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UMN Morris Center for Small Towns Announces Summer 2019 Projects

The University of Minnesota Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) announces its summer 2019 project list. This season CST is putting UMN Morris students to work on projects impacting Minnesotans around the state.

The Projects

Extension Data Entry

Partner — UMN Extension

Student — Meghan Florip '21, political science and human services

Hometown-- St. Michael

Florip is providing data entry and analysis support for multiple projects throughout the year, continuing this long-term partnership with the UMN Extension Center for Community Vitality.

Editors and Publishers

Partner — Minnesota Newspaper Association

Students — Isaiah Chalmers '20, psychology and human services; Meghan Florip '21, political science and human services

Hometowns-- Bemidji and St. Michael

Chalmers and Florip are doing a content analysis for each newspaper participating in this year's Editors and Publishers Community Leadership program. They will present their findings to editors from across the state.

Housing Preferences for Morris Employees

Partner — Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Stevens County (Stevens County HRA)

Students — Nate Seneesirikul '19, financial management and economics

Hometown-- Bangkok, Thailand

Seneesirikul is designing and implementing a survey that illustrates what makes workers in Morris decide to live here and what, if anything, would influence others to choose Morris.

City of Morris Video

Partner — City of Morris

Students — Sara Carman '20, communication, media, and rhetoric

Hometown--

Carman is hitting the streets to develop videos that showcase what makes Morris a great place to live and work in, building on the city's new social media presence.

Community Organizing for Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Health

Partner — Sustainable Farming Association (SFA)

Students — Kylie Toso '20, economics

Hometown--

Toso is increasing outreach and turnout for field trips and events and helping to plan this year's Salsa Fest, building on work from the spring. She also is developing a "how to" webinar and a written guide for local chapters to replicate this work.

WCI Community Branding Project

Partner — West Central Initiative

Students — Isabel Montemayor '20, psychology; Chelsea Young '20, communication, media, and rhetoric

Hometown-- Watertown, SD

Montemayor and Young are visiting regional festivals and events and collect videos, images and stories that spotlight up to 40 west central Minnesota towns. They will make the collection available to the communities to use for promotion.

UMVRDC Changing Our Rural Narrative

Partner — Upper Minnesota Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC)

Student — Isaiah Chalmers '20, psychology and human services

Hometown-- Bemidji, MN

Chalmers is helping UMVRDC present a positive rural narrative in the western Minnesotan area by collecting and editing photos of regional communities and festivals. The overall project will showcase the many exciting and rewarding aspects of living in a rural community.

Morris Area Farmers Market

Partner — Morris Healthy Eating

Student — Autumn Johnson '20, political science and sociology

Hometown--

Johnson is helping the Morris Healthy Eating Coordinator plan, develop, publicize, and document the 2019 Morris Area Farmers Market season, developing and disseminating media content and implementing food--related and projects.

8th District Drug Court

Partner — Eighth District Drug Court
Student — Denise Riffey '19, human services
Hometown-- Morris, MN

Riffey is entering and analyzing data to evaluate how well the Eighth District Drug Court is working in the district. She is building on work from the spring.

Grant County 4-H Social Media
Partner — Grant Co. 4-H
Student — Sara Carman '20, communication, media, and rhetoric
Hometown--

Carman is building awareness of and engagement in Grant County 4-H opportunities by working with 4-H staff to develop and implement a multi-pronged communication plan across social and traditional media outlets.

Stand Up, Step In, Speak Out, Bystander Intervention Program
Partner — Unspoken Voices
Student — Chelsea Young '20, communication, media, and rhetoric
Hometown--Zimmerman, MN

Unspoken Voices and CST are establishing lasting connections with schools and community organizations in midwestern Minnesota. Young is working on grant development, skit writing, and general awareness.

About CST

CST gives Minnesota's small towns access to the talent and resources at the University of Minnesota and offers students a chance to apply what they're learning in the classroom, to strengthen their connection to greater Minnesota, and to develop as professionals. Learn more at morris.umn.edu/cst.