

# ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

## SEARCH PROFILE

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## THE OPPORTUNITY

St. Cloud State University (SCSU) seeks a visionary and collaborative president with the experience and passion to lead a strong institution into its next phase of growth and success. Reporting to the Chancellor of Minnesota State, the president serves as the chief executive officer of the university, authentically serving the students, faculty and staff of the institution while connecting the university to St. Cloud and surrounding communities.

## OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and serving over 10,000 students, SCSU has been honored by Colleges of Distinction in eight categories for its commitment to engaged, experiential undergraduate education and its meaningful impact on students' lives. SCSU earned distinction in business, education, engineering, nursing, affordability, career development, international and military support.

St. Cloud is a vibrant and thriving Central Minnesota community, offering the warmth of a close-knit city and a thriving business community. SCSU's campus stretches along the scenic Mississippi River, where walking trails, gardens, and outdoor gathering spaces create a picturesque backdrop for daily life. Historic architecture blends seamlessly with modern academic facilities, while the riverfront location offers both peaceful retreats and easy access to the heart of downtown. Students, faculty, and staff enjoy a rich blend of traditions, cultural events, and athletic pride, all within an environment that values innovation, collaboration, and community engagement. This unique setting provides not only a balanced and engaging university experience for students but also a welcoming and dynamic workplace for professionals who want to make a meaningful impact.



## OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW, *CONTINUED*

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND REGIONAL IMPACT

St. Cloud State University is deeply rooted in Central Minnesota, with strong opportunities to serve the region's workforce and economic development while embracing a broader, global perspective. SCSU is seeking a president who will champion partnerships with local industries, technical and community colleges, and civic organizations to create clear pathways from education to employment. The university's location in St. Cloud and proximity to the Twin Cities offers the best of both worlds: close-knit community connections alongside metropolitan access. The president's leadership should deepen engagement, strengthen the institution's role as a regional convener, and ensure graduates are prepared to contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of Central Minnesota and beyond.

### STUDENT-CENTERED MISSION AND EXPERIENCE

SCSU has a proud tradition of access and excellence, serving many first-generation and historically marginalized students. The university serves as an engine for social mobility through its commitment to meeting students where they are, whether they are traditional undergraduates, international students, adult learners, or online students. The next president will work collaboratively across the university to strengthen the sense of belonging, broaden student experiences beyond the classroom, and ensure holistic support for student well-being. Leveraging the university's strengths in excellent teaching, hands-on learning, and strong job placement, the new president will increase philanthropic support, enhance retention, strengthen academic programs, and expand co-curricular and career development opportunities.

### REPUTATION, PRIDE, AND STORY-TELLING

The next president will be the chief advocate and champion for the university and will fortify SCSU's reputation and pride in the institution. The community will welcome a leader who will celebrate SCSU's achievements and tell its story compellingly. The president should be visible, vocal, and able to articulate and implement a clear vision for the future. With over 130,000 alumni worldwide and strong local support, there is untapped potential to engage a vast network of support for the university.

### VISIONARY AND COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

SCSU is at a critical inflection point that requires a courageous leader with the ability to build consensus for difficult decisions. The president should be a servant leader who listens to all voices, respects shared governance, and builds trust among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the broader community. The president must bring operational realism and a clear strategic vision that differentiates SCSU, aligns resources with priorities, strengthens morale, and positions SCSU to thrive in a changing higher education landscape. A successful leader will embrace both innovation and tradition, ensuring the university's identity is clear, relevant, and forward-looking.

### FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY AND STRATEGIC GROWTH

Budget challenges are a reality, which will require difficult decisions, but at the same time there are opportunities to diversify revenue streams and grow enrollment through targeted recruitment and program development. The next president should be adept at fundraising, cultivating major gifts, and leveraging partnerships to bring new resources to the university. The president should focus on high-demand academic areas, building on SCSU's strengths, and aligning offerings with workforce and community needs. With a sound financial strategy, the university can invest in revitalizing its riverfront campus, enhancing facilities, and supporting the programs that make SCSU a destination for students in Minnesota and beyond.



