

CURA Update 2002



CURA Update 2002

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A publication of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), an all-University applied research and technology center at the University of Minnesota that connects faculty and students with community organizations and public institutions working on significant public policy issues in Minnesota. The content of this report is the responsibility of the author and is not necessarily endorsed by CURA or the University of Minnesota.

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Introduction

Periodically, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) publishes an update of its recent programs and projects. The range of CURA's activities as described in the *CURA Update 2002* helps to illustrate the breadth and depth of the University of Minnesota's connections to the people and communities of the state. This edition of the *CURA Update* is particularly meaningful, however, because it also helps to mark CURA's 35th anniversary serving the state of Minnesota. The University's Board of Regents formally established CURA in 1966, but it was not until 1968—35 years ago—that the administrative structure and funding were in place for the center to begin its work.

From the outset, CURA's mission was to strengthen the involvement of the University—primarily through its faculty and students—in addressing the pressing “urban crisis” of the time. Although the social and political upheaval of that period have long since passed, most of the issues raised so dramatically then are still with us today, and the importance of the University of Minnesota's engagement with them is more critical than it has ever been.

The *CURA Update 2002* underscores the persistence of these issues: protecting and enhancing the vitality of all parts of the state's economy; understanding the challenges and implications of population and demographic change; providing energy, education, housing, clean air and water, social and human services, public safety, and recreation for Minnesota's communities; and understanding how we use our land and natural resources, how our communities develop, and how citizens can participate more effectively in the decisions affecting their lives.

In establishing CURA, the University's Board of Regents and President made manifest their philosophy that urban and regional issues are inextricably linked, and CURA has maintained that perspective throughout its 35 years of existence. Even a casual review of our recent projects and programs illustrates CURA's role in connecting the University with people, organizations, and communities throughout Minnesota—from large cities, suburbs, and regional centers to small towns and rural areas.

Although this report reviews programs and projects sponsored by CURA during the last three years, it is also appropriate at this juncture to consider the focus of CURA's work in the near future. I'll mention just three areas of concern.

The first is prompted by the release of data from the 2000 U.S. Census. Like many other organizations, CURA will use these data to better understand the changes taking place in our communities and our state as a whole. In particular, we will examine Minnesota's unique role in the Midwest to see if the comparative advantages we have enjoyed over the years have been maintained during the decade of the 1990s. We will also examine the continuing demographic, social, and economic changes within the state as the population continues to move toward urban centers (and to areas of natural amenities) and becomes more diverse.

Our second task will be to continue shaping and enhancing the many successful programs we have developed to serve neighborhoods and communities throughout the state. These programs allow communities to initiate and define research projects that meet their local needs, and CURA then provides student research assistants and faculty members interested in working on those projects. There are many ways the University can be engaged with communities in Minnesota, but this model is particularly appropriate because members of the University and the community work collaboratively on the project, community needs are self-defined and directly served, and University faculty and students gain a unique research or educational experience as part of their participation.

Finally, CURA will continue its work in helping to understand the processes and consequences of urban sprawl in the Twin Cities region and in other urban centers throughout Minnesota. Although the movement of people and economic activity away from core urban centers has been a part of urban life in the United States since the colonial period, concerns about traffic congestion, environmental degradation, and the loss of farmland have heightened awareness and interest in this issue during the last decade. We will continue our effort to increase understanding of the implications of sprawl for core cities, developed and developing suburbs, and adjacent rural areas.

Since the last *CURA Update* was published in fall 1999, CURA has supported more than 450 projects involving nearly 100 faculty and more than 800 graduate and undergraduate students from 67 academic departments at the University of Minnesota and other institutions of higher education in the metro area with whom CURA collaborates. These projects have served the needs of more than 500 nonprofit groups, neighborhood organizations, and government agencies.

This edition of the *CURA Update* gives the reader a brief look at the scope of CURA's programs and projects during the past three years, but more importantly, it showcases some of the ways that faculty, students, and staff at the University of Minnesota have connected to and engaged with the people and communities of Minnesota at a time when such relationships are perhaps as important as they have ever been.



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Environment and Energy

Agriculture and Food Systems

Food Systems Professions Education Initiative

Context: The Food Systems Professions Education (FSPE) initiative is a national consortium of 12 land grant universities that explores how transformation and change are created in the food system and in higher education. Formerly housed in the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (COAFES) on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, the project director was looking for another home for the initiative at the University.

Project: Participants in the initiative have developed deeper understandings of and enhanced their capacity for collaborating with community partners, engaging the public on critical social issues, changing the campus culture to become more learner-centered, redefining the faculty reward system, and promoting institutional change. After more than seven years of research and experimentation related to institutional change, the FSPE partners (with CURA as the lead agency) are now focused on disseminating lessons learned, strengthening networks, and pursuing ongoing research.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Sustainable Farming Association Member Assessment

Context: The Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) of Minnesota is a nonprofit, farmer-to-farmer information-sharing network.

Project: A graduate student in conservation biology in the College of Natural Resources conducted an assessment of SFA's membership. The association will use this information to develop a database, identify potentially beneficial relationships between members (e.g., between farmers who produce organic grain and farmers who feed organic grain to livestock), and learn where to focus its energies and resources.

Report: "The Sustainable Farming Association: Making a Difference for Farmers in Minnesota." Christine Vatovec. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, 2001. 40 pp. [CAP 028]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Farm Intern Program

Context: The Passing on the Farm Center, housed on the Granite Falls campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College, helps preserve farmland and mentor young farmers by connecting beginning farmers with established farmers. The center was interested in starting a farm internship program.

Project: A political science undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota's Morris campus gathered information to establish the farm internship program and developed and implemented a marketing presentation directed at farmers. The student also traveled to Washington, D.C., and presented the program to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Tom Anding

Northeast Food Systems Assessment

Context: The Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership (NMSDP) fosters sustainable development in northeastern Minnesota by facilitating partnerships between citizens and the University of Minnesota. One of the organization's priorities is developing strong local and regional food systems.

Project: An undergraduate student in environmental sciences at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus worked with the partnership to conduct research on the current food system to serve as a foundation for building a stronger regional food system.

Report: "Northland Food and Farming Initiative Report." Morgan Kertzmann. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Northland Food and Farming Initiative, July 2002. 8 pp. [CAP 045]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Dream of Wild Health

Context: Dream of Wild Health (DWH) is a gardening and cultural preservation project that collects and grows plants and educates people in the ancient traditions of America Indian healing and gardening in the Upper Midwest and southern Canada. The organization requested assistance with its ongoing research projects.

Project: An undergraduate student in the College of Natural Resources assisted DWH with all aspects of its 2001 plant research by propagating, growing, and harvesting plants in its 150 plant collections.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Public Education for the Experiment in Rural Cooperation

Context: The Experiment in Rural Cooperation (ERC) works in southeastern Minnesota to develop linkages between the University of Minnesota and sustainable agriculture and natural resource opportunities shaped by citizen leaders. The organization wanted to enhance its public outreach efforts.

Project: An undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management worked with the ERC to develop case materials that tell the story of the organization's work. These materials are being used to support ERC's outreach initiatives.

Reports: "A Selective Review of Documents Related to Sustainable Development in Southeast Minnesota." Kari Droubie. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of the Experiment in Rural Cooperation, 1999. 40 pp. [CAP 006]

"Initiatives: Linking Sustainable Agricultural and Natural Resources Opportunities in Southeast Minnesota with the University of Minnesota." Ann Cahoy. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Experiment in Rural Cooperation, 2000. 24 pp. [CAP 015]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Tolerance Levels for Filth Flies

Context: Filth flies are species of flies that are attracted to human and animal waste and decaying garbage. Because of these habits, they are capable of transmitting filth-related diseases such as infantile diarrhea, bacillary dysentery, hookworm, tapeworm, and cholera. The presence of large numbers of these flies in rural areas can produce serious conflicts between residents annoyed by their presence and the presumed producers of the flies such as feedlots or horse farms.

Project: A faculty member and a graduate student from the Department of Entymology at the University of Minnesota evaluated various methods for measuring fly abundance. Based on their results, they recommended the use of a specific type of trap. The traps are now being used by health officials in Minnesota (Renville, Jackson, and Clay counties), Iowa, and Maine. Because the traps provide an objective way to measure fly abundance, their use has helped to resolve conflicts between rural residents annoyed by the flies and the presumed producers of flies.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Farm Beginnings Mentoring Program Assessment

Context: Farm Beginnings, a program of the Land Stewardship Project (LSP), was started by a group of Minnesota farmers in the late 1990s to serve families in western Minnesota interested in starting to farm or making changes in their current farming systems. One way the organization does this is through a mentoring program that matches experienced farmers with less experienced farmers. Farm Beginnings wanted to assess the program after its first few years of operation.

Project: A horticulture major in the University of Minnesota's College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences worked with LSP to conduct an evaluation of the mentoring program. The findings and recommendations will guide future development of the program.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Agricultural Tourism Options in Rural Communities

Context: Country Heritage Adventures (CHA) is a grassroots agricultural tourism coalition based in Elgin, Minnesota. The coalition was looking for help with their marketing efforts.

Project: With support from the Experiment in Rural Cooperation, two University of Minnesota graduate students, one from the School of Public Health and another from the Carlson School of Management, worked with CHA to assess farm tour marketing efforts in other states. This information was used as a foundation for CHA's marketing research plan.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Ancient Knowledge, Ancient Seeds

Context: The Dream of Wild Health Network collects and preserves edible and medicinal heirloom plants and seeds traditionally used by American Indian communities in the region. The network was interested in documenting their efforts.

Project: A student from Minneapolis Community and Technical College researched and documented the pollination, germination, propagation, and harvest of heirloom plants and seeds that are edible or have sacred medicinal uses. She was supported in her work by tribal elders, organic farmers, herbalists, and community volunteers. The study developed some baseline data that the organization will use as it continues its efforts.

Report: "Saving Traditional American Seeds: Preserving Culture Through Gardening." Cynthia Thomas. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Dream of Wild Health Network, 2001. 4 pp. [CAP 017]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Winona Farm Project

Context: The Winona Farm, located in southeastern Minnesota, functions as an environmental education site with a commitment to demonstrating methods of recycling materials generated in urban environments. The farm was interested in finding out about options for onsite power generation.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology helped the farm explore the option of building an onsite wood gasifier to produce steam for power and cooking. The student conducted research on available designs and constraints, designed and built two gasifier prototypes, and completed a report of findings.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Forestry

Southeastern Minnesota Landscape Forest Planning

Context: In spring 2002, the Minnesota Resources Council and the Experiment in Rural Cooperation joined together to conduct landscape forest planning in southeastern Minnesota. They requested assistance surveying existing management plans for the region.

