



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Start Date: November 7
End Date: November 17

The SCSU Microloan Program featured at October Chamber meeting

Sauk Rapids, Minn.—The Sauk Rapids Chamber held their monthly meeting Oct. 27 at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School. Attendants at the meeting listened to Femi Salau and Rodney Heit describe the St. Cloud State University Microloan Program.

Salau and Heit said anyone with a business idea in the local community can use the free program. Also, since the prestigious program is affiliated with St. Cloud State University, access to the university's resources, such as conference rooms and focus groups, is also available.

Emphasizing that the program is designed to help people create business plans in order to receive financing, Salau and Heit said the program helps create businesses that have an impact on the local community.

Meeting host Sauk Rapids-Rice School District #47 featured Superintendent Daniel Bittman who explained some of the recent challenges and opportunities within the district. Bittman said there are approximately 4,000 students currently being served in the district with around 200 new students this year.

However, increasing enrollment comes with costs. Currently up to 42 students may be in one class. Bittman gave an example of one growing elementary school, Mississippi Heights Elementary School, with 183 kindergartners and 830 students this year.

With this information, Bittman made a case for passing a levy to help increase funding for students. Explaining that Sauk Rapids-Rice School District is one of only thirty-six districts in the state without an operating levy, Bittman said that once a levy gets approved, the state will begin providing funding, resulting in almost \$1 million for the school district between state aid and the levy.

The Sauk Rapids Chamber meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. The next meeting is November 17 (moved up a week because of Thanksgiving) at 11:45 a.m. at C & L Distributing, hosted by CentraCare Healthy System. The speaker is Roger Rieger, discussing financial literacy. Chamber meetings are open to interested business representatives. There is no cost to attend but registration is required by November 15. Call the Chamber at 251-2940, ext. 126, or online at www.SaukRapidsChamber.com.

For more information, call (320) 251-2940.

The Sauk Rapids Chamber promotes a healthy business environment in the community of Sauk Rapids, working in cooperation with member businesses, local government, the public school system and other community organizations.

-Chamber-

Submitted by Alexa Sandbakken, Sauk Rapids Chamber, (320) 656-3810.

Photo Captions:



Daniel Bittman, superintendent, Sauk Rapids-Rice ISD #47 (5)
Superintendent Daniel Bittman, Sauk Rapids-Rice ISD #47, at the Sauk Rapids Chamber meeting in October. The meeting was at the Sauk Rapids-Rice High School where Bittman discussed the increasing enrollment and growing financial needs of the district.



Femi Salau, Rodney Heit, SCSU Microloan Program (2)
At the October Sauk Rapids Chamber meeting at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Femi Salau and Rodney Heit, SCSU Microloan Program, explain how the SCSU Microloan Program works.

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