



ST. CLOUD STATE
UNIVERSITY

It's Time...

AND ST. CLOUD STATE IS LEADING THE WAY

It's Time...
TO BE BOLD

TO INNOVATE
for a new generation of students

TO FOCUS
and turn challenges we face
into our opportunities

Our *It's Time* vision is setting St. Cloud State University on an ambitious path to becoming a new type of university.

St. Cloud State University is transforming what higher education can and should be. We are making bold changes that focus on excellence and innovation.

**WE ARE THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE.
AND WE ARE READY.**



A Letter from the President

We invite you to take a closer look at St. Cloud State University, to learn how we are reimagining higher education. *It's Time* to take notice of our bold strategy to create a new university.

It's no secret that many unprecedented changes occurring within higher education are directly affecting St. Cloud State University and other public and private universities across the country. The world has changed. What worked five years ago simply won't cut it today. Today's world demands a different approach.

It's Time is that new approach – one that evolves with students and the region and keeps the university dynamic, inclusive and flourishing. We have made key strategic changes to what it means to be a university going forward and how we operate in order to thrive.

What makes *It's Time* so different than other plans? We are rewriting the higher education playbook. We've reimagined what higher education can and should be, by focusing on our strengths. We are boldly paving the way.

It's Time is a strategic vision that invests in our faculty as educators and scholars, extends our reach in Minnesota and across the globe, and

prioritizes equity and inclusion as an asset. We are investing in the individualized support for students as they tailor their learning experience and build toward a successful future.

This booklet shares more about *It's Time* and how it is already creating positive change throughout our University, programs, operations, and student body. As you read further, I hope you'll be inspired by the many examples of how the St. Cloud State University community is stepping up to create a new kind of university – one that we are all extremely proud of as the future unfolds.

The times are changing and so are we. Take a look and see how SCSU is reimagining higher education, and why *It's Time* to take notice.



Dr. Robbyn R. Wacker
PRESIDENT

It's Time
**TO GET TO KNOW THE NEW
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY**

WHY NOW?

A variety of **unprecedented changes** are impacting higher education — especially state universities like St. Cloud State University.

Students have a choice of academic providers; today's students enter our University at different points in their lives and careers and are **looking for different things than students 25 or even five years ago.**

Today's students come from diverse backgrounds and experiences that impact how and when they choose to pursue higher education, and we must be ready to **meet these students' needs**, no matter where they are at in their educational journeys.

Now, more than ever, **education is a lifelong need.** People need educational options so they can remain agile, adapt, and be successful in their work.

Lifelong learning is also critical for those who need to shift into new or emerging **careers that require new credentials and skillsets.**

The **digital revolution** has impacted students' expectations, and the availability of learning, especially now, and we must be better prepared and ready to adapt.

A “one-size-fits-all approach” to higher education is no longer an option. **We're creating new ways to serve students** wherever they may be in their educational — and life — experiences.



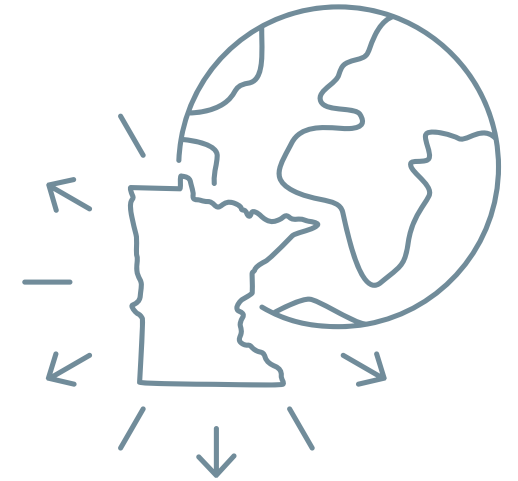
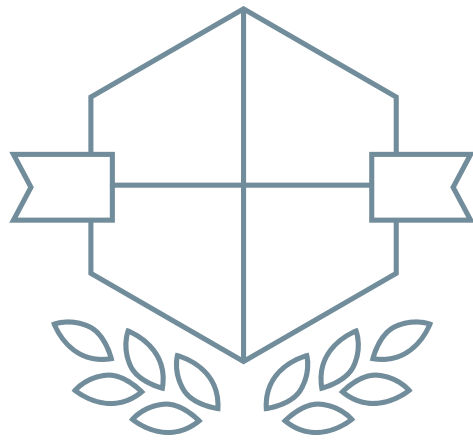


We are
TAKING CONTROL
of our future.

