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Learning

SCSU music teacher to tour, study Bali, Java

Fulbright grant will help 14 Minnesota teachers experience culture of Indonesia

By Patty Mattern

TIMES STAFF WRITER

A St. Cloud State University professor hopes the Indonesian study program she will lead this summer will improve cultural sensitivity in Minnesota schools.

Joan Miller, an associate professor of music at St. Cloud State University, was awarded a \$49,000 Fulbright grant to take 14 Minnesota teachers on five-week study/tour of Indonesia this summer.

"Our goal is to provide new knowledge, skills and awareness, so teachers can go back to schools and demonstrate sensitivity to different cultures," Miller said.

This is the second time Miller has been given a Fulbright award in three years and only the second time the university has been awarded a grant for a group project abroad program, according to university officials.

Miller's group will tour the Indonesian islands of Bali and Java from June 13 to July 17 to experience and learn about the visual and performing arts of Indonesia.

Through lectures and demonstrations, Miller wants the educators to learn about Indonesia's art, music, theater and dance, so they come to understand the value of a another culture's art, she said.

Once the group finishes the study, they will bring the arts of a different culture into their classrooms.

The experience of non-western culture will be transferrable to St. Cloud, because of the many people of different cultures who make their home here such as Hmongs, Vietnamese, Chinese and Koreans, she said.

Miller chose Indonesia, because the country has a high concentration of artists of all kinds, she said.

"Indonesia is considered the most artistic country in the world," she said.

In Indonesia, whole villages are devoted to woodcarving, music, dancing, painting or stonecarving, Miller said.

Unlike some western cultures



QUOTE

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SCSU ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

where people might make seldom trips to concerts or the theater, Indonesians make the arts of part of their daily lives, Miller said.

The educators on the trip and a media specialist from St. Cloud State University will document the culture of Indonesia through slides, videotapes and audiocassette tapes, Miller said.

"Unless you understand the whole culture, the arts don't make much difference," Miller said.