

Real estate majors make connections

On Oct. 5, SCSU real estate majors were able to dine, socialize and gain valuable, professional insight – free of charge because of the sponsorship of several different real estate companies.

During the banquet, each real estate major was paired with a real estate alumni who worked for one of the sponsoring companies. The real estate alumnus volunteered to be mentors and will allow the students to spend one day per semester on the job with them. The mentors can also be contacted by the students to answer any questions or offer advice on such things as resume building or interviewing techniques.

“This is just one of the networking opportunities available to our real estate majors that help assure them of a job offer prior to graduation,” said Dr. Steven P. Mooney, SCSU professor and holder of the Minnesota Chair in Real Estate. “Ninety-five percent of our real estate graduates work in some aspect of commercial real estate – including property management, mortgage banking, brokerage, development and appraisal.”

The evening turned out to be a success. About 66 real estate majors and alumni attended the event and will be keeping in touch with one another throughout the year.

SCSU renews pledge to nurture diversity

St. Cloud State University President Roy H. Saigo, in a recent public statement, has reaffirmed the university's commitment to diversity. “We are renewing our pledge to provide an environment that acknowledges and values diversity at St. Cloud State University,” he said in making it clear that the university's longstanding commitment to diversity continues to be a priority.

SCSU must focus attention on diversity issues to properly prepare students for success in a global community, Saigo said. “If everyone at the table only speaks Chinese or Swahili, our students can't wait until no one passes the food to figure out how to communicate with someone from a different background.”

After recruiting for diversity for a number of years, 18 percent of the university's administrators, 14 percent of faculty and 6 percent of SCSU students are of color. In addition, SCSU now has the strongest international program in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system with 850 students from 60 countries on campus.

SCSU has also taken a number of steps to increase sensitivity to diversity issues such as racism. More than 500 SCSU employees have been trained on reporting hate crimes; several hundred have participated in diversity training; all new SCSU students attend a workshop on respectful behavior toward other genders and races;



students must take a course in racial and multicultural issues during their first two semesters at SCSU; and minority students have access to support centers, mentoring, tutoring, and academic counseling and advising to help them succeed.

The university is also hiring professional outside resources to examine the campus climate and to recommend appropriate action to address any problems of bias that may exist. The timeline calls for the assessment to be completed spring semester.

The president is confident SCSU can be a very comfortable environment for people of every background. Not only is it the university's mission to be a place of “lively, interactive inclusiveness,” he has said, it is an opportunity for the university to continue to be a leader in facing issues of discrimination in our society. “The initiatives we're taking help set us apart as one of the most progressive campuses in the state.”

University reveals new seal

After a great deal of deliberation and voting by SCSU students, faculty/staff and alumni, SCSU has chosen a new university seal.

The new seal depicts the cupola that sits atop Riverview surrounded by oak leaves. Riverview is one of the oldest existing buildings on the SCSU campus. It was built in 1908 to serve as the laboratory school in which St. Cloud Normal School's students taught area children. It was later converted into traditional classrooms for SCSU students and is currently the home of SCSU's English department. The Riverview cupola and oak leaves were chosen because they illustrate SCSU's long history of teacher preparation and the university's location on the oak-crowned banks of the Mississippi River.

A new seal was developed because the former seal lacked an academic look and feel and did not accurately represent the University.



Teacher preparation programs sail through accreditation reviews

After an intensive review, NCATE, the national organization responsible for evaluating the quality of teacher education programs, reported in October that they would recommend continuing accreditation of the teacher education programs offered by SCSU.

SCSU's College of Education achieved three firsts with this visit: first in the nation to complete NCATE 2000 Standards; first in the nation to conduct a web-site visit for NCATE; and first in the nation to have a totally open exit interview for the teams to report to faculty and administrators.

SCSU met all six standards of the NCATE accreditation review at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. NCATE made particular note of the fact that SCSU was the first school to conduct a technology-based study and commended the College of Education for its cutting-edge technology.

After noting that SCSU met all 53 of its standards, the Minnesota Board of Teaching (BOT) also said they would recommend continuing approval for SCSU's teacher education programs. The BOT reviewers found many positives, including use of technology, research support, diversity, new approaches, community partnerships, spirit, leadership and planning.

“The exit reports by NCATE and the Board of Teaching corroborate the excellent work of faculty and staff in our teacher education programs,” according to Academic Vice President Suzie Williams. “They are truly outstanding.”

“The college has set a new standard for accreditation all over this country,” said College of Education Dean Joane McKay. “It's a very high standard with a high level of public accountability.”



Anderson Entrepreneurial Center
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

SCSU to reach out with off-campus entrepreneurial center

To give the broader community easier access to its services, the Harold Anderson Entrepreneurial Center has broken ground on its new off-campus facility.

“The business community has been waiting for a place like this,” according to Center Director Ken Maddux. Currently housed in scattered offices on the SCSU campus, the new location will give the Center 5,800 sq. ft. of space and parking for several hundred cars.

“We're here to expand economic opportunity for area residents, as well as SCSU students,” said Maddux. The Center works to stimulate formation of new businesses and help create self-employment opportunities. Entrepreneurship courses, internships, mentorships and applied entrepreneurship project experiences are among the Center's offerings.

The Center was established in partnership with longtime area businessman Harold Anderson, founder and president of Anderson Trucking Service, Inc. The cost of the new facility, being built with the Minnesota Business Finance Corporation, is being covered by donations.

Welcome Differences

“We must not only learn to tolerate our differences. We must welcome them as the richness and diversity which can lead to true intelligence.”

Albert Einstein