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The Valley

MSU sweeps management awards from MnSCU

MANKATO — Minnesota State University swept the recent statewide Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system awards for financial and facilities management excellence.

The university received awards in all three categories: Excellence in Financial Management, Excellence in Facilities Management and

Outstanding Service by an individual (Larry Kohanek, director of planning and construction, who has been at the university since 1986). The awards were presented in January at the MnSCU Chief Financial and Facilities Officers Conference.

Finance and facilities employees have developed several innovations,

including:

- Computerized maintenance software that last year generated 3,107 preventive maintenance routines — 13.5 percent more than in the previous year.

- Online maintenance requests from faculty and staff.

- Computerized central irrigation with a weather station that records rain, humidity and solar radia-

tion and meters irrigation to compensate for rain deficiency.

- Energy efficient equipment in the new Julia Sears Hall and Ford Hall that have provided more than \$40,000 in energy rebates.

- A hybrid Security automobile that operates on battery power much of the time.

—*The Free Press*