We are
**CHALLENGING THE HISTORIC
MODEL OF STATE UNIVERSITIES**
to meet the changing needs
and expectations of our
students and communities.

We are
FOCUSED ON GROWTH
by offering programs
that provide students with even
more relevant academic experiences
in an intellectually vibrant, inclusive
and diverse campus community.

HOW WE ARE DOING IT



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

We prioritize the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and engage in intentional actions to address systemic inequities throughout the University.

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

INSPIRING TEACHER-SCHOLARS

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDENT SUCCESS

EXTENDED UNIVERSITY REACH

FOUR DISTINCT AREAS OF FOCUS

HOLISTIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP
ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE

We are growing our nationally recognized programs and strengthening our foundation in the liberal arts.

Delivering a world-changing education with “teacher-scholars”

Professionals who are top-notch teachers and renowned researchers in their fields. Our faculty invite students into the research process to create new knowledge, make discoveries, and solve problems.

Engaging students with personalized experiences

Being a Husky means more than showing up for class and accumulating credits; it's about belonging. With a focus on individualized support, Our Husky Experience is tailored to meet students where they are in the learning process and to help guide a clear pathway for their future.

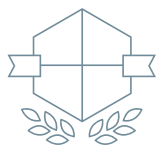
Expanding our reach

We will extend our reach in Minnesota and beyond to create opportunities for educational access for students who stop out or want to reengage in their educational experience.



Icon Key

Throughout this booklet, we will be sharing examples of *It's Time* in action. Refer to the icon key below to identify the *It's Time* elements each example connects to.



**ACADEMIC
DISTINCTION**



**INSPIRING
TEACHER-SCHOLARS**



**INDIVIDUALIZED
STUDENT SUCCESS**



**EXTENDED
UNIVERSITY REACH**



**DIVERSITY, EQUITY
AND INCLUSION**

It's Time in ACTION



Prioritizing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At SCSU, we are making significant strides in advancing equity and inclusion. The Antiracism Institute demonstrates St. Cloud State's commitment to invest in new and innovative projects intentionally designed to dismantle systemic racism through teaching and research. Faculty involved in the Antiracism Institute facilitate conversations and projects to integrate antiracism throughout the institution and its policies and practices.

“*Our goal is to collaborate across the institution to identify and break down ... barriers.”***”**

Led by faculty, SCSU's Antiracism Institute collaborates with students, staff, faculty, administrators and the community to develop projects that lead to racial equity and engage in antiracist teaching, learning, research and social change. As part of the Institute, faculty holds regular workshops with teachers to improve teaching with an anti-racist mindset by having conversations about how race is baked into the work they do as scholars and teachers and to challenge the traditional notions of classroom assessments to identify more equitable measures of success for all.

For example, through the institute, faculty look at what professors teach, how they teach and how students learn to help students be successful in school and beyond. This approach benefits students by providing tools to help them understand the diverse world around them and instills the importance of equity not only on campus but in the community, their lives after graduation, and the world.

“In addition to the work we are doing in the classroom, we also realize the student experience is also impacted by what happens outside the classroom,” said Kyoko Kishimoto, Professor of Ethnic and Women's Studies and Co-founder of the Antiracism Institute at SCSU.

“In the past, as educators, we've been told that if students aren't doing well, it was because they weren't prepared, which puts the weight on students. We want to switch that to focus on understanding what we need to do to be student ready institutions, which calls on us as faculty and staff to teach and interact with students in different ways than in the past. For example, digging in to find out what are the barriers for students. Is it buying textbooks? Figuring out housing? Navigating the admissions processes? All of these things impact a student's experience. Our goal is to collaborate across the institution to identify and break down these barriers.”



We are aligning our efforts with **Equity 2030**, a strategic vision that supports every Minnesota State college and university in closing the educational equity gaps across race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geographic location by the end of the decade.

(minnstate.edu/Equity2030)



Individualized Student Success

NO MORE ONE-SIZE FITS ALL

At its core, *It's Time* is focused on serving our students, and because of this, the Husky Experience is what sets St. Cloud State apart. By providing Husky Student Success Advisors combined with a world-class education that provides the tools and critical thinking skills needed to succeed, our graduates leave St. Cloud State prepared to meet the ever-evolving and changing needs of organizations in our region, state and world. Being a Husky is about belonging and contributing to something greater.



