

Spring 2015

## School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 4, Iss. 1

Kristy Modrow  
kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu

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Professor Kevin Ahlgren, right, takes gravity measurements.

## Geography and Planning professor Kevin Ahlgren researches geophysical phenomena in Bolivia

Kevin Ahlgren, assistant professor of land surveying/mapping sciences in geography and planning, received a research award to study a number of geophysical phenomena in Bolivia using GPS and gravimetric measurements. Awarded through the Central Andes Project (CAP) and Ohio State University, this project will facilitate current and new investigations into the tectonic processes, hydrology, geoid determination and climate change occurring in the Central Andes mountain range of South America.

The Andes mountain range runs along the western edge of South America created by subduction of the oceanic Nazca plate beneath the edge of the South American plate. The highest and widest portion of the Andes occurs in an area where the continent 'bends' near a latitude of 20 South, and is described as the Andean Plateau, which consists of the high and flat Altiplano surrounded by the even higher Eastern and Western Cordillera.

Continued on Page 2

## Social Studies Education Director and Professor Kyle Ward '98 receives Alumni Association University Leadership Award

With his students present, Kyle Ward '98 was honored by the St. Cloud State Alumni Association with the 2014 University Leadership Award in December. Ward is an associate professor and director of Social Studies Education at St. Cloud State and has been a member of the St. Cloud State faculty since 2007.

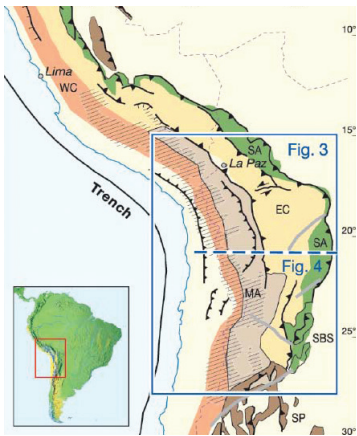


Kyle Ward '98, right, receives the University Leadership Award from School of Public Affairs Dean King Banaian.

He is involved with numerous professional organizations including the International Society for the Social Studies, Upper Midwest Council for History Education as director, Minnesota Council for History Education as treasurer and the World History Association, among others.

St. Cloud State Alumni Association Awards highlight alumni, friends and employees of the university who demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and character and individuals whose career and life accomplishments reflect positively on the university community. The University Leadership Award is presented to a current or retired living employee of St. Cloud State who has made a positive difference in the lives of students.

## Geophysical phenomena in Bolivia (continued)



This is one of the two largest active tectonic plateaus on earth, the other being the Tibetan Plateau, creating a perfect testing ground for earth scientists to investigate how mountains are formed, changed, sustained and impact the local, regional and global communities.

Ahlgren and other CAP members presented their latest findings in late November at the 2014 SIRGAS Symposium in La Paz, Bolivia. The symposium is a venue for scientists and researchers to present recent achievements, on-going activities and new challenges related to geodetic issues in the Americas. The symposium is supported by the International Association of Geodesy, the Pan-American Institute for

Geography and History and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

At the conclusion of the SIRGAS Symposium, Ahlgren was awarded the “Emblema de Oro” (Golden Emblem) by Colonel Miguel Ulloa Gutierrez, commander of the Bolivian Instituto Geografico Militar. This award recognizes Ahlgren’s work and services offered with the National Cartography of Bolivia.

## St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report indicates room for growth

The local economic expansion still has room to run, according to economists King Banaian and Rich MacDonald, authors of the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report (QBR).

According to the report, job-creation expanded, the October unemployment rate was 3.1 percent, new unemployment-insurance claims are down and a business survey suggests future-prices received will rise.

Central Minnesota’s definitive, survey-based analysis of economic activity is published by Times Media, Greater St. Cloud Development Corp., and the School of Public Affairs Research Institute. MacDonald and Banaian are key faculty members in the St. Cloud State University Economics Department.

- Local job-creation expanded at a 1.7 percent rate in the year ending in October — well above an 0.8 percent pace the last 15 years.

- In October, 107,884 St. Cloud area workers were employed — an all-time high. The unemployment rate was calculated at 3.1 percent. That’s the lowest October rate since 2000.
- Nearly 34 percent of the 68 area businesses surveyed predict prices received for their products will rise by May 2015. No firms expect prices-received to decrease.

