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### Roger Rose Becomes Center for Small Towns Director

University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### [Roger Rose Becomes Center for Small Towns Director](#)

*Summary: As an associate professor of political science, Rose is propelled by his interest in local and state policy.*

MORRIS, Minnesota (October 8, 2015)—Roger Rose, associate professor of political science, has joined the University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) as director. Rose is propelled by his interest in local and state policy, and his research identifies what motivates people to serve local governments and nonprofits.

Rose, who came to Morris in 2009, became familiar with CST in 2010 while working with students hired through the office to gather and analyze data about student interest in public-service careers. He worked on two subsequent projects with CST, each time becoming more involved with the students and staff who facilitated the work. Due to his involvement and enthusiasm for CST, Rose was asked to serve on CST’s advisory committee in 2013. After serving a full term, in 2015 he accepted an offer to continue to serve CST as director.

Rose brings not only a unique and valuable perspective on local government and service, but also excitement and future goals. After working as a faculty partner, he wants to bring other faculty members on board as advisors and as a more integral part of the CST process. He also wants to find and bring external resources into the CST model, continuing to refresh and keep CST current and adaptable.

“I believe that CST’s model of involving students in practical research and in community projects with local leaders is not only a great learning experience for students, but enhances UMM’s connection with local communities and the region,” said Rose. “I really think we can build on the 20 great years of this kind of work by CST.”

Rose, who earned his PhD from the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), has always fostered an interest in active communities and public service. During his time at UC Davis, Rose both taught courses in community politics and state government and worked on projects that analyzed growth control policies in northern California.

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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