Our Husky Experience puts students first. Our commitment to each student's individual success starts on day one and continues through graduation.

Our Husky Experience includes two main elements:

- 1 Husky Student Success Advisors
- 2 HuskiesAdvance

1 Husky Student Success Advisors

Challenges facing college students today are as diverse and nuanced as students themselves. That's why St. Cloud State provides individualized support through our Husky Student Success Advisors, striving to help all Huskies achieve academic goals and overcome challenges at any point in their college experience. This level of individualized support is rare for universities of our size.

Launched in Fall 2020, all incoming students are assigned a Husky Student Success Advisor who remains with them from admission to graduation, to ensure students have the support they need when they need it. Our advisors guide students throughout the stages of the admission process, registration and orientation, the transition to university life and through their entire college career. This is a holistic approach to advising as they serve as problem solvers and strategists for success, in addition to the connections students have with faculty and mentors.

Husky Student Success Advisors help students navigate challenges in academics, life, health, mental health or any challenge they might face at any time through their college experience. Students reach out to advisors when they don't know what they need or don't know where to start. Each student retains the same advisor through

their entire college career, helping to foster a strong relationship of trust and support.

"Through all the changes that students experience in a university setting, they have an advisor that is a constant part of their support team," said Kayla Justice, former Husky Student Success Advisor. "The core tenet of this whole program is holistic support. We're here to help students navigate all of it."



We strive to be a student-ready university ... We need to meet [students'] diverse needs and realities."

"We strive to be a student-ready university. Our students are diverse. They are first generation students, students of color, transfer students, international students, students with disabilities, veterans," says Dr. Feng-Ling Johnson, Dean of University College and Associate Vice President for Student Success at St. Cloud State. "We need to meet their diverse needs and realities."



For more on how St. Cloud State University offers multi-layered, individualized support to help students thrive in class and in life, scan the QR code or visit <https://itstime.startribune.com/studentsuccess.html>

2 HuskiesAdvance

Launched in Fall 2021 as an *It's Time* initiative, HuskiesAdvance is a holistic approach to learning, with students designing an experience in addition to their major that fits their professional and personal goals by earning certificates in one of six specific areas of interest: environmental sustainability, social justice, international engagement, entrepreneurship, leadership and civic engagement. This approach allows for a richer and more well-rounded educational experience. Students engage in planning their learning portfolio early on and quickly learn how their education builds their knowledge, practical skills, and confidence. The distinction is noted on their transcript.

"We're investing in our students in a deeper, broader way than we've ever been able to do in the past," said Peggy Sarnicki, Director of HuskiesAdvance. "It's a new way of looking at education."

After selecting a track, each student is paired with a faculty member who has applied to be a mentor. Together, the student and mentor develop an individualized plan that encompasses courses, on-campus experiences, and off-campus experiences that relate to their track and interests. Throughout the program, mentors answer students' questions, discuss their experiences, and tie everything back to career readiness.

For example, Sarnicki serves as a mentor to a student in the leadership track.

"We talk about the on- and off-campus experiences in which she stepped in and became a leader and how to talk about those experiences in relation to future career opportunities. I say, 'You didn't have the title, but you stepped in. As you're talking to employers, here's how you talk about that experience in terms of leadership.' Or, 'This situation that happened in your student organization, and what you did was demonstrating conflict management — real life skills that employers are looking for outside of a degree.'"

HUSKIESADVANCE TRACKS



Environmental Sustainability
Support the health and welfare of current and future ecological systems and build a sustainable planet.



Social Justice
Address inequalities in wealth, privilege, and access based on differences in identity.



International Engagement
Understand our world and expand your knowledge of countries and cultures.



Entrepreneurship
Create, invent, and determine your economic future as you develop innovative solutions.



Leadership
Inspire and effect positive change in organizations and communities.



Civic Engagement
Participate and lead in public life to create positive change.



Providing Opportunity Through Professional Selling

St. Cloud State's Professional Selling Specialization (PSS) features a unique and highly effective state-of-the-art sales lab, providing a learning environment for students to role-play sales presentations in an interactive, realistic business setting. The Northwestern Mutual Sales Lab has been so successful that the construction of a second lab began in the summer of 2022.

Isaac Winters, a recent St. Cloud State Business graduate who completed the PSS program, recalled a moment during one exercise where many variables changed at last minute.