“With restraint on input prices and but expectations of price increase for their output, it is little wonder that area businesses express optimism,” Banaian and MacDonald wrote.

The QBR has been produced four times a year since January 1999. Access past editions at <http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/scqbr>.

## Monticello Meltdown: A mock nuclear disaster

Students in political science professor Patricia Bodelson’s Global Disaster Relief Policy course hosted “Monticello Meltdown,” a mock nuclear power plant disaster response Dec. 10 in Eastman Hall.

The mission of “Monticello Meltdown” was to formulate and implement a researched response to a nuclear occurrence. The class approached the event with a sense of local, as well as potential global, impacts related to exposure to nuclear radiation.

Application of experiential pedagogy reinforced cognitive mastery and enhanced the learner outcomes.

The Global Disaster Relief Policy Course (POL 458/558) is an upper division course within the Political Science Department. Students in this course discuss how local disasters can have wide-reaching effects, the response of relief organization and government management and/or mismanagement of the disaster.



Nursing professor Elizabeth Clark, right, instructs students on how to properly treat victims in a disaster.

## 53rd Winter Institute to address transportation issues

Minnesota has been experiencing tremendous changes and challenges in transportation. To name a few: The light rail system and its expansion in the Greater Twin Cities area, the new bicycle lanes, the car-sharing services in Minneapolis and the Northstar Commuter Rail. In St. Cloud, intersections with traffic lights have transformed into roundabouts and the St. Cloud Municipal Airport has reopened for commercial passenger flights.

The Winter Institute will take place Feb. 18-19 and features keynote speaker Professor David Levinson discussing, "The Transportation Experience: From Steamboats to Streetcars." This abstract talk will explore the historical evolution of transportation modes and technologies and will trace how systems are innovated, planned and adapted, deployed and expanded and reach maturity. The systems may either be maintained in a polished obsolesce often propped up by subsidies, be displaced by competitors or be reorganized and renewed. Levinson will provide examples that support the idea that modern policies are built from past experiences. Levinson is a professor at the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geo-Engineering and the Director of Networks, Economics and Urban Systems (NEXUS) Research Group at the University of Minnesota, editor of the *Journal of Transport and Land Use* and the author of numerous books and research papers.

Highlights of the Winter Institute include:

### February 18 – Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

- 5-6:30 p.m. — Annual Economic Outlook followed by a poolside reception featuring the Andrew Walesch Band.

### February 19 – St. Cloud State Atwood Memorial Center

- 9-11:45 a.m. — Themed break-out sessions including K-12 Teaching, Community Engagement, and Public Policy Research. Presenters include St. Cloud State University faculty members, Federal Reserve employees and local business owners. Topics will range from "Communication and Outreach in the Ninth District" to "Earning Credit."
- Noon — Lunch and Chamber Panel.
- 2-3 p.m. — Professor David Levinson to deliver keynote address "The Transportation Experience: From Steamboats to Streetcars."

For more information and to register, please visit [stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute/](http://stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute/).

## SCSU celebrates Constituion Day

The Social Studies Teaching Program, Social Studies Club, Stearns County History Museum and the American Democracy Project hosted a fall social in the honor of Constitution Day Sept. 17 at the Stearns County History Museum.

About 60 students and educators from around the community attended the fall social. They discussed different educational goals and aspects throughout the surrounding communities. Keynote speaker Ron Hustvedt Jr. spoke about "How the Constitution is Still Relevant Today." Hustvedt, a current K-12 teacher, addressed how to implement the ideals and beliefs of the Constitution in the classroom. The event also featured Sartell Superintendent Jeff Schweibert and St. Cloud State University professor of political science Steven Frank.

Representatives from the Office of the Secretary of State, Minnesota Council of Economic Education and the Minnesota Council of Social Studies Education also attended the event. This event will hopefully continue and become an annual tradition.

## 100+ high school students to compete in economics challenge

The St. Cloud State University Center for Economic Education, along with the Minnesota Council for Economic Education, will host the annual Minnesota Heartland Economics Challenge March 19. More than 100 high school students from across the state will compete in subject areas including microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics and current events.

