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Bohling '16 Conducts Small-Town Data Collection and Analysis

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Contact:

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: [320-589-6414](tel:320-589-6414), weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: [320-589-6068](tel:320-589-6068), jrray@morris.umn.edu

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Summary: Rachel Bohling '16, Elizabeth, Colorado, is working with the University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns, PrimeWest Health, and Yellow Medicine County.

MORRIS, Minnesota (September 21, 2015)—Rachel Bohling '16, Elizabeth, Colorado, is working with the University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns (CST), PrimeWest Health, and Yellow Medicine County to help provide data collection and analysis services.

CST has worked with PrimeWest Health for three years to provide a healthcare provider-satisfaction survey, this year implementing a paper survey as well as the existing online version. CST also is helping Yellow Medicine County by compiling economic development data into a report that can be used to inform future initiatives. Bohling is partnering on these projects with Rebecca Haider, one of three CST programming staff, who works specifically with data and survey collection projects.

Data and survey work is a key part of the CST mission. By working with rural organizations and communities to gather and compile data, CST can often provide services that are hard for towns to access. Morris professors and students work one-on-one with small-town leaders and organizations like PrimeWest Health and Yellow Medicine County to help support data collection.

“PrimeWest Health largely benefits from the survey report we provide them because it informs them of areas to improve on within their organization,” Bohling said. “Yellow Medicine County will be able to identify areas within their county that are growing and areas that need help to improve their economy. I have really enjoyed being able to help both of these projects because I can see a direct impact on the organizations.”

CST is a community outreach program that serves as a point-of-entry to the resources of the University of Minnesota. Small towns, local units of government, K-12 schools, nonprofit organizations, and other University units are able to utilize CST’s resources as they work on rural issues or make contributions to rural society. Its mission is to focus the University’s attention and marshal its resources toward assisting Minnesota’s small towns with locally identified issues by creating applied learning opportunities for faculty and students. For more information, contact 320-589-6451 or cst@morris.umn.edu or visit morris.umn.edu/cst, facebook.com/centerfor.smalltowns or twitter.com/CforSmallTowns.

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