**17:1**  
Student/Faculty Ratio

**100+**  
Student clubs and  
organizations

**8,000+**  
SCSU students are from  
Minnesota

**38%**  
First generation  
undergraduate students



NCAA TEAMS

**2**

*Division I Teams*

**15**

*Division II Teams*



## ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

St. Cloud State University has a rich history of serving the people of Minnesota. The University began in 1869 as the Third State Normal School, created for the sole purpose of educating primary school teachers to teach in Minnesota's schools.

Since the founding of St. Cloud State, the mission has evolved as the needs of the state and region changed, from offering a junior college curriculum in 1898, to a Teacher's College in 1921, to a university in 1975. The University began operating its Alnwick, England location in 1986 and Twin Cities location in 2007, the same year applied doctorate degrees were first offered. The main campus sits on 100 acres between downtown St. Cloud and the banks of the Mississippi River, and St. Cloud is 20th on Forbes magazine's "Best Small Places for Businesses and Careers."

SCSU is part of the Minnesota State system, which is the largest single provider of higher education in the state with 33 institutions, including seven state universities and 26 community and technical colleges. The University is proud of the partnerships and close relationships with the city of St. Cloud, educational entities and business, health and science industries in Central Minnesota and the Twin Cities. Minnesota is ranked as the No. 2 state for economic opportunity.

Serving more than 10,000 students, SCSU is one of the largest and diverse public universities in Minnesota. Students come from all across the United States and over 80 different countries, and SCSU has a network of over 134,000 alumni around the globe. SCSU offers nearly 100 in-demand undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs, and students have over 30 education abroad opportunities on six continents.

The University focuses on education that goes beyond the classroom, and this theory is emphasized in "Our Husky Compact," a promise the University makes to its students that they will be prepared as global citizens of the 21st Century as they participate in applied learning opportunities and real-world experiences in their field of study.



ST. CLOUD STATE  
UNIVERSITY

### MISSION

We prepare our students for life, work and citizenship in the twenty-first century.

### VISION

Through active discovery, applied knowledge and creative interaction, we positively transform our students and the communities where they live and work.

### *Our vision defined:*

St. Cloud State University makes a positive, long-term impact on the lives of our students. We provide rigorous and relevant academic experiences with engaged, active learning opportunities in an intellectually vibrant, inclusive and diverse campus community. Our graduates are well-prepared to act as responsible global citizens and professionals who remain actively connected with our University.



## ST. CLOUD STATE STATS AND FACTS

St. Cloud State University is a vibrant community of **more than 10,000 Huskies** strong with a network of **over 134,000 alumni worldwide**.

We meet workforce demands with nearly **100 in-demand undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs**.

We meet the demands of learners with **accelerated, online graduate degrees in business and education**.

We create, invent, and solve in over **100,000 square feet of state-of-the-art lab** and discovery space.

SCSU Athletics has student-athletes competing across **15 Division II teams and two Division I athletic teams**.

We are recognized by **Colleges of Distinction for Business, Nursing, Education, Engineering, Career Development, Affordability and Military Support**.

SCSU holds a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification for **community engagement**.

We are designated for being a **transfer-friendly institution** by Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Roll for six consecutive years.

We inspire and prepare for the future with faculty, student, and industry connections that result in **95% of Huskies starting their careers after graduation**.

SCSU has a **\$686.5 million** annual economic impact.



## ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS



### COLLEGES OF DISTINCTION

St. Cloud State University has been honored by Colleges of Distinction in eight categories for showing a commitment to engaged, experiential undergraduate education and making a meaningful impact on students' lives.

SCSU has earned distinction in business, education, engineering, nursing, affordability, career development, international and military support. SCSU has been recognized as a best college for five straight years.



### TRANSFER HONOR ROLL

St. Cloud State University is nationally recognized as a transfer-friendly institution for six consecutive years. SCSU has been named to Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's Transfer Honor Roll again in 2025. Awardees are noted for their excellence in the development and support of dynamic and innovative pathways for community college transfer students.

**ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY  
IS LISTED AMONG  
FORBES' TOP COLLEGES**

### SCSU HAS OVER 50 ACCREDITED DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Herberger Business School programs have been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for nearly 50 years
- 23 education programs are accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AQUEP)



## STUDENT SUCCESS

### HUSKIES ADVANCE

Huskies Advance is an award-winning program that connects students' academic majors with their passions, empowering students to choose a unique learning experience for themselves. Students are paired with mentors who connect them to resources and help launch their careers and meet personal goals. In just over three years, the program has grown to over 150 students and nearly 60 mentors actively participating.



