

## Grant awards lead to interesting projects for faculty, students

So far this year, SCSU faculty and staff have already landed more than \$1.5 million in grants and contracts to fund research, service, and creative activities in response to real-world issues and to provide opportunities for students to get hands-on experience. Some of the interesting projects are:

- Assistant Professor Christopher Kvaal, Professor Jorge Arriagada, and Assistant Professor Matthew Julius were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to develop an automated DNA sequencing and analysis facility at SCSU.
- Professor Glen Palm received a Minnesota Department of Education grant to evaluate Even Start programs and train staff in an effort to enhance family literacy programs across the state.
- Assistant Professor Matthew Julius received funding from the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers to provide laboratory services in support of the first-ever complete survey of the water quality of Rainy Lake in Voyageurs National Park.
- Professor Anthony Schwaller and Assistant Professors Kurt Helgeson and Balasubramanian Kasi received funds in support of their work with the Minnesota Center for Advanced Manufacturing Automation, which was created to respond to the state and national need for highly-skilled automation technicians.
- James Ellickson, research analyst with the SCSU Spatial Analysis Research Center, and Associate Professor Charles Rose were awarded funds by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service to develop a strategic plan for wetland restoration projects in west-central Minnesota.
- Assistant Professor Marco Restani received support from the United States Forest Service and the North Dakota Game & Fish Department to investigate the habitat selection of swainson and ferruginous hawks, two bird species that are showing population declines across North America.