Project: A graduate student in water resource sciences at the University of Minnesota collected and researched forest management plans from stakeholders in the region, wrote summaries for each plan, and compiled these findings into one comprehensive landscape perspective report. This report will direct the Minnesota Resources Council and the Experiment in Rural Cooperation as they move forward with their landscape forest planning.

Report: "Forest Resource Management in Southeast Minnesota: A Landscape Perspective." Leah Class and Chad Skally. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and the Experiment in Rural Cooperation, May 2002. 65 pp. [CAP 042]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Woodlands Cooperative Primary Research

Context: Landowners in east-central Minnesota decided in 2001 that they wanted to consider forming a forestry cooperative to maximize returns for forest products produced on private lands while contributing to the environmental health of the area.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota is exploring this possibility by conducting a preliminary study to see if and how the landowners should form a co-op. The results of this research will inform the landowners' decisions.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Tracking Certified Sustainable Forest Products

Context: The Headwaters Forestry Cooperative (HFC), located in central Minnesota, is a landowner-controlled forestry co-op whose mission is to improve the conditions of local forests, communities, and watersheds through sustainable forest management. The co-op is in its early stages of development and wants to create a system that will allow it to track trees harvested from well-managed forests through the processing stage to the final product.

Project: A graduate student in education and human development researched available tracking systems so HFC can choose one that is accurate, is easy to use and understand, and builds confidence with co-op members and customers.

Report: "Product Tracking (Systems) Alternatives for the Headwaters Forestry Cooperative (HFC)." Otto Garcia-Gonell. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Headwaters Forestry Cooperative, 2001. 24 pp. [CAP 032]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Land Use

Lower Phalen Creek Project

Context: Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association (USHNA) serves St. Paul's Lower Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. In 1996, USHNA helped launch the Lower Phalen Creek project to continue restoration work under way around Swede Hollow Park and improve the area's connections to the Mississippi River. The association sought help with a concept plan for the Lower Phalen Creek project.

Project: A graduate student in architecture at the University of Minnesota helped produce a concept plan for the project area and adjacent sites, and determine how development and greening projects in adjoining areas interact with this plan. The plan will be key to selling the project, leveraging funds, and gaining political support.

Report: "The View from Dayton's Bluff." Gary Shallcross. Unpublished report, 2001. 47 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1153/npcr1153.html>. [NPCR 1153]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Sustainable Development at the Urban/Rural Interface

Context: The Green Sprawl Working Group (GSWG) promotes sustainable growth initiatives in areas that have succumbed to sprawl. The organization believes owners of small land parcels on the urban fringe often have an interest in ecological stewardship and managing their land sustainably, but lack the basic technical knowledge to do so.

Project: To assist GSWG with outreach efforts, a graduate student from the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences researched examples of sustainable business and hobby enterprises in the periurban areas that preserve, mitigate the impact to, or restore ecosystem health.

Report: "Sustaining Green Space in the Rural-Urban Fringe: A Landowner's Guide." Kyla Zaro-Moore. Unpublished report, 2001. 6 pp. [CAP 027]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Water Resources

Bridging the River Project

Context: Hundreds of communities, nonprofit organizations, citizens groups, and other organizations work to improve and protect the Upper Mississippi River.

Project: This project was a three-year initiative funded by the McKnight Foundation to build a community of the many cities and organizations addressing issues such as environmental restoration, trails, interpretive activities, and community development along the Upper Mississippi. Through a Web site, a conference cosponsored by the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation, and an e-mail listserv, this project built bridges connecting communities from St. Louis to Bemidji. Although the project ended in 2001, the listserv continues to be a useful communication tool. To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail to listserv@tc.umn.edu with a blank subject line and a one-line message: SUBSCRIBE missriver-l <YOUR NAME> (without the brackets).

CURA Program: New Initiative

Eutrophication of Urban Lakes

Context: Virginia and Silver Lakes, two adjoining lakes located in Virginia, Minnesota, appear to have undergone increases in plant production (eutrophication) during the course of the last one hundred years. One of the assumed causes is the decomposition of wood deposited at the bottom of the lakes by logging activities during the 1900s. Although there is some anecdotal evidence to suggest eutrophication is occurring, little concrete data exists to document or characterize these trends.

Project: A professor at the Large Lakes Observatory at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus investigated the existence and causes of eutrophication in Virginia and Silver Lakes. A central focus of this study was to determine if indeed the decomposition of wood is providing a substantial nutrient "supplement" to the lake. In Virginia Lake, runoff from the surrounding watershed appeared to be the main supplier of nutrients to the lake, while in Silver Lake, sedimentation was the most significant nutrient-contributing factor.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program



Photo by Robert Friedman

Sarita Wetland Plant Restoration

Context: Sarita Wetland sits in the southeast corner of the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. It is a remnant of Lake Sarita, which was drained in the late 1800s. Stormwater from the campus and surrounding lands filters through the wetland on its way to the Mississippi River. The University of Minnesota is working to improve water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as education and research opportunities, in the wetland area.

Project: An undergraduate student assisted with the restoration of native plants and the removal of exotic species surrounding the wetland by comparing a previous plant survey with plants presently growing in the wetland. The student also visited a number of other wetland restoration projects in the Twin Cities area to learn how these projects are being undertaken and what plants have been most successful. Based on this research, the student determined that the majority of the species present in the Sarita Wetland are either exotic species or weedy native species. The student suggested a plan for removing some species and replacing them with native species. Once the hydrology of the wetland has been improved, the student's recommendations will be used to guide restoration of the wetland.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boating Survey

Context: The National Sea Grant College Program funded a study to assess the overall risk for spread of aquatic nuisance species, such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, by boaters.

Project: The Minnesota Center for Survey Research sent mail surveys to boat owners in five states, including Minnesota, who answered questions about awareness of state-specific aquatic nuisance species (ANS), steps taken to prevent the transport of water or ANS from one water body to another (or reasons the boater did not take such precautions), and likelihood of taking precautions in the future. Surveys were completed by 1,952 boat owners. The results of the study were used to evaluate the effectiveness of ANS boater education programs, to determine the level of understanding about ANS, and to design effective prevention programs for the public that would decrease the spread of ANS by changing boater behavior.

Reports: "California Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boating Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 59 pp. [MCSR 01-12a]

"Kansas Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boating Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 60 pp. [MCSR 01-12b]

"Minnesota Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boating Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 63 pp. [MCSR 01-12c]

"Ohio Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boating Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 65 pp. [MCSR 01-12d]

"Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boating Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 60 pp. [MCSR 01-12e]

CURA Program: Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)

Water Resource Education for the Upper Mississippi River Corridor

Context: Mississippi Corridor Neighborhood Coalition is a neighborhood-based planning, organizing, education, and advocacy group working on behalf of neighborhoods in Minneapolis to reclaim the Mississippi River as a neighborhood amenity. The organization wanted to gather information from local, regional, and national environmental organizations and government agencies on water quality issues and communicate that information to residents.

Project: An undergraduate student in graphic design from Minneapolis Community and Technical College prepared a fact sheet and action items for educational and marketing purposes.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Environmental Studies in the Lake Superior Watershed

Context: The Institute for a Sustainable Future (ISF) is a Duluth-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage and coordinate the forces necessary to promote global stability by recapturing democratic governments and market economies.

Project: Under the direction of a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and in cooperation with ISF, students in the Department of Environmental Studies capstone seminar at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus initiated a review of existing research articles that deal with environmental issues in the Western Lake Superior watershed region and that have clear policy and management implications. The purpose of the project was to create a resource that will be of use to future students, decision makers, interest groups, natural resource managers, and the public.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Fillmore Mississippi Heritage Conference

Context: The 2001 Fillmore Mississippi Heritage Conference, held May 10–12 at the RiverCentre in downtown St. Paul, was a regional forum dedicated to the revitalization of the Upper Mississippi River and its communities.

Project: Cosponsors of the conference included CURA and the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation. The program featured a keynote address by Patrick Woodie, executive director of the New River Community Partners and a national leader in community development and resource preservation in river cities; updates and highlights on a variety of regional programs related to the Mississippi; workshops on the interplay between regional initiatives and local projects related to community development, natural resource protection, education and interpretation, and recreation; and a resource center where participants could exchange ideas and information with people engaged in similar work throughout the region.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Phosphorous and Lake Eutrophication

Context: The level of phosphorous in many lakes in the Twin Cities metropolitan area has become excessive. The presence of excess nutrients increases plant production (eutrophication) in the lakes, which in turn reduces water clarity and depletes oxygen, thereby threatening the health of the lake ecosystem.

Project: A faculty member and a graduate student in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate investigated the effect of lawn fertilizers on phosphorus build-up in metropolitan lawns and soils and its subsequent runoff into area lakes. The study was conducted as a follow-up to a 1995 study of homeowners' practices in fertilizing their lawns, which found that based on the typical soil in Minnesota, most homeowners used fertilizers containing too much phosphorous and not enough nitrogen. Based on test plots in North Oaks, Minnesota, the follow-up study demonstrated that fertilizing lawns with phosphorus does not add to the color, density, or uniformity of a lawn. Based on the fact that Twin Cities soils already contain an excess of phosphorus and that most lakes contain highly elevated levels of phosphorus, the researchers concluded that homeowners should use fertilizers that contain no phosphorus to fertilize their lawns. The Minnesota State Legislature recently responded to the problem by limiting use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers in the Twin Cities.

Report: "Phosphorus and the Lakes." Jenni A. Swenson and Terry H. Cooper. *CURA Reporter* 29 (September 1999): 9–13. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/99-Sep/article2.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Long Lake Central Sewage System Study

Context: Long Lake, located south of St. James, does not have a central water and sewer system, and lakeshore homeowners have been reporting an increased number of contaminated wells.

Project: A graduate student in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology, working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development office and Hennepin County, conducted a resident survey, as well as a feasibility study to identify different sewer/septic system options appropriate for lakeshore situations and the costs associated with each system. The information from the feasibility study and survey was presented to the local lake association and county government and is being used as a reference to guide community members toward feasible wastewater treatment solutions.