### TOP PROGRAMS

#### Undergraduate

Nursing

Computer Science

Psychology

Biomedical Sciences

Information Systems

#### Graduate

Business Administration, MBA

Engineering Management,  
MEM

Information Assurance, MS

Higher Education & Student  
Affairs, EDD

Educational Administration  
Leadership, MS

# 95%

Graduates employed  
within their field  
within one year of  
graduation.



## AROUND CAMPUS – ST. CLOUD AND BEYOND

### FACILITIES PLAN

St. Cloud State University has revealed an ambitious new plan to create a more vibrant, connected campus environment.

The new plan calls for the removal of several of the older buildings on campus that are currently vacant, closed or underutilized to allow for more green space, creating a park-like environment in the heart of campus over the next few years.

SCSU maintains more square feet of buildings per student than any other Minnesota State institution, highlighting the need to occupy less space while enhancing the campus experience through the pedestrian walkways and increased natural spaces.



### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

St. Cloud State University stands at a pivotal moment in its history. As higher education continues to evolve, so too will our institution, transforming with purpose and vision. The next president will play a central role in shaping this future, guiding the university through a period of dynamic change and opportunity.

As a regional public institution, SCSU is embracing a bold and forward-thinking approach to serving students. We are committed to delivering a rich, pragmatic learning experience that evolves with the needs of our students and the demands of the workforce. Our transformation is grounded in our strengths, with a strategic focus on refining and elevating our most in-demand programs to meet the moment—and the future—with purpose.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### A CORNERSTONE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

Since 1869, St. Cloud State University has been a driving force in Central Minnesota—serving as both a community cornerstone and an economic engine. Deeply embedded in the region's development, SCSU fosters meaningful partnerships with local nonprofits, government agencies, and industry leaders to address shared challenges and create lasting impact. The university is an active member of key civic organizations, including the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, the Rotary Club of St. Cloud, and the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

As an anchor institution, SCSU plays a vital role in shaping the region's

workforce and economy. More than 30% of recent graduates choose to live and work within a 50-mile radius of St. Cloud, contributing their talents as educators, healthcare professionals, business leaders, and technology experts. The university's alumni generate an estimated **\$2.1 billion in annual economic impact** across Minnesota, supporting over **11,000 jobs** statewide.

Locally, SCSU contributes **\$598.8 million in annual economic impact**, sustaining more than **4,300 jobs** through university operations, capital projects, and student and visitor spending. These activities generate **\$42.8 million in tax revenue**, reinforcing the university's role as a catalyst for regional prosperity. With

a diverse academic portfolio and a global student body, SCSU continues to infuse energy, innovation, and opportunity into the Greater St. Cloud community.

**\$2.1 billion**  
in annual economic impact  
across Minnesota

**11,000**  
jobs statewide

### THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

Nestled along the scenic Mississippi River, St. Cloud offers a vibrant blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and community spirit. Known as the Granite City, it has long been a driving force in central Minnesota's economic development. Residents and visitors alike enjoy an abundance of recreational opportunities, charming neighborhoods, a revitalized historic downtown, and a thriving arts scene. Unique restaurants, local shops, and The beautiful parks and gardens add to the city's welcoming atmosphere.

