



SCSU partners with local business to enhance worker skills

More than 650 Electrolux employees in St. Cloud will receive training to improve the company's manufacturing processes through a \$100,000 Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant awarded to the SCSU Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. Employees will receive classroom training, then — in teams with SCSU faculty and graduate students — apply what they've learned to their work at Electrolux.

With the project, Electrolux engineers will be trained to rely more on scientific methods to determine parameters for manufacturing processes. In addition, line workers will learn to run machines using the new parameters and to collect and interpret data for process adjustment. Other elements of the project include using robotics and automation to reduce worker fatigue and injuries, developing a better plant layout to accommodate recent company growth, enhancing managerial skills, and designing a safer work environment.

Partner Ridgewater College will conduct robotic welding training and design employee safety signage; partner St. Cloud Technical College will provide diversity training for workers and leadership training for supervisors.

Electrolux, a multi-national company with worldwide plants, is the world's largest producer of powered appliances for kitchen, cleaning, and outdoor use. The St. Cloud plant employs more than 1,600 people.