

Message about the Tobacco Use Policy

July 31, 2012

Earl H. Potter III, President, St. Cloud State University

This week St. Cloud State University takes the final step in its transition to a tobacco-free campus. With this action, we join 28 other colleges and universities in Minnesota – including five other MnSCU state universities – that have instituted such a policy.

I appreciate the thoughtful and respectful dialogue among students, faculty and staff that led up to this decision. Throughout the 22-month process that brought our campus to this juncture, all involved listened to all sides of this complex issue. Clearly this discussion could not result in an outcome that would please everyone. Ultimately the choice was made to put first the wishes and rights of the majority as well as the health and well-being of all in our campus community.

As we have stated before, exceptions to the policy will be allowed in accordance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, which permits tobacco use in traditional Native American ceremonies, scientific studies and theatrical productions. Also, tobacco use will continue to be permitted inside private vehicles on university property as long as respect for individuals and the environment is demonstrated.

Information about the review process, the complete policy and supportive resources regarding this issue is available at www.stcloudstate.edu/tobaccofree.

The university's commitment to providing a healthy, safe environment, as well as the wealth of research documenting health risks associated with tobacco use, the assessments of regional and national trends and input from the campus community have provided the rationale for this policy.

We will continue to offer education, awareness, support and cessation services to students and employees. Efforts will be made via signage, print, our website, stcloudstate.edu/tobaccofree, and other means of communication to inform the campus community and visitors of the new policy. If you have concerns about the implementation or enforcement of this policy change, please contact the Tobacco Use Policy Implementation and Sustainability Committee, TUPISC@stcloudstate.edu.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Earl H. Potter III
President
St. Cloud State University