



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTION

PROJECT/REQUEST

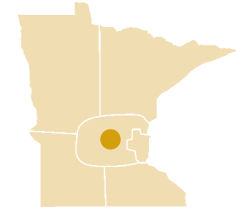
LOCATION

## St. Cloud State University

St. Cloud

Science Initiative of  
Central Minnesota

\$1,000,000



### Project at a Glance

- Public and private partnership that seeks to build the base of employment in science-based industries in central Minnesota, with emphasis on firms providing services or products to the health care manufacturing, agricultural and food processing industries
- Increase economic development activity through new, expanded and retained businesses in central Minnesota

### Project Description

The Science Initiative of Central Minnesota is designed to build the science-based industries employment base. The emphasis is on companies that provide services or products to the health care manufacturing, agricultural and food processing industries. This initiative will increase economic development activity that benefits citizens and business throughout the region.

The science initiative began two years ago when a group of concerned community leaders came together to discuss how to counteract central Minnesota's loss of traditional manufacturing jobs. The group agreed that creating a new

manufacturing focus around the science-based and bioscience industry sector made sense. With three major universities, an outstanding technical college and many other supplementary training organizations, the St. Cloud area is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of such manufacturing. The initiative will bring higher-wage jobs and more security to workers in the community.

The need for customized curriculum and training for businesses seeking to expand or relocate can be served by a wide variety of formal education and training opportunities. To be successful, however, programs need to be retooled and fine-tuned to meet the needs of future employers and the workforce. The participating higher education institutions – St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical College, St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict – are known and respected for their ability to customize curriculum and programs to meet the specific needs of area employers.

### Long-Range Vision

- Partnering organizations will expand educational and training services to targeted science-based industries,



*A science initiative led by St. Cloud State University is aimed at increasing economic development in central Minnesota.*

- and the community's employment base will have opportunities for higher-income jobs in new and emerging industries
- A marketing and sales effort has begun with the hiring of a consultant who represents the community to business prospects and participates in industry events
- As the initiative evolves, the St. Cloud area will develop a wider reputation for having an educational system that can meet specialized, emerging workforce and training needs, and for its economic advantages to targeted science-based industries looking to expand

### Performance Measures

Expected outcomes after two years include:

- Four defined programs to support science-based manufacturing in development or in existence at one or more area higher education facilities
- A multi-institutional health science education plan with projected funding to operate a virtual or physical health science education center in the community
- Two or more new companies in existence or planned in the community and forecast to provide at least 200 new jobs by 2008

- Identified expansion of local or new industries creating at least 200 additional jobs (exclusive of the health care delivery system unless identified as a result of this effort, i.e., additional clinical trials attracted to CentraCare Health System)
- An evaluation and succession plan for continuation of the effort after initial startup or “proof of concept” phase

**Lead Institution:**

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**Project Collaborators**

- St. Cloud State University (lead campus)
- St. Cloud Technical College
- St. John’s University
- College of St. Benedict
- CentraCare Health System
- St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
- The Initiative Foundation
- The St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership
- Minnesota Workforce Center
- Xcel Energy
- Stearns Electric Cooperative Association
- East Central Energy
- Gray Plant Mooty, PA
- Netgain Technology



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