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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University of Minnesota, Morris Students Present
to the Board of the Midwest Assistance Program**

University of Minnesota, Morris senior Josh Mattson Lake Park, majoring in statistics and management and senior Luke Vanasse Delano, majoring in management and economics presented the results of their research to the board of the Midwest Assistantship Program in New Prague. This research consisted of standardizing data from 1996-2001, computing summary statistics, and reporting and presenting their data.

The Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) is dedicated to helping rural communities improve their environment and quality of life, and is self-sustaining. It was incorporated in 1979 as a non-profit corporation with interest in improving wastewater systems and water services for rural communities in a nine-state region. A majority of their clients are small towns with less than 500 people.

Mattson and Vanasse gained this opportunity through the Center for Small Towns located on the UMM campus. Roger McCannon, director of the Center for Small Towns, and Ben Winchester, coordinator of data analysis and research, also attended and presented at the meeting. McCannon stated, "Luke and Josh did an outstanding job with the data analysis and with the presentation to a professional board that oversees millions of dollars to communities throughout a nine-state region. Their work will assist MAP to have a direct impact on the quality of life for thousands of people in the Upper Midwest."

The Center for Small Towns is a community outreach program housed at the University of Minnesota, Morris and serves as a point-of-entry to the resources of the University of Minnesota. Small towns, local units of government, K-12 schools, non-profit organizations, and other University units are able to utilize the Center's resources as they work on rural issues or make contributions to rural society. Their 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.

Contributed by Jessica Beyer '02, community program assistant at the Center for Small Towns.