

Saskatoon branch praised by officials

Canada has one of the world's strongest AIESEC organizations and the Saskatoon branch is one of the best organized and most active. That's the explanation AIESEC officials give for Saskatoon's winning out over the Phillipines and Sweden as the site for the 25th annual presidents' meeting, being held here this week.

This is only the second time in 25 years the meeting has been held in Canada. The previous occasion was in Edmonton in 1978.

The presidents' meeting is one of two major international events held annually by AIESEC. The other is its international congress.

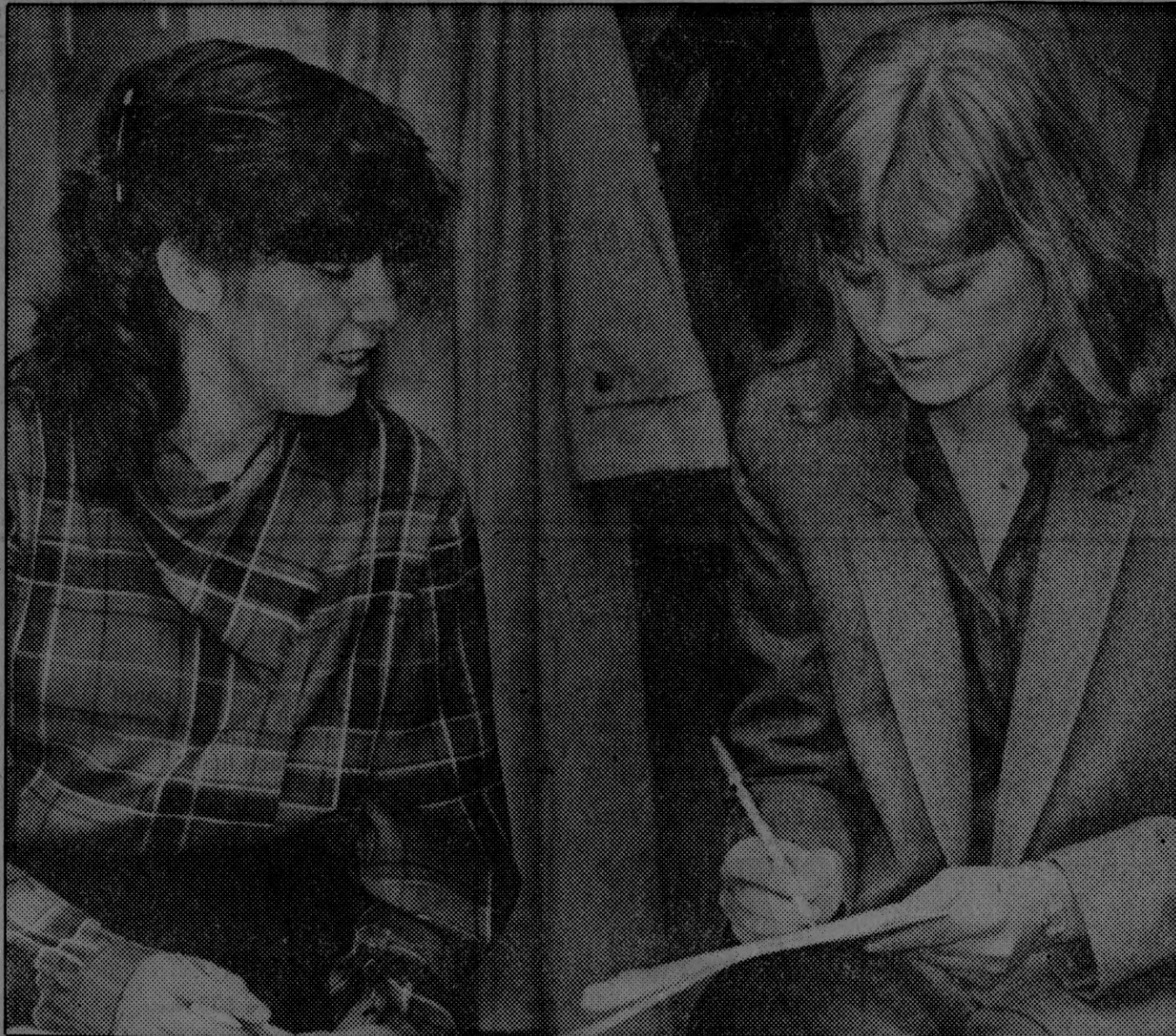
When the congress meets in Bavaria at the end of next February, job descriptions from Saskatoon firms and job applications from Saskatoon students will be among the 5,000 of each fed into the AIESEC computer system to be matched as the first step in the annual student job exchange program.

Saskatoon firms as large as the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and as small as Alpine Irrigation are among the many in Canada that use the program.

Kevin Clark, Saskatoon branch president, says PCS has had a number of overseas students involved in research projects over the past three years and has found the program useful in promoting overseas potash sales.

Hong Kong student Teresa Wong, currently involved in a PCS project, was taking some time out this week to sit in on some functions involved with the presidents' meeting.

Clark adds Alpine Irrigation is a small operation, the owner of which



Diane Potts and Carolyn Tastad co-ordinated 25th annual AIESEC meeting

S-P Photo by Glen Berger

was able to gain some management skills through the help of an exchange student who spent some months with the firm.

For every foreign student brought into Saskatoon by a local firm, a Saskatoon student gets an opportunity to go on an overseas as-

signment. Eleven students from Saskatoon were sent overseas this year and there are hopes the number can be extended to 15 in 1983.

Saskatchewan's role in the international student-operated body is emphasized by the fact the national president for Canada is Jerry Morgan of Regina. His vice president is a Saskatonian, Les Miller.

Miller's departure to join Morgan in AIESEC's Montreal office left Diane Potts and Carolyn Tastad, a couple of committee chairmen, with the whole job of co-ordinating the week-long event here. The two young women say it has been a worthwhile learning experience for them.

When the meeting ends, Clark and a dozen other student members will be calling on Saskatoon firms with a "sales pitch" for the job exchange program.

Clark says the present recession presents a challenge but he and others in the organization have an answer ready. Although hiring freezes and layoffs prevail, the students see an advantage for a firm bringing in a foreign student for a special project lasting from six weeks to 18 months.

The firm has the benefit of a senior student, recent graduate, even one with a master's degree on staff for a limited period with no need to consider him or her as a permanent employee.

The student brings in a certain amount of expertise as well as a knowledge of his or her native country which can be helpful to a firm hoping to do business with that country.

Clark offers the example of a Mexican student hired briefly by the provincial government who was able to lead Saskatchewan manufacturers into the farm implement market in Mexico.

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