The winning teams will advance to the state competition at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cindy Fitzthum at [cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu).



## Students to conduct briefings and research at the United Nations this summer

Students can experience the dynamism of studying global affairs in New York City as they conduct briefings and research with United Nations staff and member state diplomats.

Professor Linda Butenhoff will be leading a group of students to the United Nations in New York June 20-27 as part of the summer 2015 Political Science course, POL 440: Leadership in International Public Affairs.

For more information, contact Linda Butenhoff at [ljbutenhoff@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:ljbutenhoff@stcloudstate.edu).

## School of Public Affairs sponsored spring events

### ***Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP***

American Democracy Project Film Series  
Jan. 28, 2 p.m. - Film, 3:30 p.m. - Panel Discussion  
Miller Center Auditorium  
Civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall's triumph in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision completed a journey to end legal segregation.

### **Power in Diversity Leadership Conference**

Jan. 29-Feb. 1, Atwood  
This annual conference will offer opportunities for personal growth and leadership development to underrepresented students through a variety of workshops, keynote addresses and programs. It will also provide a forum for student leaders to connect with others from colleges and universities across the region. Register online at: [stcloudstate.edu/mss/powerindiversity](http://stcloudstate.edu/mss/powerindiversity)

### **Diversity Job & Internship Fair**

Jan. 30, 1-4 p.m. Atwood second floor  
Many of Minnesota's largest business, technical, healthcare, government, non-profit and education employers will be in attendance. This will be the only time that a few of the participating employers will be coming to campus this year! FREE and open to ALL students and alumni. Registration is not required.

### **The Outlook of the National Park Service**

Feb. 10, 2 p.m. Atwood Theatre  
Robert Stanton, Sr. advisor to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior and former director of the National Park Service will discuss the future of the National Park Service.

### **Black History and Diversity in the Workplace**

Feb. 11, Time and Atwood Theatre  
Robert Stanton, Sr. Advisor to the Secretary of the US. Department of Interior and former Director of the National Park Service will discuss diversity in the workplace.

### **53rd Winter Institute**

Feb. 18-19, Atwood and Kelly Inn, St. Cloud  
The Winter Institute provides the opportunity to gather the best minds in the region and the country to share their thoughts and ideas on various economic issues with attendees from Minnesota and the Midwest.

### ***Inequality for All***

American Democracy Project Film Series  
Feb. 26, 2 p.m. - Film, 3:30 p.m. - Panel Discussion  
Miller Center Auditorium  
This film seeks to approach the problem of widening income inequality from six different directions.

### **Nobel Peace Prize Forum**

March 6-8, Radisson Blu Minneapolis  
This forum is an annual dialogue event that inspires peacemaking and peacebuilding by bringing together Nobel laureates, leaders and activists.

### **Minnesota Heartland Economics Challenge**

March 19, Atwood Voyaguers Room  
More than 100 students from across the state will come to compete in microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics and current events. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Cindy at [cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu).

### **Summer & Fall Internship Fair**

March 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Atwood Ballroom  
This internship fair features organizations with summer internship opportunities for students. Free for students to attend and no registration required.

### ***Please Vote for Me***

American Democracy Project Film Series  
March 25, 2 p.m. - Film, 3:30 p.m. - Panel Discussion  
Miller Center Auditorium  
For the first time, third grade students in Wuhan, China have been asked to elect a class monitor. Viewers decide if the experiment in democracy has been "successful."

### **Minnesota State National Geographic Bee**

March 27, Atwood and Ritsche Auditorium  
More than 100 fourth to eighth graders from schools around the state will compete, answering a variety of world geography questions from a panel of judges. The winner will represent Minnesota at the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C.

### **Travel Career Day**

March 30, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Atwood Glacier Room  
This annual event brings the insight of travel and tourism professionals to campus. Speakers from some of Minnesota's largest and most respected travel-related companies will discuss career opportunities in the travel industry.

### **Careers with the State Department**

April 7, 3:30 p.m. Atwood Alumni Room  
Ambassador Ian C. Kelly will discuss how to apply for and land a job with the state department.

