

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIAST reopens heritage building

Project funded through federal, provincial cost-sharing program

February 17, 2012 – The Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), with representatives of the federal and provincial governments, officially reopened the historically significant E.A. Davies building at SIAST Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon. The 90-year-old former teacher's college underwent an \$8.9-million rehabilitation project through the federal and provincial governments' cost-sharing Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

"Our government has invested in innovation and knowledge infrastructure to set the foundation for economic prosperity," said Kelly Block, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar. "This project not only created jobs for people in our community but also provided the infrastructure that will benefit SIAST for years to come."

Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Rob Norris said, "Our government is maintaining Saskatchewan's strong and steady economy through infrastructure investments in Saskatchewan's post-secondary education sector. The reconfiguration to the Davies Building will provide students with a learning environment to complete their studies and enter our labour market, allowing them to experience the Saskatchewan Advantage first-hand."

The 19-month project included extensive work on the building's heating and air conditioning systems, replacement of its electrical system, accessibility improvements and an overhaul of plumbing. The 37,000-square-foot building includes a 100-seat auditorium, 18 classrooms and a number of other specialized testing and instructional spaces. The project was recognized with a 2011-12 Municipal Heritage Award by the City of Saskatoon's Municipal Heritage Advisory .

"The Knowledge Infrastructure Program allowed us to convert the building into a much-needed contemporary learning environment, while freeing up space in the main

building for other pressing renovations,” said Marine Perran, SIAST’s vice-president, administrative services.

SIAST relocated most of its Saskatoon Basic Education students into the Davies building to accommodate an expansion of Nursing programs in the main building.

SIAST is Saskatchewan’s primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Through program and course registrations, SIAST serves 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.

– 30 –

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Information about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program can be found at <http://ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure>

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