



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Program at Robertson College Brandon Will Bring Skilled MLA's to Westman Community**

Robertson College Brandon is pleased to announce the new Medical Laboratory Assistant Program in Brandon, which is the first of its kind being offered in the area. In less than one year a student could be employed and working in the field of laboratory diagnostics without relocating from the Brandon area. The Medical Laboratory Assistant program runs approximately 34 weeks. October 18, 2010 marks the first intake of the new program.

“Medical Laboratory Assistants play a fundamental role in DSM laboratories. Robertson College’s new Medical Laboratory Assistant Program will be a great asset to Westman Laboratory and fills a need within the Brandon community by providing this training locally,” said Dr. Jim Dalton, Chief Executive Officer of Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM), the province’s largest employer of diagnostic professionals. “DSM is pleased to partner with Robertson College to provide clinical practicum as an integral part of program training.”

Debra Stockwell, Director of Robertson College in Brandon states “The consensus throughout the area seems to be that this program is needed in the Westman and neighbouring areas. The interest in the program is already popular and we have several students enrolled for the October start date.”

Medical Laboratory Assistants perform laboratory support functions including phlebotomy (blood collection), media (reagent) preparation and sample accessioning, receiving and processing. Students will be introduced to all aspects of Medical Laboratory Sciences, including, Interpersonal Skills, The Body and Disease, Pharmacology, and various Medical Laboratory Techniques. At the completion of this program students will write the Medical Laboratory Assistant Certification Examination through the Canadian Society of Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS). As part of the Medical Laboratory Assistant program students will be required to complete a four week clinical work practicum, which will be offered at DSM laboratories in Brandon and surrounding communities.’.

This in-demand career has an average starting salary of \$36,000 annually according to Diagnostic Services of Manitoba wage scale.

For more information, please visit [www.robertsoncollegebrandon.com](http://www.robertsoncollegebrandon.com).

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