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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Laura Hoppe, '16, receives Fulbright grant](#)

Summary: She leaves for Columbia this summer to teach English and launch the Jane Addams Project.

MORRIS, Minnesota (April 12, 2016)— Laura Hoppe, '16, Wyoming, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Award for 2016-2017. Hoppe, a Spanish and Latin American area studies major, is the third student from the University of Minnesota, Morris to receive a Fulbright award in the last two years.

Hoppe will spend her Fulbright year teaching English at a university in Colombia, South America. She also plans to launch the Jane Addams Project during her time there. This cultural exchange program brings people who speak different languages together in a social setting. It's an informal way to share culture and conversation, practice English and Spanish, and forge friendships, says Hoppe, who has been a leader in Morris's student-run Jane Addams Project since her freshman year. "At Jane Addams, we like to say everyone's a teacher and everyone's a learner."

As a student at Morris, Hoppe has been deeply involved with the region's growing Latino community. She is a teacher in the Community ESL program and works as an ESL program assistant in the Office of Community Engagement. Hoppe is also a volunteer translator and interpreter in Morris's TERCERO program, translating school documents into Spanish for parents and acting as an interpreter during parent-teacher conferences and medical and dental appointments. As a member of the Spanish Honors Society, Sigma Delta Pi, she helped organize bilingual events, and served as the Spanish Discipline student representative.

Hoppe received the 2015 Campus Compact Presidents' Student Leadership award for her contributions to civic life. She was named a Morris Scholar and was a recipient of the Theodore S. and Tone H. Long Scholarship, the John Q. Imholte Scholarship, and the David C. Johnson scholarship.

Hoppe spent her junior year of college studying abroad in Guanajuato, Mexico, where she did research on women's rights, as well as volunteering with a local women's rights organization and teaching English at a girls' shelter. She also connected with a fellow exchange student from Colombia. The two met often to practice English and Spanish. "She talked to me about her country, the culture and the people, and really got me interested in going to Colombia."

Hoppe's deep immersion in Spanish language and culture was inspired by her mentor, Windy González Roberts, a Spanish teaching specialist at Morris and Jane Addams faculty advisor. "At UMM, I've been involved in so many activities, working with the Latino community," Hoppe says. "Windy encouraged me and had a big impact on me. During my freshman year, she told me if I wanted to apply for a Fulbright in four years, she would help me."

Hoppe's energy and dedication stood out from the beginning, Roberts says. "She was shy, but very eager. She's been one of the best students I've worked with. Laura has learned to empower herself through her experiences here at UMM and to empower others. That's a skill she will be taking to Colombia to establish her own Jane Addams Project there."

Hoppe will leave for Colombia in July. As a cultural ambassador, she joins more than 100,000 Fulbright alumni who have participated in the program since it began in 1948.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest United States exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to pursue international graduate study, advanced research, and university, primary and secondary school teaching worldwide. The program currently awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide. Additional information is available at us.fulbrightonline.org.

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