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**Roger Rose, associate professor of political science, researches public service motivation**

*Summary: Rose's unique work explores characteristics of students interested in public service.*

(May 13, 2011)-This spring Roger Rose, University of Minnesota, Morris associate professor of political science, traveled to Chicago to present his research at the Midwest Political Science Association conference, one of the largest political science conferences in the world. Rose was a member of a panel of researchers who examine public service motivation (PSM), a subject that, as Rose puts it, seeks to better understand “what kinds of students are interested in public service?” Rose’s research at Morris was inspired about five years ago at Benedictine University in Illinois.

As a professor at Benedictine, Rose conducted a pilot survey related to PSM. It was a unique topic for Rose, who specializes in American political institutions like the United States presidency and the United States Congress. When Rose began his career at Morris in 2009, it was with public service research in mind. During his first presentation to the campus as a political science tenure track candidate, Rose expressed his interest in continuing with elements of his previous research. “Morris has a very active and interested student body,” says Rose, “and that made continuing the research very viable.”

Rose applied for funding from the Grant-in-Aid program through the University of Minnesota and was accepted in spring 2010. The grant allowed Rose to offer a small incentive to encourage students to take the online survey he created to gauge interest in government, nonprofit, and teaching professions. It also allowed him to hire six students as research assistants and a survey consultant to help him create a survey for all students of junior or senior standing. In addition to Morris students, Rose also surveyed University of Minnesota, Crookston students as part of the sample.

Rose discovered very interesting results, including a correlation between students who wish to work on policy issues also showing a strong interest in teaching. His results were unique in and of themselves because Rose is one of few scholars to separate teaching from other forms of public service like nonprofit or government work. In previous PSM research, teaching was included with the other categories. Rose separated them not only because of the differences in the work that teachers do compared to other government employees, but also because “students interested in teaching clearly have different interests than someone interested in other government areas.”

In future research, Rose wants to examine the connections between volunteering and interest in public service as a profession. The research on public service motivation itself is really a combination of public administration research (a related but separate subject from political science) and volunteerism research (mainly done in sociology). And Rose’s data is already being used in a multivariate statistical analysis course on campus as well. His research is a perfect fit for a liberal arts college that values learning across multiple disciplines.

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