### **Student Research Colloquium**

April 21, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Atwood  
Students can further their understanding of their field of study, gain experience researching and presenting, receive academic recognition and will be an excellent addition to their resume. All students who would like to present their research or creative works at the colloquium must register at: [stcloudstate.edu/src](http://stcloudstate.edu/src).

### **Spring Community Engagement Fair**

April 23, 9-11 a.m. Atwood Ballroom  
Students will showcase their service learning, internship or community project.

### ***The Ivory Tower***

American Democracy Project Film Series  
April 29, 2 p.m. - Film, 3:30 p.m. - Panel Discussion  
Miller Center Auditorium  
CNN Films presents, "Ivory Tower." Filmmaker Andrew Rossi questions the cost, value and methods of higher education in the United States.

## SCSU continues to strengthen ties in Southeast Asia

Shoua Yang, professor of political science spent two weeks studying the Thai language at the Foreign Institute at Chiang Mai University in Thailand during the summer 2014. The course was designed not only to study the language, but also to study Thai social, cultural and religious etiquettes.

While at Chiang Mai University, Yang met with administrators of the Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA) to explore the establishment of an institutional partnership between GSPA's graduate program and St. Cloud State University.

Yang continued his Asia travels and met with Professor Ginny Ostrand of Lao-American College and with representatives of the Hmong Cultural Institute, both in Laos to arrange activities for the St. Cloud State students participating in the December 2014 Southeast Asian short-term education abroad program.

Yang also met with Dean Nisada Wedchaynon of the Graduate School of Public Administration at the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in Bangkok to discuss a continued partnership. This past November, NIDA administration visited St. Cloud State and a memorandum of understanding between NIDA's Graduate Program and St. Cloud State was signed.

## Students live in the Harry Potter castle while studying abroad in England

### Summer 2015 Opportunity

Gareth John (geography and planning) will be joined by Carolyn Hartz (philosophy) in leading the Summer 2015 education abroad program to Alnwick Castle located in Northumberland, England.

The curriculum themes include: British culture, society and landscape; environmental ethics; ancient religions; and Harry Potter. Yes, Harry Potter! Not only is Alnwick Castle where the scenes for the first Harry Potter film were filmed. One of the courses offered will be "The Philosophy of Harry Potter." Students can also earn credits toward the British Studies minor. Application deadline: Feb. 1.



Alnwick Castle, a.k.a. the Harry Potter castle is the home away from home for SCSU students studying abroad.

### Fall 2015 Opportunity

Fall semester 2015 presents a great opportunity for students in the School of Public Affairs to study Alnwick, Northumberland, England.

Both the academic director and faculty member for the semester are from School of Public Affairs departments. Michelle Kukoleca-Hammes (political science) will direct the program and Rich MacDonald (economics) will be teaching. Students also will take classes from British faculty on British history and contemporary Britain.

The focus of the semester will allow School of Public Affairs students to take courses toward their majors and minors, to continue fulfilling liberal education program requirements, to apply courses to the British Studies minor and to spend time analyzing issues from key public policy perspectives.

Kukoleca-Hammes and MacDonald look forward to integrating the students' experiences across all courses and applying a common public affairs perspective to their teaching. The program is currently recruiting for all upcoming semesters. Questions about the program can be directed to Kukoleca-Hammes, MacDonald or the Center for International Studies. Application deadline: March 1.

## School of Public Affairs Research Institute update

Now in its second year of operations, the School of Public Affairs Research Institute continues to bring faculty from the School of Public Affairs together with businesses and other organizations in producing a menu of applied research offerings.

Highlights from the first year of operations included a grand opening celebration of the new location in Stewart Hall 329 as well as a number of projects that were funded by external grants and contracts. The School of Public Affairs Research Institute has received community engagement support from the Initiative Foundation in each of its first two years.

Over the past 12 months, School of Public Affairs faculty also engaged in contract and grant work with organizations such as the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, the Minnesota State Lottery, the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association and the Irrigators Association of Minnesota.

The School of Public Affairs Research Institute is currently working on a variety of research collaborations to engage faculty and students in applied research. Organizations that wish to explore research opportunities with School of Public Affairs faculty and students are encouraged to contact Rich MacDonald, interim director, by email at [ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu) or by calling 320-308-4781.