"We were coached by professors on how to appropriately respond in those situations, to develop the skill set to be able to think critically and develop solutions on the fly," said Winters, who used his skills to land his first sales rep position for a Twin Cities based software firm shortly after graduating.

To complement the hands-on experience in the Northwestern Mutual Sales Lab, students enrolled in the program also have the opportunity to participate in a professional selling competition, which is held each fall and spring term. This competition gives PSS students the opportunity to test and refine their selling

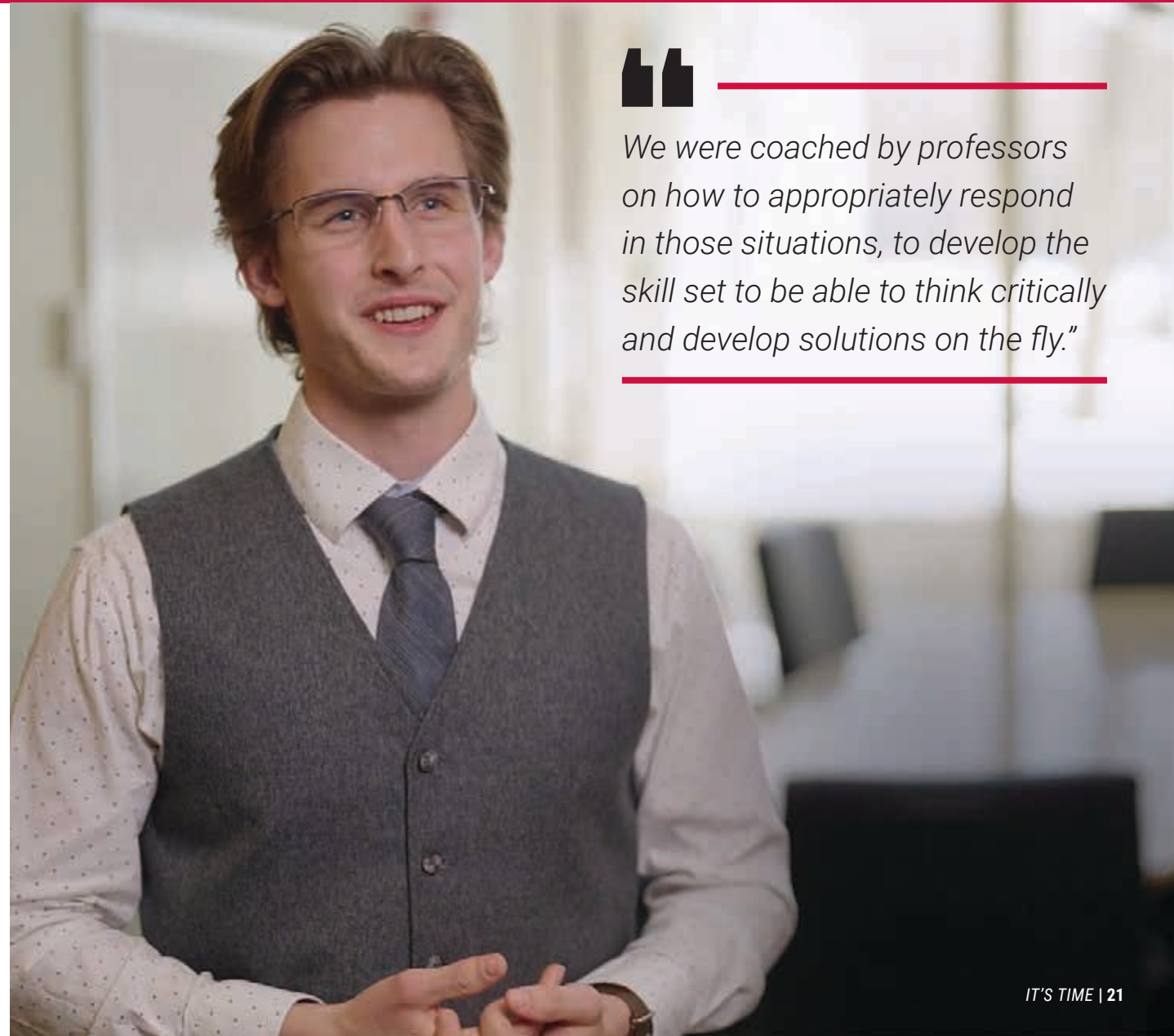
skills in a real-world, real-time selling environment while receiving feedback, evaluation and mentoring from top sales professionals working in the field. The competition also provides an opportunity for networking and, as a result, many of the students who participate leave with internships and job offers.

