

For Immediate Release
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Ferris HVACR program receives donation from St. Cloud Refrigeration

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Department recently received a state-of-the-art, custom built, microprocessor-based, parallel refrigeration system donated by St. Cloud (MN) Refrigeration, Inc.

St. Cloud Refrigeration is owned and operated by Mike Fitch and Pat Welty, who worked with Ferris Professor John Tomczyk in developing the refrigeration system. Tomczyk teaches the commercial refrigeration class where the new parallel refrigeration system is now housed.

The system will be an actual working piece of equipment for students to utilize in the HVACR Technology associates degree program, said Tomczyk. It contains a diverse array of electronic and pressure operated valves, an Einstein electronic controller, three parallel compressors, a sophisticated oil management system, a split suction header, pressure transducers, and many pressure temperature sensing instruments that perform energy efficient refrigeration as is needed in a modern day supermarket.

Other companies contributing to the project were: Alco Controls Division, Computer Process Controls, Copeland Compressor Corporation, Gustave Larson, Inc., Henry Valve Company, Refrigeration Research, Inc., Sporlan Valve Company and Zero Zone Refrigeration, Inc.

St. Cloud Refrigeration, founded in 1957 by Fitch’s father, now employs 120 persons, works in seven states and has branches in Brainerd and Rochester, MN. Mike Fitch is a graduate of North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, ND, where he received an associate degree in HVACR Technology. His two sons, Scott and Mark, both graduated with associate degrees in HVACR Technology from Ferris.

Welty was the first salesman for St. Cloud Refrigeration in the late 1970's and today handles sales throughout the company. He is a graduate of Moorehead Technical College where he received a degree in HVACR Technology. Welty also received a bachelor’s degree in University Studies from North Dakota State University and an associate arts degree from Brainerd Community College.

Scott Fitch, presently a service technician in commercial refrigeration for St. Cloud Refrigeration, also graduated with a bachelor’s degree in HVACR Engineering Technology from Ferris in 2001. Mark Fitch, a senior at Ferris in the baccalaureate HVACR Engineering Technology program, has an expected graduation date of 2005 and plans to work in the service field before laddering into a design position.

Photo Caption:

FERRIS RECEIVES EQUIPMENT DONATION – The Ferris State University HVACR program recently received the donation of a custom built parallel refrigeration system from St. Cloud (MN) Refrigeration, Inc. The system will be used by students in the commercial refrigeration class of Professor John Tomczyk. Pictured are (from left): Tomczyk, Ferris student Mark Fitch and brother, Scott Fitch, of St. Cloud Refrigeration. Both Mark and Scott are Ferris graduates and grandchildren of the firm’s founder.



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