## Donate today

Support the School of Public Affairs by making a gift. Please contact Dottie Seamans, director of development for annual giving, at [dmseamans@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:dmseamans@stcloudstate.edu) or (320) 308-4970.

## SCSU identified as top school for military friendly reputation

Military Advancement Education (MAE) identified St. Cloud State as a top school in its 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities.

More than 1,200 U.S. schools are recognized for their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support, and online support services. Among the Minnesota schools recognized are University of Minnesota, Metropolitan State University and Augsburg College.

KMI Media Group, Rockville, Md., publishes the guide each year based on survey responses.

St. Cloud State, which serves about 700 student-veterans, received highest marks in military culture and flexibility.

The university hired its first Veteran's Resource Center director in 2013. The resource center incorporates the needs and well-being of dependents of student veterans and active military in its programs and objectives.

"It reassures students who are thinking of attending that they will receive strong support from our staff and faculty during their scholastic journey," said Zac Mangas, interim director for the Veterans Resource Center. "The caliber of commitment we have to student veterans, service members and dependents of veterans is unparalleled compared to other schools across the nation."

St. Cloud State's military-friendly reputation is demonstrated by offering in-state tuition and waiving application fees for all veterans as well as participating in Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Warrior to Citizen programs that help military families in financial need.

"(This honor) says we are an institution which recognizes the service and sacrifice of those who served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces," Mangas said. "Without their sacrifice, our school would not be what it is today. It is our job to ensure we do what we can to give back to these men and women by providing a high quality education and the best student services possible."

St. Cloud State was also designated a Military Friendly School by Victory Media in September 2014.

For more information, visit [mae-kmi.com](http://mae-kmi.com).

## What does democracy mean to you?

The American Democracy Project (ADP), is an effort to bring together staff, faculty, students and community members to discuss how to promote active responsible citizenry. Upcoming events for spring semester include bringing speakers and panel presentations to campus, documentary screenings and creating communities of practice.

For more information and upcoming national opportunities, please visit: [aascu.org/programs/ADP/](http://aascu.org/programs/ADP/).

To contact a campus coordinator, please email Marla Kanengieter-Wildeson at [mkanengieter@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mkanengieter@stcloudstate.edu) or Cindy Fitzthum at [cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu).

## SCSU Survey examines political views and environment issues

This past year, the survey team focused on policy issues and implications of those policies. The 2014 Fall State Wide Survey focused on political views and environmental issues. The survey sample was an excellent representation of the state as it almost perfectly matched the demographics of the state. Survey findings were released in late November 2014. A trends and a comparative analysis will be conducted. Further demographic and other breakdown data will be available in the near future. Please visit [stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey](http://stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey) to view the survey results.

This spring, survey faculty will focus on immigration research. They will conduct a survey and will compare and contrast the results to previous surveys. Also researchers are interested in Minnesotan's views on the legalization of marijuana and if their views have changed since previous surveys.

Various sources regard the SCSU Survey as very accurate with less statistical bias compared to numerous other surveys in the nation. Most of these are commercial operations, doing hundreds of surveys with a large staff and professional interviewers.

The SCSU Survey is student-centered and overseen by seven St. Cloud State University faculty from different disciplines. The SCSU Survey conducts surveys for government and non-partisan agencies but never for a political party or candidate. Funds are used to pay for the equipment and operating costs with some support from St. Cloud State and the School of Public Affairs.

## Faculty/Staff Highlights

**Kevin Ahlgren** (geography and planning) received the Emblema de Oro” (Golden Emblem) Award by Colonel Miguel Ulloa Gutierrez, commander of the Bolivian Instituto Geografico Militar. This award recognizes Ahlgren’s on-going cartography research and services for the National Cartography of Bolivia.

**King Banaian** (economics) presented at Normandale Community College’s Fall Economic event, which is based off of St. Cloud State University’s Winter Institute. Banaian gave his forecast of the federal economy for the upcoming year.

**Stephen Frank** (political science) spoke about “Framers and the Constitutional Convention: Who Were They, Agreements and Disagreements,” Sept. 17 at the Social Studies Education Fall Social. Frank was awarded a post doctorate summer stipend to study the Framers at the University of Texas and currently teaches a summer course on the Framers and the Constitution.

