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SCSU library to be MnSCU's largest capital construction request next legislative session

ST. CLOUD-- St. Cloud State University's proposed construction of a \$30 million new library has been approved as one of the top priority requests to be submitted to the Minnesota Legislature in January by the new Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. This approval makes the proposal the largest capital request among MnSCU's building projects to be submitted to the state's Department of Finance as part of the coming legislative bonding session.

MnSCU's complete capital budget request totals \$141,263,000 and includes a list of 12 priority projects. These projects include a number of remodeling and new construction projects at specific campus sites as well as land acquisition, safety and energy projects and Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renewal projects throughout the system. The MnSCU system includes seven state universities, 21 community colleges and 34 technical colleges. MnSCU's Board of Trustees approved the capital budget request priority list at meetings Monday and Tuesday in St. Paul. More than 300 capital or construction-related proposals either systemwide or campus-specific had been submitted to the trustees for consideration.

"This is a crucial step in the process of seeking final funding approval," said SCSU President Bruce Grube, who led the SCSU delegation at a meeting Monday of the Board of Trustees' facilities committee. "We at SCSU are grateful to our area legislators who were so supportive of this much-needed facility that will serve not only St. Cloud State, but the entire Central Minnesota region with the latest in communications technology." This group, whose support according to Grube was crucial to the advancement of this project, included Senator Dave Kleis (IR-St. Cloud), Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), Rep. James Knobloch (IR-St. Cloud), Rep. Steve Dehler (IR-St. Joseph), Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), and Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud).

MnSCU's approval to advance SCSU's library proposal to the legislature is in line with a recommendation by the Minnesota Library Planning Task Force, a legislative panel appointed by the governor to insure that projects seeking state funds will "maximize citizens' access to library and information services." In January, the

task force advised that plans for two libraries in the state should be funded: SCSU's proposed facility and an archival library at the University of Minnesota.

One of the primary reasons the task force approved SCSU's proposal was the regional nature of the library facility. According to the task force: "In light of the demonstrated high level of cooperation with and services to different types of libraries and, in particular, the partnership with the Central Minnesota Library Exchange (which is housed in the St. Cloud State University Learning Resources Services facility and serves more than 100 regional public schools, public libraries and hospital libraries), the task force recommended funding the St. Cloud State University Project."

MnSCU's approval and the task force's recommendation are the latest in a long chronology of steps SCSU officials have taken to gain state funds for a new library. In 1979, SCSU first proposed an addition to the existing Learning Resources Services (LRS) facility, which was built in 1969 when student enrollment was 9,600. In May of 1985, the Minnesota State University System conducted a library planning study. In May of 1990, the Library of the Future Study was initiated. Finally, in 1992, planning dollars were approved by the legislature and an architect's contract was awarded. In 1994, during the last capital bonding session of the legislature, construction documents were funded along with dollars for related infrastructure projects that will be necessary to support the campus and the new library.

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St. Cloud State University Library...

Helping to link Central Minnesota to the world

Ready to serve

St. Cloud State Learning Resources Services already is an information hub for many users. Equipped with updated facilities, technology and training, a new, expanded library will guide and assist these users even better in this new information age. Central Minnesotans will travel with ease on the superhighways of information.

Developed partnerships

With the passage of legislation in 1979 mandating multicounty, multitype library systems, SCSU Learning Resources Services took an aggressive stance by making its information and human resources available to citizens, institutions, organizations and businesses in the region. In partnership with the Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange (CMLE) SCSU Learning Resources Services continues to build upon the recognized excellence in resource sharing. With the merger of state universities, community colleges and technical colleges, we envision SCSU Learning Resources Services expanding its resource sharing and service philosophy to the institutions within the merged system.