Report: "Long Lake Wastewater Feasibility Study." Jamie Bankston. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Long Lake Subordinate Service District, 1999. 12 pp. [CAP 007]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Community Gardens

Urban Lawn Practices Survey

Context: The South Zumbro Watershed Partnership is a collaboration between the City of Rochester, Olmsted County, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the University of Minnesota Extension Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. The goal of the partnership is to protect the streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater resources of the South Zumbro Watershed by helping individuals, businesses, and farmers understand and apply environmentally sound practices and technologies.

The partnership was interested in learning about the effectiveness of a recent educational campaign that encouraged residents in the area to reduce their use of lawn chemicals.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota worked with the partnership to survey homeowners in Rochester's Cascade Lake Watershed about their lawn care practices and use of chemicals and fertilizers. The information from this study will be used to guide future educational campaigns.

Report: "The Homeowner Yard and Landscape Study for the Cascade Lake Watershed." Otto Garcia-Gonell. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of the South Zumbro Watershed Partnership, 1999. 22 pp. [CAP 008]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Shakopee Creek Hydrological Study

Context: The Chippewa River Watershed Project (CRWP) is a partnership of more than 30 stakeholder organizations from a seven-county agricultural watershed in west-central Minnesota. The CRWP requested assistance identifying priority projects to achieve its goal of improving water quality in the region.

Project: A graduate student in geography from the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota worked with CRWP to document the physical hydrology of Shakopee Creek, one of six major subbasins in the watershed, to understand how the hydrological processes of Shakopee's agricultural region influence its water quality. The information gained from this research will help CRWP direct its programs to areas of greatest need.

Report: "An Attempt to Understand the Physical Hydrology of the Chippewa River Watershed." Vinay Nangia. Unpublished report prepared for the Chippewa River Watershed Project, 2002. 9 pp. [CAP 050]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Community Gardens and Green Spaces in Phillips Neighborhood

Context: Residents in the Phillips Neighborhood in Minneapolis witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of vacant lots and transformed some into community gardens and green spaces. The City of Minneapolis is pressuring for redevelopment of these lots, so the Phillips Neighborhood Network (PNN) and Phillips Environment-Transportation-Community (ETC) decided to collaborate to maintain community gardens and green spaces.

Project: A graduate student in education at the University of Minnesota identified and assessed the impacts of community gardens and green spaces in Phillips. This information will contribute to land-use and redevelopment planning.

Report: "Community Gardens in the Phillips Neighborhood." Maki Kawasi. Unpublished report, 2002. 33 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1172/npcr1172.html>. [NPCR 1172]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Community Garden Resource Guide

Context: The GreenSpace Partners is a community program in the Phillips neighborhood that develops and maintains green space. Sponsored by the Green Institute, the program uses volunteers to improve inner-city livability.

Project: A graduate student in agriculture from the University of Minnesota worked with faculty and a community mentor to create a resource guide to identify the resources community gardeners need, developed a resource database, and wrote a summary report.

Report: "Twin Cities Community Garden Resource Guide." Kyla Zaro-Moore. Unpublished report, 2002. 61 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1185/npcr1185.html>. [NPCR 1185]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Conservation

Wildlife Habitat on Private and Public Lands

Context: Farmland set-aside programs are known to provide wildlife habitat in agricultural regions. Little is known, however, about how retired farm fields compare to publicly owned grasslands managed as wildlife habitat. If farm set-aside programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) were to end tomorrow, how well would wildlife survive on available public lands?

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota compared wildlife habitat on private and public grasslands in southern Minnesota using songbirds as indicators of the quality and quantity of grassland habitat. The study came to a surprising conclusion: acre for acre, privately owned grasslands provide better habitat for grassland-nesting songbirds than publicly owned lands. These results suggest the vital role farm set-aside programs play in wildlife conservation.

Report: "Grassland Birds Do Better on Private Lands." Mary Ann Cunningham. *CURA Reporter* 30 (June 2000): 1–9. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Jun/article1.pdf>.

CURA Program: John R. Borchert Fellowship

Land Conservation Summit

Context: Various legal instruments are used to protect, preserve, and defend the natural resources of the United States. However, achieving these goals will require imagination and the invention of new tools, practices, and public policies.

Project: "Land Conservation Summit 2000: Advancing the Debate in the New Millennium"—held July 28–29, 2000, at the Earle Brown Conference Center at the University of Minnesota—brought together policy makers, academics, conservation professionals, and others to consider ways to integrate and extend current conservation practices. Attendees discussed current trends, legal issues, academic concerns, and practical problems in the conservation of private lands. The event was cosponsored by CURA, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Council, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts, the University of Wisconsin Land Tenure Center, and Minnesota Land Trust.

Report: "Land Conservation Summit 2000: Advancing the Debate in the New Millennium." Land Conservation Summit. Unpublished report, 2000. 223 pp. [L2000-1]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Blue Earth Farm Conservation Practices Study

Context: The Blue Earth River Basin Initiative works to improve water quality in the Blue Earth River. The initiative needed assistance evaluating conservation practices by farmers who work the land near the river basin.

Project: During the summer of 1999, an undergraduate philosophy student from the University of Minnesota who is also a native of south-central Minnesota surveyed farmers in the Blue Earth River basin on their conservation practices. The study specifically looked at the motivation behind certain conservation practices by asking farmers what influenced them to take the time, spend the dollars, and do the extra work to implement these practices. The results from the survey are being used to direct the use of limited implementation funds and to guide the development of incentive programs for landowners.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Chatfield Nature Study Area

Context: A group of community volunteers and teachers in the Chatfield area wanted to create a nature study area for local school children and the public.

Project: A wildlife conservation graduate student and an environmental studies undergraduate student, both in the University of Minnesota's College of Natural Resources, worked with the groups to develop a four-acre nature outdoor learning site. The graduate student completed a baseline inventory of the plants and birds on the four-acre site and the undergraduate student compiled a book of activities for student visitors. The inventory is being used as baseline information for further research and study by visiting high school classes. The book of activities is being used by the elementary staff to provide ideas and curricula for how to use the area.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR



Energy

Biogas and Biomass Energy Potential

Context: The State of Minnesota faces the possibility of an energy shortage in the future, according to the State Energy Office of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Energy Office wanted to work on a plan to avoid the adverse effects of electricity shortfalls while minimizing the negative effects of traditional electric generators on the environment.

Project: A graduate student in soil science in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota worked with Energy Office staff to research and assess the energy potential of Minnesota's biogas resources (manure from farm animals and feedlots) and biomass resources (waste wood from forests and waste from various crops and plant materials). Part of the plan was to locate, map, and assess Minnesota's farmlands to determine the growth of energy crops and to estimate the costs of converting biogas and biomass to energy and to compare those costs to the current cost of electricity generated from fossil fuels. The student did most of the research and writing for a report that will be issued by the department soon.

Report: *Minnesota's Potential for Electricity Production Using Biogas Resources*. By Paul Hinds. St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Commerce, forthcoming 2003.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program

RSDP Energy Project

Context: Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) is a partnership between public, nonprofit, and private organizations, including The Minnesota Project, the Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The teams were created to fully realize Minnesota's potential for producing local renewable energy, and regional CERTs exist throughout Minnesota. The CERTs program requested assistance with their mission of identifying, supporting, and building renewable energy projects.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs conducted a renewable energy assessment for the state; created a resource manual outlining basic information on small-scale renewable energy options; and compiled a list of companies, organizations, and people with expertise in each renewable energy technology. This assessment will be utilized by the regional CERTs to stimulate more renewable energy projects.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Ethanol By-Products Study

Context: The Central Minnesota Ethanol Co-op is a new generation farm cooperative located in Little Falls, Minnesota. The plant relies on fossil fuels to convert corn into ethanol, which is very costly. The co-op also uses large amounts of water for its daily operations, which it currently discharges into a pretreatment plant, and produces carbon dioxide as a byproduct, which it vents directly into the atmosphere.

Project: A graduate student from the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota conducted research to determine if there was a way to use byproducts of the production process to fuel the plant. This research identified several options that the co-op is now exploring further.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Night Time Down-Lighting Project

Context: The Night Time Down-Lighting Project wanted to determine the costs of converting conventional light fixtures to down-lighting fixtures to conserve energy and decrease nighttime light pollution.

Project: An undergraduate student in the University of Minnesota's College of Natural Resources assisted with the research by collecting data on conversion costs and identifying changeover and conversion issues. This information is being presented to city council members and public administrators to facilitate conversion to down-lighting.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Alternative Energy Sources on American Indian Reservations

Context: The White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP) is a Native American organization based on the White Earth Indian Reservation in Northern Minnesota. The organization erected a wind turbine as a demonstration project for household use in remote areas, particularly American Indian reservations, and wanted to expand the project.

Project: A graduate student in geography from the University of Minnesota helped WELRP expand the project by researching technical material on wind turbines and preparing a resource book on wind and other alternative energy sources, including financing options. The book is now being edited for publication.

CURA Program: Communiiversity Program

Environmental Entrepreneurship

Kauffman Center/Green Institute Internship Program

Context: The Green Institute is an entrepreneurial environmental organization dedicated to creating jobs, improving the quality of life, and enhancing the urban environment in inner-city Minneapolis. The institute emphasizes sustainable community development that simultaneously pursues economic, environmental, and social gains. In 1999, CURA partnered with the Green Institute on a successful proposal to the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership to support four student internships with socially responsive private or nonprofit organizations.

Project: Five graduate students from the University of Minnesota in urban and regional planning; educational policy and administration; political science; mechanical engineering; and science, technology, and environmental policy worked with four nonprofit organizations. These organizations included: (1) the Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development, a nonprofit that helps citizens of the Great Plains region ensure community viability, economic productivity, environmental quality, and prudent resource management; (2) Managed Supportive Housing, a new program to foster a supportive housing initiative in the Twin Cities; (3) Honor the Earth, a national advocacy organization based in Minneapolis that supports frontline work by and for Native Americans in the areas of environmental justice and indigenous knowledge; and (4) Factor 10 LLC, a full-service commercial and mixed-use real estate services firm. These students provided personnel and research support to help the organizations further their work and missions.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Environmental Policy and Assessment

Assessing Environmental Hazards in the Phillips Neighborhood

Context: Residents of inner-city neighborhoods around the country are increasingly concerned about the environmental and social sustainability of the places in which they live. One tool to help residents monitor neighborhood sustainability is the neighborhood environmental inventory.

