 – SIAS Woodland Campus will honour students this Friday during its annual graduation ceremony. Dr. Robert McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO, and other dignitaries will be on hand for the presentation of three major awards during the SIAS Woodland Campus graduation ceremony. The awards include a SIAS honorary diploma, a SIAS Student Outstanding Citizenship Award and two Governor General's Academic Medals.

A **SIAS honorary diploma** will be awarded to Audra Young, a sergeant with the Regina Police Service. While serving with the Regina Police service for 18 years, Young has been instrumental in developing strategies to attract First Nations and Métis people into policing. Young was the first woman of First Nations ancestry to be hired by Regina Police Services. When she was hired, there were few women working in police services. She served as the Aboriginal outreach recruiter from 2000 to 2003. Young was seconded to the Department of Justice in 2006 to develop a strategy to attract more Aboriginal candidates into the law enforcement community. As chair of the Saskatchewan Police Aboriginal Recruitment Committee (S.P.A.R.C), Young helped SIAS develop the Aboriginal Police Preparation courses aimed at helping students prepare to apply for police force training. Young is now focusing her energy in the Regina Police Services Major Crimes Unit as an investigator.

The prestigious **Governor General's Academic Medals** will be presented to Deanne Braaten and Andrew Michael Clarke by Dr. Robert McCulloch on behalf of the Governor General of Canada. Braaten will receive the Governor General's Bronze Medal – Post-Secondary. Studying Practical Nursing, Braaten received the highest academic average with 93.31% and looks forward to the challenges she will face in nursing. Andrew Clarke will receive the Governor General's Bronze Medal – Adult 12. He received the highest academic average in the Adult 12 program with 94.8%.

The **SIAS Student Outstanding Citizenship award** recognizes commitment to the SIAS community beyond the responsibilities of program requirements. It will be presented to Jeanette Murphy, who is graduating from the Entrepreneurship and Small

Business program. Murphy is a graduate of SIAST's Early Childhood Education program. During her three years at SIAST, she represented her peers on SIAST's Aboriginal Council, Program Council and Advisory Council on Education Equity, and on the Saskatchewan Scholarship, Bursary and Student Loan Committee. Murphy has also served two consecutive terms as the president of the Woodland Students' Association.

Media are invited to attend:

Date: Friday, June 12, 2009

Time: 1:30 p.m.

**Location: E.A. Rawlinson Centre of the Arts
Prince Albert, SK**

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 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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