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Rojas '16 Assesses Local Trail Usage

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Rojas '16 Assesses Local Trail Usage](#)

Summary: The project will promote safer bicycling and walking spaces.

MORRIS, Minnesota (August 26, 2015)—Ricardo Rojas '16, Champlin, is working with University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns staff and University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs professors Greg Lindsey and Michael Petasch on a project that expands bicycle and pedestrian monitoring in greater Minnesota. The project will inform Morris's future plans for community trails and promote safer bicycling and walking spaces.

Rojas is gathering utilization data on the Pomme de Terre Trail as part of a statewide initiative funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He also will be responsible for organizing, analyzing, and writing about the findings.

Rojas has installed an infrared counter and three pneumatic counters on the trail to count bicyclists and pedestrians. By using both data-gathering equipment and individual observation, he is able to develop an accurate model that provides how the Pomme de Terre Trail is being used throughout the year.

"My work will hopefully assist the city of Morris in any decisions it decides to make concerning the Pomme de Terre Trail," says Rojas. "While this work is happening statewide, it's important to keep it local."

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.

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