Project: With support from a National Science Foundation grant, three professors of geography and one graduate student from the University of Minnesota worked with the Phillips neighborhood in south Minneapolis to develop a neighborhood environmental inventory based on resident concerns using geographic information systems (GIS) technology and available government data. A useful resource for neighborhood organizers and residents, the inventory was placed on the Internet to make it more easily accessible.

Report: "Neighborhood Environmental Inventories on the Internet: Creating a New Kind of Community Resource for Phillips Neighborhood." By Hilda Kurtz, Helga Leitner, Eric Sheppard, and Robert McMaster. *CURA Reporter* 31 (May 2001): 20–26. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-May/article3.pdf>.

CURA Programs: Faculty Interactive Research Program and Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Environmental Equity in Hennepin County and Minneapolis

Context: As concern has increased about the risks to human welfare posed by releases of toxic chemicals into the environment, attention has been focused on whether the risk of exposure to more routine releases of toxic chemicals is systematically higher for disadvantaged populations and if this reflects deliberate discrimination in the siting of facilities that manufacture, store, or use toxic chemicals.

Project: A team of researchers comprised of three professors of geography and two graduate students in geography from the University of Minnesota conducted an environmental equity analysis in Hennepin County and the city of Minneapolis to analyze the relationship between the geographic distribution of toxic sites and the characteristics of populations living in proximity to those sites. Using geographic information systems (GIS) technology and a public data set called the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)—which identifies companies that use, manufacture, or store toxic chemicals—the team found that TRI sites in Hennepin County were more likely to be in proximity to communities of color, while TRI sites in Minneapolis were more likely to be closer to poorer White communities.

Report: "Examining Environmental Equity in Hennepin County and Minneapolis." Eric Sheppard, Robert B. McMaster, Helga Leitner, Sarah Elwood, and Honguo Tian. *CURA Reporter* 29 (September 1999): 1–8. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/99-Sep/article1.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Environmental and Natural Resources Funding Priorities

Context: The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), which is comprised of legislators from the Minnesota House and Senate, recommends projects to the legislature to enhance and protect Minnesota's natural resources. A major source of funding for projects is the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, which receives many competing proposals each funding phase.

Project: A graduate student in the Master of Public Policy program at the University of Minnesota worked in a team setting with professional staff on a number of issues related to the funding process, including an evaluation of the results and recommendations of past environmental studies.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program

Environmental Inventory for Como and Prospect Park Neighborhoods

Context: South East Como Improvement Association (SECIA) and Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association (PPERRIA) collaborated to address the problem of toxic chemicals released by industry in and around southeast Minneapolis.

Project: An undergraduate student in urban studies and geography from Macalester College worked with SECIA and PPERRIA to create an environmental inventory of the neighborhoods for the Southeast Minneapolis Pollution Prevention Project. The student gathered and analyzed environmental data to identify trends and prepared a report that was disseminated to residents.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Mississippi Corridor Environmental Inventory

Context: Mississippi Corridor Neighborhood Coalition (MCNC) is a neighborhood-based planning, organizing, education, and advocacy group working on behalf of neighborhoods in Minneapolis to reclaim the Mississippi River as a neighborhood amenity.

Project: An undergraduate student from Macalester and an undergraduate student in architecture from the University of Minnesota worked with MCNC to update the neighborhood environmental inventories the organization conducted in 1991.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Hanover Natural Resource Inventory

Context: The City of Hanover, located in northwestern Hennepin County, was interested in creating an inventory of its natural resources.

Project: An environmental studies major in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus conducted a natural resource inventory of both wetlands and native uplands for Hanover. The City will use the inventory results to prioritize their natural resource protection and update their ordinances to reflect these priorities.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Environmental Profile for Lind-Bohanon

Context: Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association has been instrumental in the development of the Humboldt Greenway and the North Mississippi Interpretive Center.

Project: Two students in environmental studies, one an undergraduate student from Hamline and the other a graduate student from the University of Minnesota, helped investigate neighborhood environmental emissions by the Camden and Humboldt industrial areas. Presentation materials were developed and a final report was written that summarized findings and made recommendations for community involvement.

Reports: "Environmental Profile of the Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood." Angela Hackel. Unpublished report, 2001. 26 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1169/npcr1169.html>. [NPCR 1169]

"Study of Environmental Profile Around Industries in the Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Area." Vinay Nangia. Unpublished report, 2001. 17 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1183/npcr1183.html>. [NPCR 1183]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Environmental Review Practice in Minnesota

Context: Required under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was intended to help determine if proposed development projects pose a potential for significant environmental effects and if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is therefore necessary. Questions remain, however, about the adequacy of EAWs in achieving this goal.

Project: A professor and graduate student in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota received support to conduct a study of the perceptions of people who read, write, collect data from, or comment on EAWs concerning whether the worksheets adequately describe environmental issues and protect the environment. The pair compiled a catalog of EAWs completed from 1992 to 2001, surveyed and interviewed government officials and environmental consultants, and observed Special Advisory Committee meetings held by the Environmental Quality Board. They found that the majority of respondents surveyed feel the EAW process generates real information about development projects, but that many found the process time-consuming and complicated to understand or expressed concern about the effectiveness of the EAW process. Because successful policy requires effective statutes and concerned individuals to implement the law, an understanding of these perceptions is important to guiding effective environmental policy in the state.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Outdoor Recreation

Recreational Use of the St. Croix Riverway

Context: In 1972, Congress designated the Lower St. Croix National Scenic and Recreational Riverway in recognition of the biological, physical, scenic, and recreational resources along the 52-mile corridor that extends from the St. Croix falls to the river's confluence with the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, the increased recreational use of the riverway and its islands that has resulted from this designation now threatens to undermine the viability of these very resources. Symptoms of environmental degradation—including shoreline erosion and disruption of island ecosystems—have already begun to appear. Because the riverway has always been open to public use, regulations designed to restrict access are likely to fail without sufficient information to justify such restrictions.

Project: A professor, a research assistant, and a research fellow in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota teamed up to investigate the relationship between island ecosystem changes and changing patterns of recreational use on the St. Croix Riverway. Using geographic information systems (GIS) technology, the investigators tracked changes in the size and structure of forests located on the St. Croix Islands between 1969 and 1991, as well as changes in recreational boating patterns on the riverway between 1980 and 1995. They concluded that there is little evidence to suggest that island forest decline is linked to actual island use by boaters, but that increased boat traffic near islands has disrupted ecosystem integrity on smaller islands in some areas of the riverway. Based on their findings, the researchers identified several management tools to prevent further destruction of these islands, including restricting boat traffic, reducing boat speeds around certain islands, and better public education efforts.

Report: "Recreational Use of the St. Croix Islands and Its Implications for the Integrity of Forest Island Ecosystems." By David G. Pitt, Diane C. Whited, and Michele Hanson. CURA

Reporter 32 (Spring 2002): 8–15. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Spr/pitt-et-al.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Photo courtesy of Diane Whited



St. Croix River Boat Traffic Analysis

Context: The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission—an organization charged with promoting cooperation in the use, protection, and development of a 266-mile corridor of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers—wanted to determine the number of boats entering the St. Croix River from the Mississippi.

Project: A student in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota worked with volunteers to conduct this research. This information is being used to inform policies on use and protection of the river corridor.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Rock Climbing Management Plan

Context: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for managing public lands and resources throughout the state of Minnesota, including state parks. The agency was interested in establishing baseline data on recreational users' attitudes and behaviors toward a revised management plan and trail construction at a popular rock climbing site called Shovel Point in Tettegouche State Park.

Project: A faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and an undergraduate student in outdoor recreation worked with the manager of Tettegouche State Park to produce georeferenced maps, survey outcomes, a vegetation analysis, and a review of pertinent literature along with interview results pertaining to climbing management trends nationwide. The purpose of

the project was to help determine if resource degradation could be stopped and whether or not restoration is possible by constructing an interpretive trail at the site. The results of the project have been presented at two conferences and have been used as a model by the Wisconsin DNR. The Minnesota DNR is now using this site to propagate native species to rehabilitate sensitive natural areas while redirecting the recreational public to minimize negative impacts on the land. **CURA Program:** Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Policy and Government Reform

Budget and Tax Policy

Minneapolis Tax-Increment Financing Project

Context: Local governments use tax-increment financing (TIF) to finance improvement projects by floating a general bond to be paid off using the additional tax revenue generated by the improvement project. Although TIF allows municipalities to creatively finance development projects, it may also promote increased demand for public services and may cause local governments to lose out on the growth in tax base that would have occurred without TIF.

Project: This study, funded jointly by CURA and the Minneapolis Planning Department, supported a professor of public finance at the University of Minnesota with expertise in tax-increment financing and a graduate research assistant who compiled an annotated bibliography of TIF resource materials for use by the Minneapolis Planning Department, collected and analyzed property tax records from Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Community Development Agency, and developed a deterministic simulation model that the city of Minneapolis can use to assess the financial effects of proposed TIF projects.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Local Government Budget Reserves

Context: The use of budget reserves by local governments presents a persistent problem in Minnesota public finance policy partly because the state provides significant levels of financial aid to local governments. The problem is exacerbated when there are actual or potential reductions in local governmental aid because the practice of budgeting reserves by local governments varies across the state.

Project: A professor of public finance at the University of Minnesota worked with a graduate research assistant to analyze the consequences of state aid cutbacks for local governments who make varying use of budget reserves. The study will help the state develop more effective and equitable local government aid policies.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Use of GIS for Tax Data Analysis

Context: The Tax Research Division of the Minnesota Department of Revenue (MDR) wanted to investigate the potential for utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) to assist in analyzing tax data.

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota reviewed the use of GIS by revenue departments in other states, explored potential applications of GIS technologies in Minnesota, and developed two prototype systems. The Department of Revenue used the student's work as the basis for creating a full-time GIS research analyst position to develop and implement a new agency-wide geographic information system.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Senate Media Services

Civic Participation and Public Policy

Conference on Social Justice Issues

Context: In October 2001, Citizens for Democracy—a Twin Cities group committed to citizen participation in democracy—hosted a one-day conference in Minneapolis to examine issues of social justice, civic engagement, and current policy agendas that depend on citizen support.

Project: The conference, titled “A Citizen’s Call to Justice: Creating a New Democracy,” received funding from CURA, the Institute on Race and Poverty, the Headwaters Fund, VoterMarch Minnesota, the DFL Education Foundation, the Minneapolis Urban League, and the Minneapolis branch of the NAACP. The event focused on impending policy decisions likely to affect people’s lives and on creating a network of progressives dedicated to revitalizing democracy. Speakers included John A. Powell, executive director of the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota; Peter Edelman, professor of law at Georgetown University; and the late Senator Paul Wellstone (DFL-Minnesota).

