

\$500K in workforce grants help 2 local firms

St. Cloud State part of effort to offer worker training

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ST. CLOUD — St. Cloud State University and two St. Cloud businesses were awarded workforce development grants totaling more than \$500,000, according to a press release from the university.

The university, in partnership with Nahan Printing, Inc. and American Axle & Manufacturing, earned a \$300,000 training grant and \$208,546 training grant respectively. The organizations celebrated the grants with a signing ceremony Monday at the St. Cloud State Welcome Center.

The grants were awarded to St. Cloud State from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development in March under the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership. This is the second grant awarded to St. Cloud State and AAM in the past four years.

As part of the grant, the university will partner with Nahan and AAM to strengthen their workforce. Each company will acquire training customized to its specific needs and equipment to develop a workforce with cutting-edge knowledge and skills.

Nahan Printing, Inc., AAM, and St. Cloud State will partner with St. Cloud Technical & Community College and Ridgewater Community College to deliver customized training.

The grants are intended to give workers skills they can carry with them, help the companies gain a stronger workforce, and increase the colleges' capacity to develop and deliver new programming that can be used by other businesses.

Nahan Printing, Inc. specializes in integrated commercial printing, direct mail and digital solutions. With a workforce of 364 employees, Nahan expects to add about 58 new employees to help meet customer demands and achieve its goal of 20% growth over the next two years.

AAM's St. Cloud manufacturing facility is a ductile iron foundry and manufactures iron castings for SUVs and light trucks. Headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, AAM has more than 25,000 associates operating at nearly 90 facilities in 17 countries.