Listed by the Sales Education Foundation (SEF) as one of the Top North American Sales Schools, the PSS is gaining both local and national recognition for its track record of producing highly qualified sales professionals, and as a result has recently received a \$1 million grant from Alumni Per Rasmussen ('86) and Nina Akage ('86) for a newly endowed Professional Selling Institute. This endowment is funding professional selling scholarships for students as well as externships and research for faculty. It also provides state-of-the-art learning facilities and technology for students across the University campus, regardless of major.

Due to its success in meeting the needs of the current workforce, the PSS program has virtually 100% placement, with students landing jobs all over the country and around the world.

One of the important elements of the *It's Time* work is to create programs of distinction that provide our students with real-world training and skills that employers are seeking out and need.

As part of the Herberger Business School, the Professional Selling Specialization (PSS) program helps meet the needs of the ever-growing professional selling and sales management fields, and strengthens students' competitive advantage as they begin and pursue their careers. The specialization provides students with the essential communication, leadership, professional selling and sales management skills to succeed. It is open to students of any major — a unique aspect that sets St. Cloud State's PSS program apart.



We were coached by professors on how to appropriately respond in those situations, to develop the skill set to be able to think critically and develop solutions on the fly."



Teacher-Scholar Model Combines Learning With Hands-on, Real-World Learning Experiences



What is a teacher-scholar?

Through a teacher-scholar model, professors are not only expected to engage in active research and publishing in their field of study but also to include students in their practice of inquiry, directly as assistants and by incorporating discovery into their curriculum. Frequently, teaching itself becomes a topic for research as well.

The University's teacher-scholar model combines faculty members' traditional role of teaching in the classroom along with actively researching in their fields. Students are often a vital part of this research, giving them real world experience in the classroom to enhance and often accelerate their learning. This model of integrating research, scholarship and creative work with students creates a culture of innovation by bringing new approaches to teaching and learning by allowing faculty to return to the classroom with relevant examples and up-to-date perspectives.

For Dr. Melissa Hanzsek-Brill, Professor of Mathematics Education, the teacher-scholar model has been instrumental for her students, the University, current teachers and the community.

In the classroom, Dr. Hanzsek-Brill is focused on producing teachers who love and understand learning. She provides students with active, hands-on group activities that break the norm of the traditional STEM program's model of working alone. Outside of class, she involves her students in grant work and research, offering a unique opportunity most students don't experience until grad school.

During her time at SCSU, Dr. Hanzsek-Brill has implemented several new, innovative and proven practices in her classroom to enhance the learning experience, including the Learning Assistance (LA) model, in which undergraduate students who, through the guidance of a weekly preparation session and pedagogy course are placed in a university classroom to assist current students with learning. This method has been instrumental in providing relevant, hands-on instruction which, in turn, has helped students complete STEM courses at higher success rates, especially among females and unrepresented minorities.

Learning doesn't stop at the University's borders, and neither does Dr. Hanzsek-Brill's work as an educator. As part of her work, she adopts a local classroom every year to gain perspective on what's currently happening and how she can use these learnings to help teach future teachers to address the needs and challenges happening in today's classrooms.

In 2019, working alongside one of her students, Dr. Hanzsek-Brill saw a need for more math literacy programs for young learners. She created a local educational foundation called

Parents and Kids Counting A lot Together (PAKCAT) — a collaborative project between SCSU and the St. Cloud school district. PAKCAT aims to improve quantitative literacy and school preparedness through an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates increased caregiver involvement. To ensure the learning is accessible to all learners, each activity bag is available in three languages (English, Spanish and Somali) and includes simple instructions, pictures and QR codes to videos.

"Centered around play, the PAKCAT program was designed to give young learners access to math materials, just like access to books in

libraries," Dr. Hanzsek-Brill said. "We want to normalize learning math just like reading, and this program does that."

The PAKCAT program has now expanded to local Somali-owned preschools which feed into the St. Cloud district. For this work, Dr. Hanzsek-Brill was awarded the Phil Welter Volunteer Service Award in 2020 from the Local Education and Activities Foundation.

National Science Foundation Grants

As a teacher-scholar at SCSU, Dr. Hanzsek-Brill has received two National Science Foundation Grants totalling \$3.2 million dollars that are being used to not only provide scholarships to students interested in pursuing careers in STEM fields, but also to fund research on ways higher education can make the student experience better and encourage more diverse students to finish the program successfully.



