

## University helps bring AmeriCorps to community

SCSU has built a new partnership – with nonprofit organizations and area communities – to bring AmeriCorps to Central Minnesota. The program is based at the university. AmeriCorps, a national service program often described as the domestic Peace Corps, provides an opportunity for adults of all ages and from any background to help meet pressing local needs.

The program is funded by a \$300,000 AmeriCorps grant — one of only a few

awarded in Minnesota. Partners in the program include: SCSU, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Minnesota, United Way of Central Minnesota, the City of St. Cloud RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program), Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota, Stearns County Emergency Services, Tri-County Action Program, and the American Red Cross Central Minnesota.

Twenty people will be placed with AmeriCorps partners to work on projects related to youth mentoring, volunteerism/service-learning, and disaster preparedness.

In exchange for a full term of service, usually 10-12 months, AmeriCorps members earn a \$4,725 education award to help pay for college or training, or to pay back student loans. AmeriCorps members serve approximately 38 hours a week.