

# SCSU faculty, staff earn 3 development grants

Times staff report

Faculty and staff at St. Cloud State University have received three grants worth almost \$27,000.

The money will be used to promote active student learning, including using alternatives to traditional chalkboard teaching methods, evaluating student learning and the effectiveness of courses and programs, and providing undergraduate students with research experience.

The grants were awarded by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Center for Teaching and Learning. The projects will take place during the 2004-05 academic year.

■ Chemistry professor Lakshmaiah Sreerama and Mohammad Mahroof-Tahir, an assistant professor, received \$12,800 to build on a pilot program that encourages faculty and students from different departments to work together on research projects.

Students in the program help

faculty design and conduct experiments, prepare formal research papers and present research findings.

■ Economics professor Masoud Moghaddam and assistant professors Ming Chien Lo and Philip Grossman received \$8,860 to replace traditional chalkboard methods in economics statistics and forecasting courses with computer-based games and exercises.

They also will lead workshops and develop resources for other St. Cloud State and MnSCU faculty.

■ Mary Soroko, director of information and planning, and professor Brad Sleeper received \$5,000 to develop and implement a collegewide academic assessment program. The program will allow the G.R. Herberger College of Business to systematically gather data on student learning and evaluate the effectiveness of the college's courses.

Soroko and Sleeper are part of the college of business.