The Minnesota Institute of Technology Drives Collaboration Across Discipline and Careers



Technology touches all aspects of people’s lives — from work and education to home life and recreational activities.

Because of this impact and the undeniable role that technology plays across our lives, SCSU took a bold and innovative step in integrating technology throughout departments and disciplines across campus by creating The Minnesota Institute of Technology at St. Cloud State University (TMIT), the first of its kind in Minnesota.

TMIT expands opportunities for students and puts technology at the heart of the learning process across departments and disciplines, giving students real-world learning opportunities and experiences to ensure that they are well equipped for how technology will impact their future careers.

“Technology should be a programmatic focus in every academic area,” said Dr. Adel Ali, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering and Director of School of Computing, Engineering and Environment at SCSU. “The departments working together will not be a once-in-awhile thing. It will be intentional.”



Experiential learning opportunities are going to increase, and I’ve seen that change students’ lives.”

TMIT is an extension of St. Cloud State is an extension of the successful partnerships and ongoing research of the Integrated Science and Engineering Laboratory Facility (ISELF), which opened in 2013 as a multi-disciplinary facility for collaboration, experiential learning and innovation. The institute provides a university-wide process for interdisciplinary work. This marks a significant expansion of interdisciplinary research and development of emerging technologies designed to solve problems and meet workforce demands.

An example of this intersectionality with technology is in healthcare training. Nursing students use virtual reality to supplement hands-on in-person care when clinical spots

aren’t available. These students are also learning about and studying how to provide care via telemedicine, which has been increasingly popular with the pandemic.

Other examples include public affairs with geographic information system technology, and the ethics of business and data.

A big part of TMIT is incorporating industry and community partnerships.

“Traditionally you think of college as a place to get an education, but increasingly it’s about that and the community,” said Dr. King Banaian, Dean of School of Public Affairs at SCSU. “We’re opening up different places where community members can come to get problems solved, and

at the same time we’re training students and faculty. The Minnesota Institute of Technology changes our faculty and students as much as it helps our partners and communities.”

These collaborations create individualized student experiences and open more opportunities for the number of internships available, Banaian said.

“Experiential learning opportunities are going to increase, and I’ve seen that change students’ lives,” Banaian said. “TMIT is a place where more discovery can happen and can create graduates who are happier in that first job.”



For more information about The Minnesota Institute of Technology, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/tmit>.



Creating a Center for International Disability Advocacy and Diplomacy

Drs. Amy Hebert Knopf and Kathryn Johnson have a shared passion for inclusivity, especially because of their work within the deaf community. This passion instantly bonded them when they met at St. Cloud State University years ago, and it is a big part of what fueled the start of the Center for International Disability Advocacy and Diplomacy (CIDAD) at SCSU, which launched in November 2020.

“The 1 billion people with disabilities are the most marginalized group in the whole world,” Hebert Knopf said. “Many of these individuals don’t have access to language or personal performance tools and role models in order to build self-efficacy, which leads to better career and employment. That’s where our passion comes in – being able to help individuals with disabilities build up their skills so they can have the capacity for leadership in their own countries.”

The Center for International Disability Advocacy and Diplomacy (CIDAD) at SCSU is a University center and hub for interdisciplinary research and advocacy to promote the rights of people with disabilities locally and globally. Herbert Knopf and Johnson work together for the center’s mission as founders and co-directors and focus on the CIDAD’s five pillars.

Since its inception, the CIDAD has already made great strides. One example of the work

so far is expanding upon relationships Hebert Knopf and Johnson established with a school for the deaf in China. CIDAD has created space at SCSU to host deaf interns and scholars from this school. For even further reach, the CIDAD will welcome the first cohort of students for the Deaf Leadership Certificate in August 2023. Many of these students will help conduct research through the Assistive Technology Lab on campus at SCSU. Plus, the center has already hosted several international events for further education and advocacy for people with disabilities, and looks to do even more in the future.

“In the area of diplomacy, people with disabilities are often left out,” Johnson said. “We’re advancing the idea of inclusive diplomacy, inclusive education abroad, and really understanding how students with disabilities participate in education worldwide.”



