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Grants to benefit SCSU student learning programs

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Six faculty members at St. Cloud State University have received grants totaling \$15,000 to promote student learning.

The money was awarded by the "Learning That Lasts" program funded by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Center for Teaching and Learning. The center's grant programs are designed to improve student learning through better teaching. MnSCU governs St. Cloud State.

Here's a look at the three grants:

- Richard Rothaus, assistant vice president for □research and faculty development and associate professor of history, and Matt Julius, an assistant professor of biology, received \$5,000 for their project called "Cultural Environment Landscapes Laboratory: A Community of Active Learning."

The project brings together faculty from different disciplines to provide learning opportunities in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Students in the program will have hands-on learning in areas such as archaeology, biology and history, Rothaus said.

- Chemistry faculty members Lakshmaiah Sreerama and Mohammad Mahroof-Tahir received \$5,000 to enable students to work with biology and chemistry faculty on original research projects. They will help design experiment plans, prepare formal research papers and present research findings.
- Michael Dvorak and Jack McKenna, who also teach in the chemistry department, received \$4,831 to incorporate computers controlled data acquisition into first-year chemistry courses. This will give students more control in experiment design, setup and execution.