

Grant to help train TriVirix workers

SCSU students to act as on-the-job trainers at medical-device plant

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A \$60,400 state grant to St. Cloud State University will help a Milaca medical-device manufacturer train 100 workers.

The grant was one of 19 announced Thursday by the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, a program of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

St. Cloud State will help with entry-level and advanced training for workers at the TriVirix Inc. plant. TriVirix, based in Durham, N.C., acquired the Milaca plant in 2002 from Minneapolis-based Medtronic Inc.

For 18 years, the Medtronic plant manufactured devices to program pacemakers, among other things.

It had 93 workers when Medtronic announced in 2001 it would end its work there because of technology changes.

TriVirix continues to make medical devices under contract with companies such as Medtronic.

Products include external pacemakers, morphine pumps and at-home sleep apnea test kits.

Many of its 75 employees previously worked for Medtronic, human resources manager Scott Kramer said.

St. Cloud State students in engineering management and manufacturing engineering will serve as on-the-job trainers at TriVirix.

The grant allows 600 hours for student intern project work, Kramer said.

Milaca is 30 miles north-east of St. Cloud.