

SCSU faculty win three more workshop grants

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ST. CLOUD, Minn. - St. Cloud State University faculty members garnered three of nine grants recently awarded by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

The grants will support workshops that give college and university faculty opportunities to engage in conversations about teaching and learning while networking with others in the system. All three workshops will be held at SCSU.

Professor Margaret Pryately, Communication Studies, and Anna Verhoye, Dakota County Technical College, will host the Speech Professionals Across Minnesota spring conference for as many as 50 communication faculty. The conference on Feb. 28 and March 1 will explore service-learning in education with a focus on using technology to capitalize on global opportunities.

"Because applying what we teach in the classroom is essential both to internalizing what is being taught and to global citizenship, this conference will give communication educators ideas about how to use both service-learning and technology in classrooms," said Pryately.

Communication students will speak about their experiences related to global service-learning and civic engagement. "The perspectives of our students are needed to keep us providing meaningful experiences for them," said Pryately.

On March 21, Lissa Staples, Volunteer Link Coordinator, and Professor Rona Karasik, Community Studies, will bring together approximately 70 individuals from fields, such as Community Studies, Criminal Justice, Gerontology, and Sociology to discuss how service-learning projects may be implemented in Social Science courses.

According to Staples, service-learning balances community service with formal classroom instruction so that students can reflect on what they are learning from these "real-life" experiences. "It's an exciting teaching method that influences students' career choices, increases retention, and develops social responsibility," said Staples. "It makes learning relevant."

Professors Susantha Herath and Richard Heath, Business Computer Information Systems, expect more than 100 faculty members, students, and business leaders from Minnesota and surrounding states to attend the Symposium on Computer Assurance and Security on April 18. Participants will hear national experts in government and academia and learn about recent developments in curriculum at various MnSCU institutions.

"Our goal is to help fill a national need by providing a venue for faculty to develop, teach, and expand information security curriculum for students in state colleges and universities," said Herath.

CTL grants programs, designed to improve student learning through enhanced teaching effectiveness, are supported by funds from MnSCU and the Bush Foundation.

A member of MnSCU, SCSU has about 16,000 students and 175 majors, minors and pre-professional programs in Business, Education, Fine Arts & Humanities, Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences. The university is located 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities along the oak-crowned banks of the Mississippi River.

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