

## **Local employer picks up the tab for robotic lab space**

Electrolux, a longtime supporter of SCSU, has made an unusual gift to the university. The St. Cloud manufacturer has given SCSU the use of 2,800 square feet of robotic laboratory space, including utilities and parking, for three years.

Electrolux had been leasing the space to the university for the last few years at a discounted rate. Even with a discount, rental costs had consumed a quarter of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering annual budget. The market value of the gift over the remaining three years of the lease is \$78,900.

The St. Cloud plant of Electrolux, which employs about 1,600 people, produces refrigerators and chest freezers. In addition to earlier partnerships, the company and SCSU are currently collaborating on an employee training program that will cover more than 650 employees at all levels, from engineers to line workers.