

Women behind in gender equality

Report's findings to
be given on June 30

By Amy Bowen
abowen@stcloudtimes.com

Minnesota's women and girls still aren't equal to their male counterparts, argues new research released by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

The foundation, which advocates equal treatment of women, will share the findings of its report, Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota, between noon and 1 p.m. June 30 at Great River Regional Library. The event is free. The research was released Thursday.

"We get to look at the data and benchmark the progress of women and girls in our communities," said Lee Roper-Batker, president and CEO of the foundation. "When we are out in communities, it's an opportunity to see how the findings resonate."

The St. Cloud presenta-

tion is one of eight that will take place throughout the state. Participants will be able to discuss the findings and what issues most concern them.

The research examined four areas – economics, safety, leadership and health.

The feedback will help with awarding grants, policymaking and future research, Roper-Batker said.

The research examined four areas – economics, safety, leadership and health. Improvement is necessary in all areas, Roper-Batker said.

Women still make less than men in the workplace, Roper-Batker said. On average, women make 70 percent of what men do, she said. That number is even higher in Central Minnesota, she said.

Women aren't safe as well. Research found that one in three women will experience physical or sexual violence by mid-life.

Both genders should take notice, Roper-Batker said.

"We're not trying to pit men against women," she said. "We just want an equal playing field. Gender equality builds a better world for men and women alike."

The report is available at www.wfminn.org.

