

Grant makes partnership possible

by Julia Peterson

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board is providing an \$85,868 grant to SCSU for a training partnership between Woodcraft Industries, St. Cloud, and SCSU's Learning Resources and Technology Services.

Rich Josephson, project director and research director at LRS, said the Center for Information Media has had a good working relationship with Woodcraft Industries for about seven years, and this is the second training project they have worked on together.

Woodcraft Industries is a company making cabinet door components. They are going to expand by adding another shift of workers. The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, a committee of the Department of Trade and Economic Development, provided this grant to SCSU to run the 15-month computer-based training program for new and existing workers.

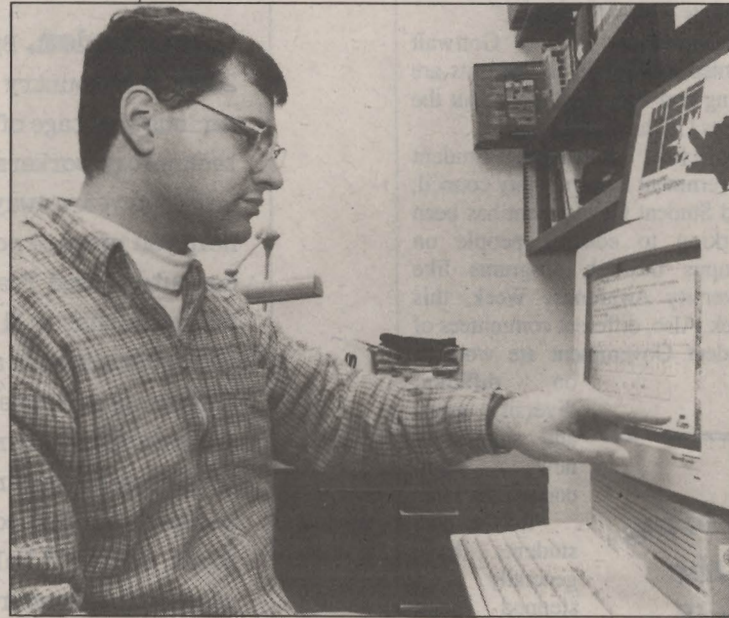
Josephson said he and Dennis Fields, facilities, program and personnel development director for LRS, wrote the grant.

"It's a good investment for the state of Minnesota to support companies with high-tech training," Josephson said.

Josephson said the training is geared so there are no prior computer skills needed. He said the last time they trained with Woodcraft Industries, about six years ago, they used touch-screen computers.

"Not only does the company get high-tech training," Josephson said, "but here at the university we get to practice the skills we are teaching."

Chris Czech, who was a graduate assistant with a similar project last fall and winter quarter, will be training with Woodcraft Industries. He will train one employee at a time, beginning with a video from a laser disc that explains different wood types and information pertinent to working with wood. Czech said most of the trainees are production workers.



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Graduate student Chris Czech takes part in an employee training simulation in the Learning Resources Center.

"We are introducing them to the topic, and building a base of knowledge for them," Czech said.

Vicki Osendorf, a 1993 SCSU

graduate, worked in the first training program with Woodcraft Industries in 1991-1992. She now works at Woodcraft Industries in

charge of the training department. "I worked in the design and development phase, basically what Chris (Czech) is doing now," she said.

"The student involvement here is to practice and apply the skills they learn in Information Media classes," Josephson said. Josephson added there are many other students who worked on training programs like this and found jobs in the field after graduation.

Josephson said all the training is developed at SCSU and then delivered and used at Woodcraft Industries.

"The advantage is that they (Woodcraft Industries) can continue using the equipment for years after the grant is finished," Josephson explained.

A signing ceremony will officially start the project at 2 p.m. tomorrow in the Valhalla Room of Atwood Memorial Center. Among the guests will be Gary Fields, deputy commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development.