

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAST Palliser graduation honours students

Emergency medical services provider to be awarded honorary diploma

April 28, 2011 – SIAST Palliser Campus will honour students and special award recipients tomorrow during its annual graduation ceremony. His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan; Pamela Schwann, SIAST board of directors chair; Dr. Robert McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO, and other dignitaries will be on hand for the presentation of three major awards including a SIAST honorary diploma and two Governor General's Academic Medals.

A **SIAST honorary diploma** will be awarded to Ron Dufresne, owner and operator of Moose Jaw and District Emergency Medical Services. Dufresne strongly believes in the value of education and encourages students of all ages to pursue a post-secondary education. He is a model for lifelong learning, as he continues to upgrade his own education, setting an example for his children to pursue their dreams. Ron's contribution as both a member and president of the Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association has had a major impact on the design of EMS services in this province. He is a member of the Moose Jaw Businessmen's Club and an active fundraiser for community schools. He is also an assistant Bantam-level coach with a local hockey team.

The prestigious **Governor General's Academic Medals** will be presented to Gregory Gatin and Pearl Auger by His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, on behalf of the Governor General of Canada. Gatin, a graduate of the Business Human Resources program, will receive the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal for achieving the highest overall average upon graduation from a diploma-level SIAST Palliser program. Auger, a graduate of the Adult 12 Basic Education program, will receive the Governor General's Bronze Medal.

Media are invited to attend the graduation ceremony:

Date: Friday, April 29, 2011
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Hildebrand Chapel
Caronport 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 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 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.

For more information, contact:

Jessica Williamson, SIAST Marketing and Communications
Office: (306) 691-8513
Mobile: (306) 630-9968
Email: williamsonje@siast.sk.ca

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