

# Students get popular job funding back

## Funds had been cut in half

By Robb Murray, Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — A decision by state officials to restore a popular college financial aid program means hundreds of Minnesota State University students again will be able to work at on-campus jobs.

It's called the Work Study program and it works like this: Students, as part of a financial aid package that may include grants or student loans, can work at jobs in departments all over campus.

Work Study funding had been cut in half last year with only about half the normal amount of Work Study students getting on-campus jobs.

The cut was the result of a decision by the Higher Education Services Office which, when budget problems arose, was required to put all state Work Study dollars into a state grant program. Students were informed in April that Work Study was back, and this week H. Dean Trauger, vice president for finance and administration, issued a statement telling the university community Work Study funding had been restored.

This year more than 400 students will work around campus in the library, athletics, admissions and other departments.

Budget issues dictate, however, that this year's pay rate will remain the same as last year. The pay is usually around \$7 an hour and students work up to 20 hours per week. Also, students who received Work Study funding last year likely will return to their same jobs. Financial Aid Director Sandra Loerts said that's more efficient than having departments train new students each fall.

The state funding amounts to less than half of the total Work Study fund picture. MSU receives \$875,000 from the federal government and \$750,000 from Minnesota.

Loerts said Work Study funds are important to both students and the university. For students, Work Study is the ultimate in job location convenience.

For departments, losing a Work Study student meant losing a worker paid by someone else's budget. Replacing that worker would be costly, an ugly notion in times when all departments are being asked to cut or do more with less.