THE FIVE PILLARS OF CIDAD

1

Strengthening cross-cultural knowledge and understanding through global academies

2

Developing strategic networks and partnerships for advancing the U.S. CRPD

3

Promoting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities through education and training

4

Promoting scholarly research, training and development

5

Promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility at all levels of public policy and diplomacy



Transforming Lives Through the Applied Behavioral Analysis Program and Autism Discovery Center

St. Cloud State University's applied behavior analysis master's degree program provides students the opportunity to transform lives. These students learn by working directly with patients and their families affected by autism spectrum disorders to determine strategies that work best for their unique situations. The rigorous program consistently ranks among the top graduate programs that are available online. As the need for professionals in applied behavior analysis grows across the country and globally, SCSU's program serves students on campus as well as internationally, reaching students and helping communities across the globe. Intercultural awareness is built into every aspect of the program, allowing students to meet the needs of families from all types of backgrounds.

SCSU's small-by-design cohort sizes bring students individualized support and connection every step of the way. Students engage in research projects that are completely student-chosen and led, with strong and consistent faculty support.



As a graduate assistant working with the on-campus clinic, I was able to work as a behavioral analyst before actually working in the field using the most up-to-date research."

"From the people I've met with similar degrees and backgrounds, the SCSU program is so hands-on and my professors went the extra mile to make sure we were fully prepared and received a well-rounded experience," said Cassidy Lehrke, recent SCSU ABA Master's degree graduate, 2020 Community Psychology graduate and SCSU Soccer student athlete. "As a graduate assistant working with the on-campus clinic, I was able to work as a

behavioral analyst before actually working in the field using the most up-to-date research to inform decisions. I also did a practicum and internship at our state conference, another extra opportunity that my professors encouraged me to do. Today, I am a behavior analyst working with kids who have autism, and I'm so excited to help kids in the community."

SCSU's ABA faculty share their expertise, research and scholarship opportunities with students beyond autism spectrum disorder to share how to apply what they learn to a broader population, including organizational behavior management, foster care, emotional disorders and people who are suffering from brain injuries.

On the horizon, SCSU is launching a first-of-its-kind PsyD program in Minnesota that will prepare students to hit the ground running as successful clinic leaders immediately after graduating. Through a partnership with SCSU's Herberger Business School, our students will be equipped with business management acumen — so not only will students graduate as behavior analysis experts, but will also understand what to look for in resources that will help them grow and run an effective and efficient clinic.



New Autism Discovery Center

SCSU's new, donor-funded Linda '74 and Richard Offerdahl Autism Discovery Center brings students cutting-edge, research-based learning through both traditional in-home care and telehealth practices. Through this unique campus-based center, students work with patients and families in the St. Cloud area, providing a true training clinic and resource for the community. Students apply what they're learning in the classroom, working with patients and families on everything from behavior management and skill acquisition to social skills and preparing them to attend school. SCSU's center prepares students to thrive as practitioners, and the upcoming PsyD program will prepare students to hit the ground running as successful clinic leaders immediately after graduating.



Popularity of Gaming Turns Into Careers and Community Building

The new esports program gives students a sense of belonging, and opportunities for gaining skills for future careers.



The increasing popularity of the online gaming industry has made it undeniable that many St. Cloud State University students are likely to be gamers. Now these students can explore ways to turn their interests into a career, and they have space to gather — both physically and virtually — as SCSU builds its esports program.

Launched in 2021 as part of the University's *It's Time* vision and its focus on delivering academic programs of distinction while providing an individualized student experience, the esports program offers unique opportunities. Students gain exposure to, and develop skills in, translating gaming interests into a potential career. Even more importantly, as students organize around gaming activities, they benefit from being part of a community of Huskies with similar interests and varied strengths. All Huskies are welcome as program leaders intentionally recruit women and people of color to engage through the technology, competition, and community gatherings. SCSU project leaders Daryl Scholz and Chris Stanley have stepped up as the esports program organizers.

"We've seen tremendous interest, especially from perspective students, in esports not only because it is a growing area of interest, but because a program like this creates an environment of community and belonging that students who come to our campus are seeking," Scholz said. "With the addition of esports, we offer a program that interests students and provides valuable preparation for careers in the industry. It also creates a holistic college experience for students as they connect to the program and each other."

As St. Cloud State University continues to attract a more diverse student body, including international and non-traditional students enrolling in the University for professional or accelerated degrees, esports offers a way for all to feel a part of the community, even while not physically on campus.

