

News Release

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St. Cloud State University to celebrate library opening

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – Completion of St. Cloud State University's new James W. Miller Learning Resources Center will be celebrated the weekend of Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21.

The celebration begins at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, with guest speaker Ray Bradbury, futurist and science fiction writer. The public is invited to the free event at the Kimberly S. Ritsche Auditorium, with book signing opportunities afterwards.

The public is also invited to the grand opening celebration from 11:30-12:30 Saturday, Oct. 21, at the James W. Miller Learning Resources Center, followed by an open house with self-guided tours and refreshments throughout the afternoon.

SCSU began moving its library holdings to the new facility on Aug. 7. The doors of the 235,000-square-foot center will open when SCSU students arrive for the start of fall semester after Labor Day.

Holdings include more than 650,000 book titles, 1.2 million government publications, 1.6 million microforms, 1,400 print journal subscriptions and 6,840 full-text electronic journals.

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The \$32.5 James W. Miller Learning Resources Center was built with the flexibility and capacity to respond to rapidly developing technology over the long term. For example, features like technology/wiring channels and carpet squares instead of roll carpeting will make it easy to move or add to the current 575 computer workstations. An innovative compacted shelving system already holds 22.7 miles of materials, which represents just 55 percent of capacity.

"This will be a state-of-the-art, high-tech hub for the SCSU campus and the entire community throughout the 21st Century," said Dr. Kristi Tornquist, Learning Resources & Technology Services dean, in announcing the opening.

The center is named for prominent local businessman James W. (Jim) Miller, who with his wife Marion donated over \$3 million to SCSU in recognition of the positive impact the university has had on the entire community. The lifetime St. Cloud resident founded Miller Construction, which was purchased by sons Dan and Tim Miller and is now known as Miller Architects and Builders.

The James W. Miller Learning Resources Center replaces the library in Centennial Hall, which was built in 1969 to meet the needs of a campus with about 8,000 students. SCSU is now the second largest campus in Minnesota with approximately 15,000 students.

SCSU, located 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities along the oak-crowned banks of the Mississippi River, offers more than 150 majors, minors and pre-professional programs in Business, Education, Fine Arts & Humanities, Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences.

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Library photos are available by e-mail request to mnovak@StCloudState.edu or nandersen@StCloudState.edu. The SCSU word mark is available at <http://www.StCloudState.edu/~ucomm/>.