

# \$75,000 Bremer grant helps SCSU fight hate crimes, harassment

**By John Molene**

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Fighting harassment at St. Cloud State University got a \$75,000 boost this week, thanks to a Bremer Foundation grant designed to prevent harassment and hate crimes.

The grant for the "Citizenship for Diversity Project" will help St. Cloud State continue to combat racism and enhance cultural diversity. The grant will pay for a full-time faculty person and other costs associated with a teaching approach started fall quarter 1997.

The project's goal is to give students knowledge and skills "to create, in their own living environment, a safe, respectful campus," said Julie Andrzejewski, the human relations and multicultural education professor who developed the project.

The project emphasizes practical, daily skills that will help students prevent harassment. It deals with an array of issues, including gender, class, sexual orientation, religion and national origin.

Through the voluntary project, first-year St. Cloud State students who live in the same residence hall can register for a human relations, harassment and personal behavior course. In addition they take a general education course in English or speech communication that complements the human relations course.

Through paired courses, students gain a "richer, more complete and integrated understanding," Andrzejewski said. The speech communication and English classes give students an opportunity to express the concepts they learn and the emotions they experience in the human relations course.

The paired courses will be taught again this spring, using money made available by the university. The Bremer grant will be put to use during the first semester of the 1998-99 academic year, which will begin in August. The university received the first installment of the grant this week, Andrzejewski said.