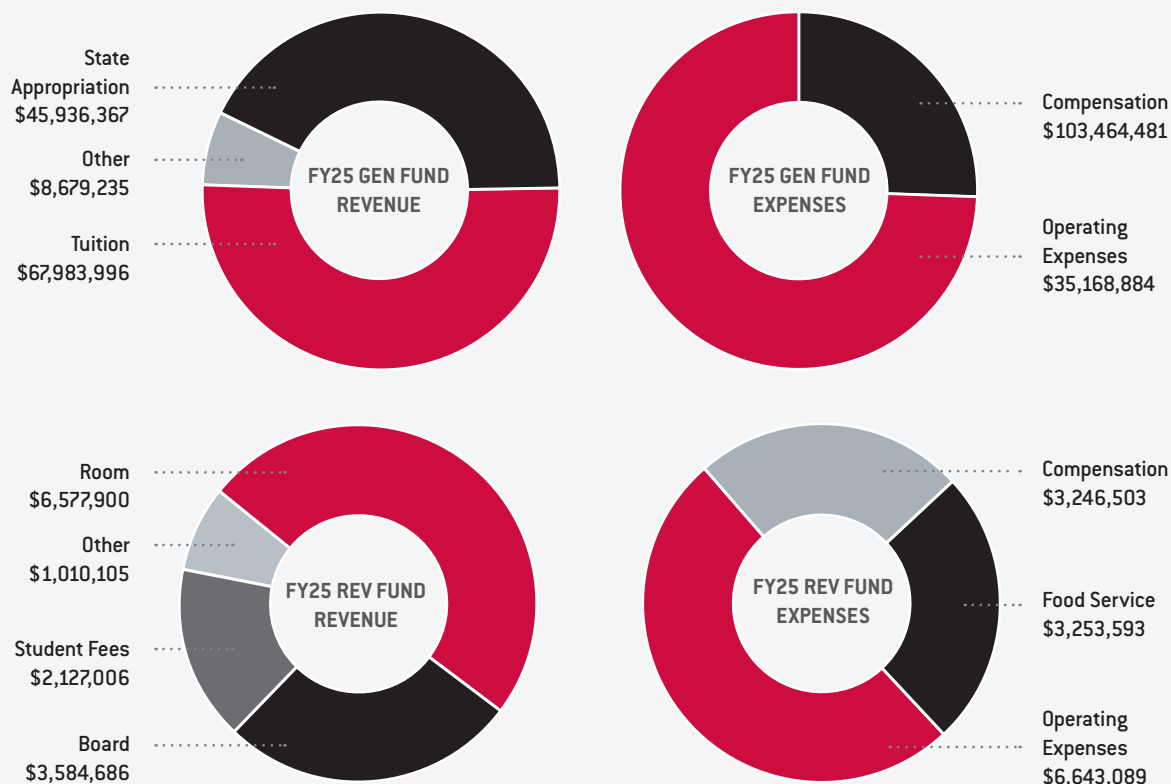
Conveniently located at the crossroads of I-94 and Highways 10, 15, and 23, St. Cloud provides easy access to the Twin Cities—just 70 miles away—and seasonal flights to sunny destinations via the St. Cloud Regional Airport. It's a community that blends opportunity, accessibility, and quality of life.



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## FINANCIALS



### ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

The St. Cloud State University Foundation was established in 1958 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization to provide a means for alumni, friends, foundations and corporations to make tax-deductible contributions in support of the university. The Foundation exists to support and enhance St. Cloud State University's ability to ignite students' learning and discovery of their gifts, their passions, and their potential contributions to society. It serves as a leading source of external support for the University.

The Foundation is governed by a board made up of professionals who share a commitment to St. Cloud State University and a willingness to invest their time, talent and treasure for the betterment of the University through fundraising and advocacy.

In the academic year 2025-2026, the SCSU Foundation will fund over 1000 scholarships for a total of almost \$1.7M. In addition, the Foundation provides crucial funds to the University to enhance strategic initiatives such as removing barriers to education, providing robust individualized student support, facilitating academic success and innovation, creating dynamic living and learning spaces and fostering a vibrant campus life and athletics experience. The SCSU Foundation currently manages an endowment portfolio of \$56M and assets totaling nearly \$60M.



## MINNESOTA STATE

At Minnesota State we provide the opportunity for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

With 26 community and technical colleges and seven state universities on 54 campuses, Minnesota State serves nearly two-thirds of the entire state's undergraduate student population, and we serve more Black, Indigenous, and students of color than all higher education providers in the state, combined.

We are committed to equitable outcomes for all our students, and in 2019 committed to eliminating educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university by the year 2030. Achieving this goal, called Equity 2030, is a moral imperative, and an economic imperative for our state as our population continues to grow more diverse, and will ensure Minnesota has the workforce it needs for generations to come. We are working toward meeting our Equity 2030 goal through hard work, robust data analysis, targeted programs to improve outcomes, and partnerships with community organizations, employers, and the state legislature.

