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Jordan Wentz '15 Named a 2014 Truman Scholar

Summary: The award recognizes academic and leadership accomplishments.

(April 16, 2014)-University of Minnesota, Morris student Jordan Wentz '15, Dodge Center, has received a 2014 Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Wentz is one of just 59 students selected from across the United States. He is the fifth Morris student to receive the award.

Truman Scholars are chosen on the basis of their academic and leadership accomplishments as well as their likelihood of becoming public service leaders. Wentz was selected from among 655 candidates nominated by 293 American colleges and universities.

To be considered, students must be nominated by their institutions. According to Morris's Truman Scholarship Faculty Representative, Associate Professor of History Marynne Ryan Van Zee, Wentz "is the kind of change-maker the Truman Foundation seeks. His passion for the good of the community and his proven capacity for leadership suggest he will continue to dedicate himself to the range of issues that have become so meaningful to him and that, as [Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Small Towns] Arne Kildegaard wrote, 'our future will be the better for it.'"

Throughout his college career, Wentz has proven himself both an accomplished scholar and engaged citizen. Majoring in economics, statistics, and Spanish, he is the 2013 recipient of Morris's Sun M. Kahng Memorial Scholarship and is a 2014 Scholar of the College. Wentz also works frequently with the Office of Sustainability, the Center for Small Towns, and the Morris Jane Addams project.

Each Truman Scholar receives up to \$30,000 for graduate study. Wentz plans to use his award to pursue a master of science in energy systems analysis at the Risø National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy in Roskilde, Denmark. He believes the program will provide him "a great understanding of grid dynamics, technicalities of renewable energy, energy markets, and energy policy," a background that will, he adds, prepare him to work in state or national energy policy.

As Wentz points out, however, "the Truman Scholarship is more than financial assistance. It comes with a network, a society of sorts, of progressive and dedicated people working to better society through public service."

As a Truman Scholar, Wentz can participate in several sponsored activities. His first opportunity will come later this spring, when he will travel to Kansas City for a week-long orientation. In 2015 Wentz will have the chance to pursue a federal internship in Washington, DC, in the area and office of his choosing.

"It is really exciting, and honestly, kind of unexpected," he adds.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership. Additional information is available at truman.gov.

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