Frank was also one of three panelists on Oct. 28 at St. Cloud State University’s first conference on Politics and Food on the importance of the upcoming election and topics relating to voting.

**Kenneth Rebeck** (economics) and **David Switzer’s** (economics) article “Determinants of Success in Economics Principles: Online vs. Face-to-Face Courses,” was accepted for publication in the *Perspectives on Economic Education Research*. Among key findings, Rebeck and Switzer conclude that good study habits are more important for students in online courses, yet students who take online courses tend to have worse study habits than their peers who attend classes in person.

**Morgan Nyendu** (political science) submitted an article for review and publication in the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, titled, “Fighting the Cancer of Corruption and ‘Hostage-Taking’ in the District Assemblies in Ghana.” This article examines the increasing problem of corruption with its accompanying “hostage-taking” in the District Assemblies, which are the core institutions in Ghana’s democratic decentralization program.

## Alumni/Student Highlights

**Christopher Bremseth ’12**, Rochester, (political science) is serving a 27-month contract in the Peace Corps with his wife. They are currently serving as English teacher trainers in Cambodia. Bremseth was inspired by Professor Patricia Bodelson (political science) to serve.

**Jackie (Skoog) Glaser ’99**, Waconia, (criminal justice) was promoted to first lieutenant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Her metro-based enforcement district includes Carver, Hennepin, and Scott counties.

**Annie Deckert ’05**, Elk River, (geography and planning), co-founded Decklan Group, which provides services such as economic development, community branding and marketing consulting. Decklan Group reports having led or assisted in projects that created 163,000 square feet of new development in Minnesota, retained 275 jobs and generated 74 new jobs. Previously, Deckert did economic development work for Big Lake and Elk River.

**Alison Feigh ’10**, St. Paul, (criminal justice) was so moved by fellow classmate Jacob Wetterling’s disappearance in 1989 that she made protecting children her profession. She is the program manager for the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JWRC) in Minneapolis and an accomplished children’s book author. She is currently working on a textbook project with Professor Mary Clifford (criminal justice) on sex crime prevention.

**Tyler Hett ’14**, Farmington, (geography and planning) was named Teacher of the Week by St. Michael-Albertville High School. Hett noted “It felt good to be recognized so early in my career.”

**Mallory (Peper) Lindren ’07**, Apple Valley, (geography and planning), a project manager at Westwood Professional Services, was featured in the Energy Department’s #WomenInSTEM video series. This series celebrates amazing work of women across the energy sector while providing a new generation of students with a diverse set of role models as they begin their careers in science.

**Ken Nomura ’12**, Durango, Dgo., Mexico (geography and planning) is teaching history at the American School of Durango in Durango, Dgo., Mexico. Nomura is the only St. Cloud State University student to ever finish the Social Studies Education Program in four years. He also student taught in Kenya.

**Kayla Schramel ’14**, Kotzebue, Alaska, (geography and planning) is teaching social studies at Kotzebue High School in Alaska, which is an Inuit village 60 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Schramel was named “Teacher of the Month,” within her first month teaching there.





## SCSU Survey: Majority of Minnesotans believe climate change is human-caused

A majority of Minnesotans believe human-caused climate change is occurring, according to the SCSU Survey.

The survey asked respondents about their beliefs about climate change and the importance of preparing for the effects of climate change.

Results show that about 90 percent of Minnesotans believe that climate change is occurring now. Seven percent believe that climate change is not happening, and the rest do not know if climate change is happening. Fifty-six percent believe that climate change is caused by human activities, 33 percent believe it is mainly a result of natural causes.

Most Minnesotans also believe it is important for the state to take action to prepare for climate change. Seventy-six percent of respondents indicated that it is somewhat or very important that Minnesota take action, while 20 percent indicated that it is somewhat or very unimportant.

A majority of both Democrat and Republican respondents agree that climate change is occurring and that it is important for the state to take action to prepare for it.

The survey sample came from a statewide random sample of Minnesota adults. Responses were gathered from 551 randomly-selected landline (60 percent of sample) and cellphone users (40 percent of sample) Oct. 13-22, 2014 at the St. Cloud State Survey Lab. The questionnaire consisted of about 40 questions.



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Whitney House 101  
720 4th Ave S.  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

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