CURA Program: New Initiative

Women in Public Policy

Context: The Center on Women and Public Policy at the University of Minnesota is a teaching, research, and outreach center devoted to women and public policy. The center requested assistance with an ongoing project to compile case studies of women and women’s organizations engaged in public policy in Minnesota.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota provided assistance with the development of several case studies for the project. The case studies are available on the center’s Web site at <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/wpp/research.htm>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Legal Policy and the Judiciary

The Digital Divide and Civic Life in Rural Minnesota

Context: Despite the rapid spread of the Internet and other information technologies, the digital divide is a fact of life in many rural communities in Minnesota, where differential access to information technologies means that many families are still unable to participate in the information revolution of the last few decades.

Project: Eugene Borgida, professor of psychology and law and director of the Center for the Study of Political Psychology, was named to the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs for 2002–2003. Borgida will use the resources provided by his appointment to extend his work on the impact of computer networks on the conduct of civic life in rural Minnesota communities, a project initially funded by CURA in 1996. The project focuses on the role a community's civic and political cultural norms play in addressing disparities in access to information technology. To date, Borgida and his colleagues have conducted survey research, focus groups, and archival research in two rural communities. Borgida will extend the analysis to several other communities, particularly those taking part in Minnesota's Rural Internet Initiative, a program designed to improve the state's telecommunications infrastructure. He also expects to develop a new graduate seminar on the Internet and Civic Culture.

CURA Program: Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs

Minnesota Center for the Common Good

Context: In October 2001, 60 prominent Minnesota leaders representing faith organizations, labor, environmental groups, family farmers, women, immigrants, migrants, and minority communities proposed the creation of the Minnesota Center for the Common Good. The mission of the center is to bring an inclusive, community-oriented perspective to public policy decisions in Minnesota.

Project: To help broaden participation in the center, CURA provided eight scholarships. Fundraising for the initiative continues under the direction of a temporary steering committee.

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Evaluation of the Duluth Drug Court

Context: The Arrowhead Regional Corrections Center (ARCC) is a unit of the State of Minnesota's Sixth Judicial District that facilitates corrections in five northeastern Minnesota counties. The ARCC received a large grant in fall 2001 from the Minnesota Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention to study the effectiveness of the Duluth Drug Court, a collaborative criminal justice program that screens criminal offenders with a history of drug use from the mainstream criminal justice process and diverts them into a treatment-oriented program. The ARCC requested assistance with the program evaluation.

Project: A professor and two student research assistants in sociology and anthropology at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus worked with a drug court consultant to develop questionnaires and other data collection instruments as well as to collect and analyze data about the program. Completion of the project is anticipated in January 2003. The program evaluation will provide baseline data for future evaluations of program effectiveness.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Blue Earth County Justice System Research Project

Context: The Blue Earth County jail periodically exceeds capacity. The county wanted to explore ways to address the situation through its criminal justice system.

Project: An undergraduate student in political science at the University of Minnesota analyzed the jail's computer records to learn who is in jail and why they are there. The student also conducted interviews to learn where the key decision points were in the criminal justice system when it came to sending someone to jail. This research is being used by county leaders to support analysis and planning efforts to reduce overcrowding at the jail.

Report: "Overview of Crime and Jail Use in Blue Earth County, 1995–2001." Matthew Berger. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with Blue Earth County, January 2000. 61 pp. [CAP 029]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Juvenile/Adult District Court Sentencing

Context: In 1995, the Minnesota State Legislature passed a law creating a blended juvenile/adult sentence in Minnesota District Courts. After the law was passed, there was much public interest in the actual effects of the law change but little real information.

Project: A graduate student from the Carlson School of Management worked under the supervision of a permanent staff member of the Minnesota State Court Administration Office collecting and analyzing data regarding the effect of the law change. The data were used in a report to a branch of the National Institute of Justice that focuses on juvenile justice delinquency. Presentations using the data have also been made to the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota County Attorneys Association.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program

Policy Analysis and Evaluation

Analysis of State Programs, Policies, and Practices

Context: Each year, the Minnesota legislative commission assigns public policy research work to the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA), which is responsible for providing the information and analyses the legislature requires to make informed decisions about state programs, policies, and practices.

Project: Two graduate students worked at the direction of the state auditor on two of the OLA's research teams. One student in law and public policy at the University of Minnesota was involved in a project to identify seven best practices for effective e-government provided by counties, cities, and local school districts. Another student in the Master of Public Policy program at the University participated in a best practices review of efforts by the State of Minnesota to preserve existing housing stock.

Report: A report is expected in spring 2003.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program

Metropolitan Government

Context: The Metropolitan Council was created in 1967 to guide the growth of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and assure that the necessary public facilities would be in place to serve it.

Project: A visiting scholar from Bethel College examined the 30-year record of the council to learn what has been accomplished in the areas of land use and housing. The investigation showed that the council's achievements have been impressive in the national context, although they have not met the expectations of all observers, and concluded that the Met Council operates in the midst of a web of political influence that both supports and constrains its efforts.

Report: "Managing Urban Growth: The Metropolitan Council's Politics and Performance." William C. Johnson. *CURA Reporter* 29 (September 1999): 14-18.

CURA Program: Visiting Scholar

St. Louis County Public Housing Policy Audit

Context: The City of Duluth Community Development and Housing Division, the St. Louis County Planning Office, the St. Louis County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission are jointly responsible for developing and implementing policies related to housing and other social service and planning issues in St. Louis County.

Project: In cooperation with these agencies and under the direction of a faculty member in political science, students in a senior seminar in the Department of Political Science at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus (UMD) conducted a series of interviews with local elites regarding the ways in which the City and County have designed and provided homelessness and public housing programs, particularly in the context of new policy initiatives at the federal and state level. The purpose of the project was to assist future students and policy makers to design effective housing policies and to improve the working relationship between local government agencies and public policy students at UMD.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Driving Under the Influence of Drugs

Context: Although most states track arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol, little systematic data exists on driving under the influence of drugs.

Project: A professor in health services research policy at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health is collaborating with the Minnesota State Patrol and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Toxicology Unit to research state trends among individuals driving under the influence of illicit and prescription drugs, as well as criminal justice outcomes for those arrested for such violations.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Hennepin County Community Court Survey

Context: Hennepin County District Court wanted to survey residents about conditions in their community and the value of the local criminal justice system.

Project: The Minnesota Center for Survey Research completed telephone interviews with 405 residents of the Minneapolis 3rd precinct. People answered questions about safety issues, their concerns about various types of crime in their neighborhood, the amount of money spent on fighting low-level crimes, and their familiarity with the Hennepin County Community Court. The results were used to make policy decisions about the community court.

Report: "Hennepin County Community Court Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2000. 40 pp. [MCSR 00-16]

CURA Program: Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)

Legal Advocacy for Battered Women

Context: The Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, based in St. Paul, works to eliminate oppression of and violence against women. The organization needed an analysis of women moving through the criminal justice system, including representation provided, defense strategies used, lengths of sentences, and adequacy of representation.

Project: A graduate student in social work from the University of Minnesota helped assess the status of battered female criminal defendants in Hennepin County and southwestern Minnesota and identify how many were in need of legal representation in the year prior to the project start date.

CURA Program: Communiversity Program

Law Enforcement Training Course Evaluation

Context: The Center for Professional Programming of the William Mitchell College of Law offered a training course for law enforcement professionals in how to conduct professional and consistent internal investigations. The center wanted to evaluate the impact of the course on participating police departments.

Project: A student in the University of Minnesota's Law School designed and administered a survey of past training course participants, and then conducted a follow-up by telephone. Based on information from these surveys, the student recommended changes to improve the training courses, many of which the center has implemented.

CURA Program: Communiversity Program

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice Programs in Dakota County

Context: In contrast to the focus on punishment that characterizes the traditional justice system, restorative justice focuses on the accountability of offenders, the impact of crimes on victims and the community, and the ways in which offenders can repair the harm they have done. Family group conferencing (FGC) is a restorative justice program that provides a forum for the victims of juvenile crimes to meet with offenders in a safe and respectful environment to talk about the incident and to develop a restitution plan. The Dakota County Corrections Department requested an evaluation of their FGC program.

Project: A graduate student in social work and an associate professor of social work who directs the University of Minnesota's Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking interviewed victims, offenders, and support staff involved in the FGC program to investigate what they think about the program, what the demographic breakdown of FGC participants is, and whether participants' attitudes about the program change after their participation. The two researchers found that both victims and juvenile offenders expressed a high level of satisfaction with the FGC process and the outcome of the conferences.

Report: "Practicing Restorative Justice: Family Group Conferencing and Juvenile Crime in the Suburban Metro Area." By Mark Umbreit and Claudia Fercello. *CURA Reporter* 30 (June 2000): 15–18. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Jun/article3.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Freeborn County Restorative Justice Program Assessment

Context: The Freeborn County Restorative Justice program serves youth and their families by diverting them from the court system when they are first-time offenders. The program brings youth together with their victims as a means of making them accountable for their actions. Assistance was requested to conduct an evaluation of the program.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs conducted a program assessment and then presented the findings from the assessment to the joint powers entity that oversees the program. This research will help the restorative justice program receive more stable financial support.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Restorative Justice Program Research

Context: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) serves four South Minneapolis neighborhoods: Minnehaha, Keewaydin, Wenonah, and Morris Park. The association wanted to assess the feasibility of developing a restorative justice program for the community.

Project: An undergraduate psychology student at Hamline University researched restorative justice programs in the Twin Cities, identified key players and program models, and determined how they are implemented and sustained. Recommendations were provided for NENA to establish its own program.

Report: "Nokomis East Neighborhood Social Programming Research and Bossen Community Survey." Ryan Greenwood. Unpublished report, 1999. 27 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1127/npcr1127.html>. [NPCR 1127]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Health, Human, and Social Services

Social and Human Services

Interpreter Network Marketing Analysis

Context: The Interpreter Network in Winona County was established with funding from a grant. With the grant expiration pending, the network needed to identify a self-generating revenue source or develop an alternative strategy for subsidizing the interpretive services it provided.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs reviewed the current system and developed alternative strategies for maintaining the Interpreter Network. The Interpreter Network used this information in their planning and grant-writing activities.