Minnesota State employs 14,200, most of whom are represented by one of several bargaining units and personnel plans. The bargaining units include:

- » Inter Faculty Organization
- » Minnesota State College Faculty
- » Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty
- » American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
- » Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
- » Minnesota Government Engineers Council
- » Middle Management Association
- » Minnesota Nurses Association



MINNESOTA STATE

### GOVERNANCE

The 15-member Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is appointed by the Governor and has policy responsibility for system planning, academic programs, fiscal management, personnel, admissions requirements, tuition and fees, and rules and regulations. Learn more on the Board of Trustees page at [MinnState.edu/board](https://MinnState.edu/board).

### CHANCELLOR

Under the direction of the Board of Trustees, the chancellor is the executive officer of Minnesota State and is responsible for providing educational leadership to the 33 colleges and universities of Minnesota State, ensuring effective and efficient management and operation so that Minnesota State can meet the current and long-term educational and workforce development needs of all Minnesotans. Learn more on the Chancellor's Office page at [MinnState.edu/system/chancellor](https://MinnState.edu/system/chancellor).





#### MINNESOTA STATE EXTRAORDINARY FACTS

**Minnesota State is the fourth largest system** of state colleges and universities in the United States and the largest in the state with 26 colleges, 7 universities, and 54 campuses.

**We serve 270,000 students each year**, with more Black and Indigenous students, as well as students of color, attending our colleges and universities than all other higher education providers in Minnesota combined.

We offer the **lowest tuition in Minnesota**, with 55% of our college students and 59% of our university students receiving financial aid.

We **employ more than 14,200 dedicated faculty and staff** focused on student success.

We provide **4,112 academic programs**, including 893 fully online programs.

We have more than **9,600 customized and specialized training, occupational, and professional classes**.

We award more than **34,000 degrees, certificates, and diplomas** annually.

**63% of Minnesota resident students** who are pursuing an undergraduate credential are doing so at a Minnesota State college or university.

**86% of Minnesota State students** take jobs in a related field of study.

We have **7,000+ employer partnerships** across Minnesota State colleges and universities.

Minnesota State contributes over **\$8.4 billion to the state's economy**.

Minnesota State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will possess most, if not all, of these qualifications:

- Strong leadership skills necessary to provide vision and direction to SCSU
- Vision for the future of higher education, as well as the ability to develop shared goals and execute a shared plan
- Experience with progressively responsible positions in higher education administration or other extraordinary leadership in a complex organization
- Authentic, collaborative, and transparent leadership skills paired with integrity and respect
- Experience leading through shared governance, demonstrating a collegial and collaborative management style
- Demonstrated leadership in a collective bargaining environment
- Experience with program and curriculum development, fundraising, government relations, accreditation, as well as budget and fiscal management
- A record of actions reflecting concern for the success and well-being of students. Deep commitment to equitable access and student success, including first-generation, adult, international, and historically marginalized students
- Understanding of holistic student support and development of a vibrant campus life
- Experience with fiscal management, strategic budgeting, and alignment of expenditures with resources and institutional priorities
- Ability to diversify revenue streams and support strategic enrollment growth
- Experience fostering and promoting public/private partnerships between education and business and industry, community leaders, and organizations
- Demonstrated ability to lead in an innovative environment and encourage out-of-the-box thinking
- Data-based decision-making skills that result in success
- Demonstrated advancement of diversity and inclusion
- Proven track record of being a visible, engaged and accessible presence for students, alumni, community leaders, and friends
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills effective with a broad range of audiences
- Strong track record of building and sustaining partnerships with business, industry, K-12 systems, other colleges, civic organizations and government
- Experience as an external-facing leader who serves as a visible, vocal advocate for the institution
- Ability to engage alumni, donors, and community members to advance the university's mission and reputation
- An earned doctorate (preferred but not required)

## APPLICATION AND NOMINATION PROCESS

Greenwood Asher & Associates® is assisting St. Cloud State University in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Confidential inquiries, nominations and application materials should be directed to Greenwood Asher & Associates at [SCSUPresident@greenwoodsearch.com](mailto:SCSUPresident@greenwoodsearch.com).

Application materials should include:

- » A letter of interest that clearly states the applicant's qualifications for the position
- » A current CV
- » A list of five references

***We strongly encourage submitting application materials as PDF attachments.***

The search will be conducted with a commitment of confidentiality of candidates until finalists are selected. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

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MINNESOTA STATE

*St. Cloud State University,*  
A member of Minnesota State

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