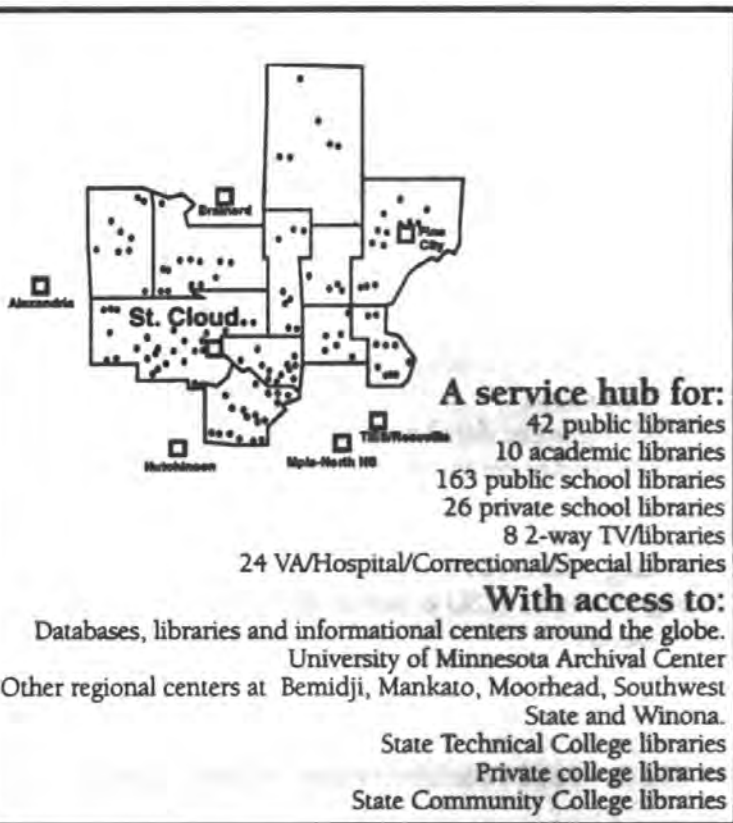
Building for the future

Learning Resources Services professionals, trained in the field of library and information technology, will continue to play a major role in the access and use of information. With new technologies that increase the speed of access and the amount and variety of information available to us, SCSU needs to maintain a critical mass of professionals who interact with users and provide expertise on how to access, evaluate and apply information. LRS professionals are adapting the means and developing the resources that will allow users to synthesize and reconceptualize available information as well as add new knowledge.

Serving business, industry and social services:

SCSU provides in-kind service to the St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership as the University's membership fee in this organization.

In addition, SCSU has assisted in developing the technology to train the workforce in the following industries: Peltz Manufacturing, Webway Inc., and, in conjunction with the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, Woodcraft Industries, Komo Machine and Alliant Tech. The Jacob Wetterling Foundation also uses the library for research.



Serving area citizens:

Approximately 17 percent of library users are from the general public. However, this service is not widely publicized since there are only 800 study spaces for 16,000 students.

Serving government agencies:

- Through CMLE, SCSU provides services to:
- Minnesota correctional facilities at St. Cloud and Sauk Centre
- The Stearns/Benton Law Library
- The St. Cloud VA Hospital
- The St. Cloud Hospital



Some facts about our users:

During fiscal year '94, nearly 800,000 students and other patrons used the SCSU Library, including 30,000 student library card holders and 4,500 faculty and staff.

Members include:

- 42 public libraries
- 10 colleges or universities
- 189 K-12 school libraries
- 24 special libraries, including VA, correctional and hospital libraries in 12 Central Minnesota Counties.

Services include:

- Inter-library loan services
- Delivery of materials
- Back-up reference
- Quarterly newsletter
- Workshops
- Bibliographic data bases
- Long-range planning
- Member directory

Serving learners of all ages:

Through Minitex, SCSU is part of the state's information infrastructure.

Borrowing of materials by students at St. John's University and College of St. Benedict is made easy with the acceptance of each other's ID cards.

The St. Cloud State Library is a member of a group that is planning the development of the region's collection. Other members of this group are the Great River Regional Library, East Central Library, College of St. Benedict and St. John's University.

The library delivers materials to schools in the 12-county region on a regular basis, plus 2,772 users from the community and other colleges.

K-12 school administrators come to the SCSU library for assistance in obtaining materials for new or proposed programs.

Teachers from a wide geographic area come to update units or access current curriculum.

Entire classes of high school students come to campus to receive instruction in how to use a library for writing projects.

The NASA Resource Room and the Interactive Videodisc Review Center serve on-campus and outreach functions.

Will the proposed SCSU library be compatible with the widely discussed library of the future?

The answer is yes, the new library will be flexible to respond to developing technology, including:

- **A campus fiber optic backbone** will distribute electronic information to remote sites.
- **Wire capacity** will allow for future expansion of workstations and electronic information sources.
- **Design** allows for future distribution of electronic images, (still and motion) to classrooms and remote sites.

How will users access the Information Superhighway through the new library?

Current service will be improved with:

- **Additional space** for users (800 now --2,400 in the future)
- **Workstations will have access to SCSU local area networks**, including the CD-ROM network, the PALS automated catalog on MnSCU and related private institutions' resources, links to other regional automated catalogs and electronic resources and broader international Internet.
- **Workstations will allow synthesis of material** from a variety of local or distant sources in various formats, i.e., still, motion, color, text, graphic.
- **Workstations will electronically transfer text** in digital format and also scan printed or microform text to digital format.
- **Trained staff will be available** to guide users in accessing information on what is known by some as the information ocean rather than the superhighway!

Major concern:

Space shortage and building configuration are restricting service and efficiency in the SCSU Library, which serves Minnesota's fastest growing region.

ST. CLOUD STATE
UNIVERSITY