Report: "Report on Assessment of Needs for Interpretive Services." Nodira Dadabayeva. Unpublished report, 2000. 3 pp. [CAP 021]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Skyline Towers Evaluation Project

Context: The Lexington-Hamline Community Council's (LHCC) mission is to improve the quality of life in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. Most of the neighborhood's 3,200 residents live in single-family dwellings, but about 900 live in one high-rise building called Skyline Towers, a privately owned and publicly subsidized housing facility. In 1995, the LHCC joined with Model Cities of St. Paul and 35 other local service providers to offer onsite supportive housing services to Skyline Towers residents.

Project: A graduate student in education at the University of Minnesota researched the health of area residents and the impacts of the Skyline Towers Supportive Housing Program by conducting and analyzing the annual resident survey and developing and conducting a resident health survey.

Report: "Skyline Towers 1999 Assessment." Lili Pan and Maki Kawase. Unpublished report, 2000. 15 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1146/npcr1146.html>. [NPCR 1146]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Northwest Hennepin Human Services Needs Assessment

Context: Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council, created in 1972, is a joint agreement of 15 cities in northwestern Hennepin County. The council is responsible for assessing and responding to human service needs and developing cost-effective service delivery systems. The council requested assistance conducting a human services needs assessment in the area.

Project: A graduate student in human resources at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management worked with the council's research planner to conduct a community-wide needs assessment. The student assisted with questionnaire design, interviewing, and data analysis.

CURA Program: Communiversity Program



Photo by Pat Christman

Childcare

South Minneapolis Childcare Plan

Context: Phillips Community Development Corporation wanted to conduct a feasibility study to assess what resources were available to expand center-based childcare in four neighborhoods

Project: An undergraduate student in political science from Macalester College identified funding sources, examined various program models, and outlined a proposal for childcare expansion.

Report: "Southside Child Care Collaborative: Recommended Funding Schema." Holly Hinman. Unpublished report, 1999. 13 pp. [NPCR 1131]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Neighborhood-Based Childcare Facilities Development Models

Context: The Development Corporation for Children (DCC) investigates models of community-based childcare that suit the needs of their clientele. The organization wanted to develop different strategies for childcare and identify a model for DCC to work better with its diverse clientele in South Minneapolis.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota conducted a literature review of community-based childcare facilities; interviewed staff, parents, residents, employers, and funders to identify goals and satisfaction with services; compiled case studies; and produced a report for the organization that illustrates different models and case studies.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Youth and Youth Services

Youth Philanthropy

Context: Although teenagers are often asked to volunteer their time, they are rarely asked to donate their money. Some would argue that it is important to cultivate generous giving among teens, not only because they are an underutilized source of financial support for nonprofit groups, but also because financial habits are formed during childhood and adolescence.

Project: A postdoctoral researcher of education and human development at the University of Minnesota attempted to learn what influences exceptionally generous teens to give at higher levels than their peers. The researcher conducted semistructured interviews with teenagers who donate \$100 or more per year to charity. Based on these interviews, several common themes emerged among participants, including membership in communities that practice philanthropy, a belief in the need for wise giving, and financial training and cultivation of good financial habits by parents or guardians. The researcher helped to create a youth philanthropy educational program based on this work.

Report: "Promoting Generous Giving among Teens." By Alexandra Crittenden. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Spring 2002): 1–6. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Spr/crittenden.pdf>

CURA Program: New Initiative

Swift County Youth Program Impact

Context: Youth services providers in Swift County wanted to assess the impact of youth programs on rural communities.

Project: In spring 2002, an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota's Morris campus prepared and conducted a survey to assess what programs existed in the areas of youth leadership, community service, and land/water education and engagement. This information will be used to create a program that builds on current efforts and fills existing gaps so that youth can contribute to the sustainability of their communities.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Faribault Youth Services Center

Context: Faribault Youth Services Center is a new nonprofit corporation formed to facilitate services, programs, and activities for Rice County youths. A centralized approach was used to organize the center based on the belief that this would increase efficiency and effectiveness and reduce overlap among similar programs, activities, and services. The center wanted feedback on this approach from the community.

Project: A graduate student in human resources and industrial relations at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management collected data to ensure that the citizens in the community supported such an approach. The student's report will be used to help the youth center gain future support and endorsement from various agencies and the community.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Preventing Violence through Basketball

Context: Midnight basketball leagues began in the late 1980s as a way of diverting inner-city youth from crime and building healthy social skills. Despite their popularity, there is little information on how or why they work and little reliable data on their effectiveness.

Project: A professor of sociology and a graduate student in sociology at the University of Minnesota worked on a collaborative project with the Minneapolis Stay Alive Program, which sponsors two basketball programs for disadvantaged African American and Native American youth. The professor and student assisted with program development, design, and evaluation, and in return had the opportunity to conduct intensive ethnographic and interview-based research on the program to assess the problems and possibilities of sports-based youth outreach initiatives.

Report: "Sport as Prevention? Minneapolis' Experiment with Late-Night Basketball." Douglas Hartmann and Darren Wheelock. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Summer 2002): 13–17.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Youth and Family Resources in Elliot Park

Context: Elliot Park's demographics have changed significantly since the 1990 U.S. Census and the neighborhood association wanted to assess whether existing youth and family service resources were sufficiently serving residents.

Project: A CURA staff member and two graduate students in geography and planning from the University of Minnesota helped the neighborhood collect geographic and demographic information on new residents, assess existing and outside resources for neighborhood residents, and identify neighborhood assets. Although the findings that resulted from this project were preliminary, the research and analysis were instrumental in instigating a larger initiative to promote the development of appropriate programming and resources throughout the neighborhood. Elliot Park neighborhood plans to continue to use geographic information systems (GIS) analysis as this initiative evolves.

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Mental Health

Assessing the Mental Health of Infants and Toddlers

Context: Neurophysiological research increasingly supports the idea that brain development has a profound influence on early behavior. Based on this research, the idea of assessing and responding to the behaviors of infants and toddlers has become an urgent issue for early childhood practitioners.

Project: In September 1999, CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare cosponsored a symposium titled “The Fragile Early Years: Assessing the Mental Health of Infants and Toddlers” at the University of Minnesota’s Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. The symposium focused on the safety and well-being of infants and toddlers living in high-risk families and included discussions of attachment research, observation skills for assessing infant and toddler mental health, and policy implications for the child welfare system in paying attention to the very young years of vulnerable children.

Report: *The Fragile Early Years: Assessing the Mental Health of Infants and Toddlers*. By Esther Wattenberg (ed.). Minneapolis: CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, 2000. CURA 00-1. 30 pp. [S1066]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Skyline Towers Stressors and Social Resources Project

Context: The Lexington-Hamline Community Council (LHCC) works for community change in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. The council collaborated with Model Cities of St. Paul and 35 other local service providers to offer onsite supportive housing services to the residents of Skyline Towers.

Project: A graduate student in journalism from the University of Minnesota worked with a faculty member, a project supervisor, and a community mentor to research sources of stress and depression for immigrants and for women on welfare with children who live in Skyline Towers or similar high-rise apartment buildings.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Psychosocial Screening of Rural Head Start Children

Context: A professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota’s Duluth campus (UMD), in cooperation with the Center for Rural Mental Health Studies at UMD and the Carlton County Public Health and Human Services, are engaged in an ongoing project to evaluate screening methods used to address the mental health needs of children enrolled in the county’s Head Start programs. The goal of the project is to ensure that valid psychosocial screening will serve as an accurate first step in linking children with problems to the resources they may need.

Project: A graduate student in counseling psychology at UMD helped to facilitate the administrative details of the study, prepare forms for scoring, coordinate communication between the center and Carlton County, and contribute to data analysis and report writing. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the 2002–2003 academic year.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Crisis Resources

First Call for Help Resource Directory

Context: First Call for Help handles a wide range of crisis requests from low-income, minority, and new immigrant populations. To facilitate referrals to appropriate community service organizations, First Call wanted to compile a list of service providers in the area.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development assisted the organization in producing a regional directory of community services by gathering information about more than eight hundred health and human service agencies in south-central Minnesota ranging from clinics, judicial services, and disaster organizations to interfaith groups and economic development agencies. The information has been put into a printed directory and a computer database, and 1,000 printed directories will be distributed to human service agencies and health professionals who serve the public. First Call for Help will also use the information to assist callers in finding appropriate resources.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

First Call for Help–Southwest Marketing Plan

Context: First Call for Help–Southwest (FCFH–SW) was established in July 1998 to provide comprehensive information and referral services in the areas of health, human services, and community resources to 18 counties in southwestern and western Minnesota. As a new organization, First Call needed assistance developing a marketing plan.

Project: A graduate student from the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota assisted the organization in developing a public relations, marketing, and community education plan. This work is helping FCFH–SW to build a regional identity for the program “so people who don’t know where to turn call First Call for Help.”

Report: “First Call for Help®–Southwest Building Regional Identity Project.” Kristin Mellstrom. Unpublished report, 2000. 12 pp. [CAP 018]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Aging and the Aged

Survey of Older Minnesotans

Context: The Minnesota Department of Human Services (MDHS) wanted to assess the needs and concerns of older adults in the state and determine how resources are used by this particular population.

Project: The Minnesota Center for Survey Research screened thousands of households for age-eligibility and completed telephone interviews with 2,253 individuals aged 55 years or older. People answered questions about their social support, health, functional status, activities of daily living, housing situation, service utilization, and access to and use of transportation. Survey results were used in service-delivery planning and to identify the characteristics of people most at risk of becoming eligible for government services.

Report: "2001 Survey of Older Minnesotans." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 143 pp. [MCSR 01-16]

CURA Program: Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)

Elder Network Mental Health and Aging Study

Context: The Elder Network serves a six-county area in southeastern Minnesota. Its intent is to build a broad-based network of mental health support services for older adults by utilizing the services of peer volunteers. To do this, the network required baseline information about existing services.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management helped design and conduct a community assessment of mental health issues related to aging. This assessment explored both existing services and gaps in services and will serve as a foundation for new program enhancements to meet the identified needs.

Report: "Elder Network Mental Health and Aging Study." Jedd Smith. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Elder Network, 2001. 57 pp. [CAP 020]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Quality Improvement in Long-Term Care Facilities

Context: In 1995, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (MDHS) implemented an alternative payment system to foster innovative approaches to quality improvement in Minnesota long-term care facilities. Facilities that wish to participate must demonstrate an ability to collect relevant data and use this data to support quality improvement efforts.

