

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAS prepares for classes on Monday

SGEU signs mediation agreement, talks start Monday

September 10, 2011 – SIAS welcomed news this evening that leaders of the Professional Services and Academic bargaining units representing its employees signed mediation agreements, paving the way for students to attend classes on Monday.

The bargaining units are part of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU), and they have been on strike since Tuesday.

"I am just delighted that students will be in class on Monday and moving forward with their studies," says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO.

The mediation agreements include a clause requiring all parties – as a sign of good faith – to suspend job action for the duration of mediation. The mediation agreements are in effect until September 16. At the end of the mediation period, if the parties do not find common ground on collective agreements, mediator Tom Hodges will provide a report with recommendations. SIAS had already signed the mediation agreements.

"We're looking forward to getting this issue settled and turning our full attention back to our first priority – serving students," Dr. McCulloch said. "One of our immediate tasks will be developing plans to address lost time and ensure all learning outcomes are covered."

SIAS 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 SIAS programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAS served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAS

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:

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

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