

## Grabbing funds for hands-on learning

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Four SCSU professors have won funding for projects designed to promote active learning -- one in nursing, one in computer information security courses, one in speech therapy, and one in employee training.

**Dr. Grama Rangamani, Communication Disorders**, won \$11,000 to help students majoring in communication disorders actively learn group therapy methods for treating adults who have speech and language impairments due to a stroke or other neurological problem.



The project is part of a larger collaboration between the university and the St. Cloud Hospital called "Let's Talk Again – A Communication Outreach Program for Individuals with Communication Disorders due to Neurological Problems."

"Let's Talk Again," which was funded by a CentraCare Foundation grant of \$10,600, calls for developing language therapy follow-up groups for people whose therapy insurance coverage has expired. The grant will also be used to educate family members about neurogenic communication problems and how to manage them.

**Professor Joan Wilcox and Dr. Patricia Bresser, Nursing Science**, won \$15,000 to develop new partnerships with rural, urban and tribal health care agencies so that SCSU nursing students can learn critical clinical practices. The objective is to immerse students for one month in active learning that promotes health for people of color and in rural communities. Students will share what they've learned with others on campus and in the community.

**Dr. Susantha Herath, Business Computer Information Systems**, received \$5,000 to develop teaching methods that provide for student "learning-by-doing" in computer security courses. Topics students cover in such courses include encryption and decryption, protection and trust issues in operating systems, security protocols, administering security, legal and ethical issues, and computer forensics. Herath will share the teaching guidelines he develops with instructors in other departments, and extend them to technical and community colleges via workshops and the World Wide Web.

**Professor Richard Josephson, Learning Resources and Technology Services**, won \$15,000 to test a computer instruction model developed by SCSU faculty for use in private sector training. The model uses short video segments interspersed with computer-generated questions. Such interactive programs could replace trainers' routine presentations or lectures, allowing trainees to move at their own pace and freeing the trainer for more one-on-one work with them.

The four grants were made by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Center for Teaching and Learning with funds from the Bush Foundation.

- Marge Proell