Project: A professor of healthcare management at the University of Minnesota is investigating what drives quality in long-term care facilities. Preliminary results indicate that staff and resident satisfaction are highly correlated. This finding suggests that efforts to improve the quality of care for residents must be driven by human resource practices that support staff satisfaction such as improved training and education, increased supervision, and better job coordination and design. These findings also suggest that policy makers should not be focusing solely on minimum staffing levels in nursing facilities, but also on the quality and continuity of staffing at facilities.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Child Welfare

Child Welfare and American Indian Sovereignty

Context: Some child welfare advocates have recognized an inherent tension between the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978, which attempts to ensure that American Indian children are not separated from their cultural heritage by the child welfare system, and the mandates of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997, which requires that a safe and permanent home be provided for each child within a specific timeframe.

Project: In May 2000, CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare cosponsored a symposium titled "Sovereignty: The Heart of the Matter" at the University of Minnesota's Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. The symposium focused on the interface between ICWA and ASFA. The symposium included an overview of ICWA and ASFA from local, state, and national perspectives; a discussion of the concept of sovereignty in relation to ICWA; a roundtable on the relationship between tribal and state courts; and a consideration of best practices from the field.

Report: *Sovereignty: The Heart of the Matter*. Esther Wattenberg (ed.). Minneapolis: CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, 2001. CURA 00-4. 51 pp. Available online at <http://ssw.che.umn.edu/cascw/pdf/ICWA%20proceedings.pdf>. [S1067]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect in the Latino/Latina Community

Context: Unidos Para Los Ninos (United for Children) is a coalition of individuals and organizations formed to prevent child abuse and neglect in the growing Twin Cities metropolitan area Latino/Latina community. Because the number of Latino/Latina children in the child protection system continues to increase dramatically, it is crucial that effective, culturally appropriate materials be made available on such topics as family strengthening, child abuse prevention, and child development.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in social work researched culturally appropriate resources on child abuse and neglect for use by social service programs and health practitioners working with Spanish-speaking families in the area. The ultimate goal of the project is to create a compendium of materials and an annotated bibliography of resources that will be published on the Internet.

CURA Program: Communiiversity Program

Services for American Indian Children at Risk

Context: The Indian Child Welfare Law Center is a nonprofit agency that provides culturally appropriate legal services to American Indian families in the child protection system. The center serves as a community development resource for education, advocacy, and public policy, and helps connect American Indian children at risk with an existing network of service people and programs.

Project: A student from the University of Minnesota Law School helped the center update and reorganize its information database in order to assist with future goal setting for the organization.

CURA Program: Communiiversity Program

Placement Options for Vulnerable and Endangered Adolescents

Context: During the late 1990s and 2000, counties in Minnesota were reporting that requests for services for troubled adolescents were on the rise. The emergence of a group of youngsters with serious emotional problems manifesting themselves in assaultive, suicidal, and other dysfunctional behaviors only underscored the fact that the options within the child welfare system for responding to troubled adolescents were very limited. At approximately the same time, a controversy arose about the uses of large-scale institutional care for troubled teens.

Project: In December 2001, CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare cosponsored a forum at Cowles Auditorium in the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Center. The forum focused on the issue of safeguarding the well-being of older children enmeshed in the child welfare system, and included a discussion of the uses and limitations of group care with at-risk adolescents; a panel discussion providing state, county, and community agency perspectives on the needs of vulnerable adolescents; and concluding remarks by two child welfare advocates who participated in the forum.

Report: *Debating the Options for Adolescents at Risk: Can We Safeguard the Interests of Endangered Adolescents?* Esther Wattenberg (ed.). Minneapolis: CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, 2002. 56 pp. Available online at <http://ssw.che.umn.edu/cascw/pdf/Debating%20the%20Options.pdf>. [S2002-2]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Social Justice and Child Welfare

Context: The new millenium provided an opportunity for reflective scrutiny of the basic principles of how to respond to the unequal futures of children for whom the child welfare system is responsible and how to best assure their future well-being.

Project: In June 2000, CURA and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare cosponsored a symposium titled "A Social Justice Framework for Child Welfare: The Agenda for a New Century" at the University of Minnesota's Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. The symposium focused on the relationship between social justice principles and the child welfare system for the 21st century and included an historical overview of the child welfare system, reflections and commentary on the social justice/child welfare nexus, reports on challenges and crises in the child welfare system, a comparative analysis of child welfare in Britain and the United States, a panel discussion on child welfare, and reflections from the field on new directions in child welfare policy.

Report: *A Social Justice Framework for Child Welfare: The Agenda for a New Century*. A Summary of Proceedings of the Conference Held June 23, 2000, at the University of Minnesota. Esther Wattenberg (ed.). Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, 2001. CURA 01-1. 88 pp. [S1068]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Freeborn County Out-of-Home Placement Evaluation

Context: Freeborn County in south-central Minnesota wanted to determine what had and had not worked for clients who had been in out-of-home placements.

Project: A graduate student from the College of Human Ecology at the University of Minnesota worked with the county to conduct a study of adults who had been in residential placements as children. This information is being used by the county to help make better decisions about where children are placed and to examine how the county uses residential treatment.

Report: "Out of Home Placement Study." Jennifer Connor. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with Freeborn County Department of Human Services, August 2001. 22 pp. [CAP 033]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Children in Shelter Placement

Context: Researchers at the University of Minnesota were interested in two questions about the use of emergency shelters for children removed from urgent situations: (1) Is placement in a shelter the least intrusive response to the safety needs of children in urgent situations? (2) What are the working relationships between child protection workers and local law enforcement officers?

Project: A CURA research associate and a team of graduate research assistants examined the circumstances of 1,306 children in Hennepin County who were removed from urgent situations and placed, for seven days or less, in emergency shelters. This population represented more than one-quarter of the 4,998 children who experienced out-of-home placement in Hennepin County in 1999. The research team examined the circumstances of children who were removed from their families under urgent situations, their demographic profiles, and exit information following their shelter care. The study resulted in recommendations to improve protocols that guide emergency placements.

Report: *When Rescue Is Urgent: Children in Shelter Placement for Seven Days or Less*. Esther Wattenberg, Katherine Luke, Molly Cornelius, and Jennifer Menke. Minneapolis: Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, and University of Minnesota School of Social Work, December 2001. [S2001-3]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Minnesota Child Support Guidelines

Context: The Minnesota State Child Support Guidelines specify the amount of support a child will receive if he or she is under support orders. However, the guidelines provide incomes for children that are substantially below what the guidelines from other state formulas would provide.

Project: Two professors in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota will examine the effectiveness of the Minnesota Child Support Guidelines in meeting the fiscal needs of children of divorced, unmarried, and never-married parents. This research will help to inform decision making and public discourse on child support policies in Minnesota.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Health and Healthcare

Longfellow Lead Exposure Risk Analysis

Context: Longfellow, like most residential neighborhoods in Minneapolis, has a high percentage of homes built before 1950, as well as old industrial properties and high-traffic transportation corridors. These are just some of the risk indicators that are known sources of lead exposure in children.

Project: A CURA staff member, two graduate students at the University of Minnesota, and Longfellow Community Council (LCC) staff developed a set of criteria to identify properties in the neighborhood that may be at-risk of lead exposure through lead-based paint in the home or through lead pollutants in the air. The team compiled U.S. Census data showing concentrations of children, building condition, age of housing, and proximity to transportation corridors, and used geographic information systems (GIS) technology to map the at-risk areas based on perceived level of risk using these data. Neighborhood staff are now able to target outreach and educational efforts that will inform residents about the dangers of lead exposure in children and the warning signs for lead poisoning. Additional information about lead exposure and the project results will also be published in a future edition of the *Longfellow View*, a neighborhood publication sent to all residents.

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Newborn Screening for Thalassemia

Context: Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder that affects an individual's ability to synthesize hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that transports oxygen and other nutrients throughout the human body. Because the incidence of the disorder is high among people of Asian descent, thalassemia is emerging as a significant public health problem in Minnesota, where the number of Asian immigrants continues to grow. Although thalassemia is incurable and is often fatal, successful treatments and counseling programs do exist. The key to their success, however, is early detection of the disorder through newborn screening.

Project: Two University of Minnesota researchers, one a professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the other a genetic counselor at the Institute of Human Genetics, conducted a survey of primary care physicians in Minnesota regarding their efforts to follow up on newborn screens for thalassemia. Based on the results, the researchers concluded that the newborn screen is an underutilized tool for detecting thalassemia and other hemoglobin-related disorders. To improve newborn screening in Minnesota, the researchers recommended implementation of a comprehensive program to improve identification and counseling of individuals with thalassemia accompanied by an educational campaign aimed at physicians and the general public.

Report: "The Newborn Screen: An Underutilized Tool for Screening and Counseling for Thalassemia." Joline Dalton and Lakshmanan Krishnamurti. *CURA Reporter* 31 (October 2001): 19–26. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-Oct/article4.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

The Sugar Project

Context: Addiction, diabetes, obesity, and depression are serious health problems in Minnesota and throughout the United States. Increasingly, practitioners are recognizing that nutrition can play a significant role in treating or preventing all of these health problems.

Project: The Sugar Project is an interdisciplinary community-university collaboration between leading health practitioners, community members, and academicians focused on innovative ways to treat addiction, diabetes, obesity, and depression through nutritional intervention. The program seeks to build alliances between communities and higher education to solve rural economic problems, promote sustainable ecosystems, and address pervasive public health problems through an integrated approach to human wellness. The project receives administrative support from CURA, and the consortium is currently seeking funding for a long-term effort.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Survey

Context: The Minnesota Department of Health has two program initiatives that attempt to impact the teen pregnancy rate: MN ENABL (Education Now and Babies Later) and MN AECG (Abstinence Education Community Grant). The department wanted to assess the impact of these two program initiatives.

Project: The Minnesota Center for Survey Research interviewed 961 parents of youth aged 10 to 14 in communities where these programs were operating to ask them questions about their own exposure to media and activities promoting sexual abstinence for young people, their opinions about 10- to 14-year-olds having sex, parent-teen communication, and what age they thought parents should begin to discuss with teens abstinence as a way to prevent pregnancy.

Report: "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 54 pp. [MCSR 01-08]

CURA Program: Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Arthritis among American Indians

Context: The rate of arthritis is extremely high among American Indians in Wisconsin. Researchers at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus (UMD) wished to document the extent and impact of arthritis.

