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### Assistance Available through “Connecting Students and Communities” Program

University Relations

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**Assistance Available through “Connecting Students and Communities” Program**

*Summary: The program provides assistance to local units of government, K12 schools, and community based organizations.*

(April 7, 2014)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) “Connecting Students and Communities” (CSC) program provides student support to local units of government, K–12 schools, and community-based organizations. Students assist with research, project administration, and more.

Communities benefit from the affordable, specialized assistance of bright, enthusiastic students. Students benefit by working with various organizations to complete project goals.

Project areas may focus on sustainable energy, natural resources and water, local food, tourism, and resilient communities. Previously funded projects have addressed senior housing, storefront design, healthcare research, program evaluation, document design/newsletter creation, economic analysis, internet training, analyzing data, downtown revitalization, and more.

Applications for student positions will be for mid-May–August 2014. Preference will be given to applicants who will be able to provide a financial match to help offset costs.

To apply online, visit [morris.umn.edu/cst/communitiesapp](http://morris.umn.edu/cst/communitiesapp). The deadline is Wednesday, April 16. If the proposal is funded, staff will help coordinate the students’ involvement and will provide technical assistance related to the projects. For more information or to request a paper application, contact Jessica Beyer, community program specialist, at 320-589-6451 or [jbeyer@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jbeyer@morris.umn.edu).

“Connecting Students and Communities” is provided in partnership with the University of Minnesota Southwest Sustainable Development Partnership. This citizen-driven board of directors works with citizens in the region to create and sustain healthy ecosystems, strong local economies, and vibrant, self-reliant communities.

CST serves as a point-of-entry to the resources of the University of Minnesota. Small towns, local units of government, K–12 schools, non-profit organizations, and other University units are able to utilize CST’s resources as they work on rural issues or make contributions to rural society. CST’s mission is to focus the University’s attention and marshal its resources toward assisting Minnesota’s small towns with locally identified issues while creating applied learning opportunities for faculty and students.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.