"Our student population varies so much from geography and age to non-traditional students who attend classes from different locations and are not on campus but still want to feel as though they belong to the St. Cloud State



What is unique about our approach is that it includes three important aspects of esports — academic degrees to prepared students for esports careers, recreational opportunities and a chance to be on our competitive team playing against other universities"

community," Stanley said. "With esports, they participate in a virtual community 24/7 from wherever they are. It is a great way for students to get engaged."

As part of the esports program, SCSU has set up two campus esports lounges. Plus, the University has also created an esports living community where students interested in the program can choose to live in a residence hall with others interested in esports. In Fall 2022, the competitive Rocket League team was established along with an Esports Management minor offered by the Herberger Business

School. Students can also earn a Game Development Certificate.

"Our investment in esports is centered on building a sense of community and preparing students for careers of the future," Stanley said. "Aligning with *It's Time*, and through esports, we are extremely excited about our focus on the connections between the quality of our student experience and our excellent academic programs, and how these come together to create careers that are market relevant."



Graduate Degrees with Real-World Flexibility

Often, when it comes to pursuing an advanced degree, one of the biggest hurdles is time. As St. Cloud State continues to find new ways to meet students where they are at, flexibility is key – especially for working adult learners. St. Cloud State offers a variety of online graduate programs in both business and education with 100% online learning options that are affordable, offering the flexibility needed to meet the real-world demands of today’s learners – and today’s workforce and businesses.

Master of Business Administration

In each concentration, students delve into real-world learning opportunities, reflect on businesses’ roles and responsibilities in society, and learn what it takes to be a game-changer. These concentrations also allow students to experience a curriculum grounded in ethics, sustainability, leadership, communication and critical thinking.

Furthermore, students learn from some of the most skilled and highly respected faculty and staff at one of the top accredited business schools in the country. St. Cloud State’s Herberger Business School MBA is one of just two programs in Minnesota to be accredited by the AACSB, the world’s leading business-school accrediting agency, for more than 45 years.

In addition to now offering these 100% online graduate programs, St. Cloud State took that flexibility one step further by offering graduate programs within the business schools in a

“carousel model.” Students can begin their program at six different timeframes throughout the year versus the traditional option of enrolling only during fall or spring semesters. This allows students to not only start their graduate degree program right away, but also allows the flexibility to start at a time of year that best fits their schedules.

“For students who are interested in pursuing an advanced degree, the biggest hurdle often is time and being able to adjust busy life schedules to fit the schedules and enrollment deadlines of the program,” said Brandon Johnson, Executive Director of Academic Resources. “At St. Cloud State, we don’t want this to be a hurdle any longer. By providing the flexibility to start when it makes most sense and by offering the program 100% online, we’re providing more pathways to successfully pursuing an advanced degree.”

A Global Future

International partnerships give students worldwide perspectives

As people become more connected than ever before, St. Cloud State University wants to ensure its students are set up for a future that includes diverse interactions and an international outlook.

As part of the *It’s Time* initiative, SCSU is dedicated to extending its global reach to give students a wider and more diverse learning experience. Through its Center for International Studies, SCSU has options for international interaction both abroad and on-campus in central Minnesota. In addition to offering over 45 study abroad programs, SCSU opens its campus to more than 1,200 international students from over 96 different countries each year. This accounts for about 12% of SCSU’s student body.

“We’re a very global campus,” said Jacob Mercer, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services. “The opportunity to interact with other students from other cultures to build skills and experiences enriches everyone involved by bringing in different

perspectives that are relevant to the real world.” As part of this work, SCSU has a long-standing and strong partnership with Rikkyo University in Tokyo, the highest nationally ranked university in Japan. This partnership started over 20 years ago, and each semester, St. Cloud State welcomes a cohort of more than 20 students to campus.

“This is a shining star of what you hope a partnership would look like with any university,” Mercer said. “Not only do the (Rikkyo University) students have a great experience here. They build great relationships and communities. And they’re sticking around with many of them staying more than the usual one or two semesters.”

“The job market is becoming increasingly global,” Mercer said. “Employers are looking for people with cross-cultural skills who are able to work with a diverse team, and individuals who are open to a variety of viewpoints based in a variety of cultures. The more globally minded you can be, the better.”

By the Numbers

45+
study abroad programs

96
countries represented by international students on campus every year

1,200
international students on campus every year

12%
international students of SCSU’s student body

30
institutional international partnerships with SCSU

95%

of graduates employed within their field within one year of graduation

TOP TEN

Most military friendly® schools in the nation



BOLD
INNOVATIVE
FOCUSED

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OUR TIME IS **NOW.**



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