Project: Four professors from UMD designed a research project to determine the prevalence of arthritis and its effects on the daily lives of the Chippewa people living on tribal lands in Wisconsin. Researchers conducted interviews, focus groups, and medical chart reviews with randomly selected tribal residents to determine the prevalence of arthritis among the population. More than half of those interviewed reported a diagnosis of arthritis, based either on a previous physician diagnosis or on an evaluation of self-reported symptoms by a certified rheumatologist. Of this group, 80% reported limitations to their activities attributable to arthritis. The study found the prevalence of and limitations due to arthritis to be extremely high among the Chippewa. Reasons for this require further investigation, but these preliminary findings have significant implications for housing, community activities, and medical services necessary to accommodate the needs of this group.

Report: "Arthritis in Indian Country: Determining the Prevalence and Effects." Barbara A. Elliott, Karen M. Johnson, Robert D. Leff, and John J. Day. Unpublished report, 2000. 18 pp. [M2000-3]
CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Long-Term Care Insurance Survey

Context: The decision to offer state and University of Minnesota employees a chance to purchase long-term care insurance presented faculty in the University's Department of Family Social Science with a unique opportunity to investigate how people make such decisions.

Project: Minnesota Center for Survey Research conducted a mail survey that was completed by 830 individuals—504 long-term care insurance buyers and 326 nonbuyers. It included questions about the long-term care purchase decision-making process; individual financial planning; opinions concerning long-term care policies and premiums; and the responsibility of the individual, employer, insurance company, and government for long-term care. The main reasons for their decisions to enroll or not to enroll in long-term care coverage were also explored.

Report: "Surveys about Long-Term Care Insurance." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. 74 pp. [MCSR 01-11]

CURA Program: Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)

Healthcare Workforce Cost and Capacity Assessment

Context: Minnesota Rural Futures (MRF) is a nonprofit organization formed to promote the role of women in agriculture and rural life in Minnesota. In spring 2002, MRF was focused on the shortage of healthcare workers in Minnesota and was interested in gathering data concerning the costs of expanding healthcare education programs.

Project: A graduate student in healthcare administration at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management conducted research to find out how much it costs to educate healthcare service-provider employees by occupation, and created and implemented a formula to gauge healthcare occupation costs. The healthcare education estimates will be used by MFR, women rural leaders, philanthropic organizations, state and local governments, and healthcare institutions to make decisions regarding program support and expansion.

Report: "Nursing Cost Estimates: Educating One Nurse." Jedd Smith. Unpublished report prepared for Minnesota Rural Futures, 2002. 19 pp. [CAP 051]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Robert Friedman

Welfare Policy

Predictors of Successful Transitions from Welfare to Work

Context: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act passed by Congress in 1996 shifts primary responsibility for welfare from the federal government to individual states and establishes time limits for welfare assistance. Since the passage of this legislation, human services organizations, policy makers, and researchers have called for study of the demographic, situational, and psychological factors that underlie successful welfare-to-work transitions.

Project: A professor and a graduate student in human resources and industrial relations at the University of Minnesota teamed up to interpret data from the first 18 months of a five-year, statewide longitudinal study of welfare recipients being conducted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services as part of a program evaluation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). The study focused on three psychological variables considered likely to contribute to successful welfare-to-work transitions: achievement motivation, self-sufficiency self-efficacy, and goal commitment. The researchers found that welfare recipients who had higher levels of motivation were more engaged in efforts to leave the welfare system, regardless of their particular demographic or situational characteristics. Based on these findings, they identified several interventions that might facilitate successful welfare-to-work transitions.

Report: "Predictors of Success at Leaving the Minnesota Family Investment Program." Amy L. Stellmack and Connie R. Wanberg. *CURA Reporter* 30 (December 2000): 8–14. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Dec/article2.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Ramsey County Work Resource Hubs

Context: Early in the implementation of welfare reform, Ramsey County created ten work resource hubs in St. Paul and Ramsey County suburbs to provide neighborhood access to services for job seekers. The broad vision was for each hub to be a partnership of county agencies and community-based organizations that delivered social welfare and workforce development services. The rationale for this innovative collaborative approach was that such partnerships would foster integrated service delivery, cost effectiveness, and creative problem solving.

Project: A professor of public affairs and planning at the University of Minnesota is working with the Ramsey County Community Employment Partnership (CEP) to conduct a case study of the work resource hubs. The research project will focus on what factors have provided incentives and disincentives to the hubs' collaborative efforts, and why differences exist in the ability of individual hubs to function collaboratively and deliver value to partners and customers. This project will help inform the use of collaboration as a mechanism for public policy implementation and will help the Ramsey County CEP refine their approach to collaborative delivery of services.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Hennepin County and Minneapolis Welfare Reform

Context: In 1998 and 1999, three faculty members from the University of Minnesota and Metropolitan State University helped Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis to evaluate their employment training and assistance departments and their efforts to help individuals with the transition from welfare to work. The county and city were interested in learning why some programs were underused.

Project: Two professors of social work, one at the University of Minnesota and one at Metropolitan State University, are conducting a follow-up to the original study. They will reinterview 123 Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) clients from Hennepin County who were interviewed for the 1998–1999 study to learn about their experiences attempting to transition from welfare to work. The study will consider such outcomes as income, employment status, social support, emotional stability, health insurance coverage, housing, transportation, children's school attendance, and childcare arrangements. The findings of the follow-up study will be of interest to Hennepin County and to policy makers concerned with welfare reform.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Health Insurance for those Leaving Welfare

Context: Lack of health insurance is risky for anyone, especially for low-income people struggling for self-sufficiency. Welfare reform has pushed many toward self-sufficiency, but loss of the health benefits tied to welfare could put them in jeopardy if they are unable to obtain other health insurance.

Project: A graduate student in public health at the University of Minnesota worked at the Minnesota Department of Human Services to investigate access to health insurance for individuals leaving welfare. She found that welfare leavers are five times more likely to be uninsured than adults statewide and twice as likely as other low-income adults, despite the availability of state and federal programs to provide health insurance. Those findings have led to changes in outreach programs at the state level. In addition, this work provided the student with access to data she used for her Ph.D. dissertation.

Report: *Minnesota Family Investment Program Longitudinal Study: Special Report on Health Care Access among Welfare Leavers 18 Months after Baseline*. Fifth Report in a Series. Minnesota Department of Human Services (MDHS). St. Paul: MDHS, 2000. 42 pp. Available online at [http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/download_file.asp?form_id=MS-1502-ENG.\[S2001-2\]](http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/download_file.asp?form_id=MS-1502-ENG.[S2001-2]).

CURA Program: New Initiative

Communities and Neighborhoods

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Information Technologies in Neighborhood Organizing

Context: Increasingly, neighborhood organizations are using information technologies such as e-mail, the Internet, database software, and geographic information systems (GIS) as part of their neighborhood organizing and revitalization efforts. Questions remain, however, about the usefulness of such technologies, as well as the opportunities and constraints they present for neighborhood organizations, neighborhoods, and their residents.

Project: A graduate student in geography worked with the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) in Minneapolis to demonstrate how new information technologies could improve information management capabilities, expand the base of resources available to support the organization, and enhance opportunities for advocacy on behalf of the neighborhood and its residents. The student also attempted to help the organization address some of the difficulties using such technologies, including unequal access to the technology, limited financial resources, lack of staff training, and competing demands for staff time.

Reports: "The Impacts of GIS Use for Neighborhood Revitalization in Minneapolis." Sarah Elwood. In *Community Participation and Geographical Information Systems*. William J. Craig, Trevor M. Harris, and Daniel Weiner (eds.). London and New York: Taylor and Francis, 2002. pp. 77–88. [L2002-2]

"Information Technologies in Neighborhood Organizing: Learning from a Minneapolis Neighborhood." Sarah Elwood. *CURA Reporter* 30 (December 2000): 1–7. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Dec/article1.pdf>.

CURA Program: John R. Borchert Fellowship

Community GIS Researcher

Context: The St. Paul Community Geographic Information System (GIS) Consortium was formed to assist neighborhood groups and community development corporations to access property data from the Ramsey County Users Group and pool resources to make use of GIS. Because the 13 organizational members have small staffs with limited GIS experience, they needed help developing and integrating GIS.

Project: An undergraduate in geography and justice and peace from the University of St. Thomas coordinated St. Paul GIS Users Group data, developed a systematic process for the dissemination of neighborhood property data, and provided technical support to members. The student helped to produce a neighborhood map set.

Report: "St. Paul Community Geographic Information Systems (GIS)." Sandra Paddock and Christopher Matthews. Unpublished report, 1999. 32 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1130/npcr1130.html>. [NPCR 1130]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

GIS Tracking

Context: The East Side Neighborhood Development Company works with residents and business people to improve housing, commercial areas, and civic life in the Payne-Phalen area of St. Paul. The organization wanted to expand information and tracking systems piloted in Districts 4 and 5 in St. Paul.

Project: An undergraduate in geography and justice and peace studies from the University of St. Thomas set up a database, trained staff at organizations, and created maps.

Report: "Building Community Capacity through the East Side COPC." Katya Ricketts and Jim Erchul. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 15–18. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article4.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

GIS Data System Documentation

Context: The East Side Neighborhood Development Company works with residents and business people to improve housing, commercial areas, and civic life in the Payne-Phalen area of St. Paul. The organization needed help with data system documentation and training.

Project: A graduate student in geographic information systems from the University of Minnesota created maps and set up and implemented a data system.

Report: "Building Community Capacity through the East Side COPC." Katya Ricketts and Jim Erchul. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 15–18. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article4.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Community Participation and GIS

Context: The idea for a volume of essays on community participation geographic information systems (GIS) grew out of the Empowerment, Marginalization, and Public Participation Geographic Information Systems initiative, a workshop sponsored by the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, and CURA's neighborhood GIS work in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Project: *Community Participation and Geographic Information Systems*, co-edited by CURA's associate director, is intended as both a guidebook for community organizations and a textbook for students looking to understand the impact of new information technologies. The essays in this collection focus on the conceptual and practical issues arising from the intersection of GIS with participant communities and present case studies and models that can be replicated by other communities.

Report: *Community Participation and Geographic Information Systems*. William J. Craig, Trevor M. Harris, and Daniel Weiner (eds.). London and New York: Taylor and Francis, 2002. 383 pp. [L2002-1]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Hamline-Midway GIS Researcher

Context: Hamline-Midway Area Rehabilitation Corporation needed a geographic information systems (GIS) consultant to determine how the St. Paul GIS Consortium could continue to promote the integration of GIS into neighborhood-level planning and revitalization.

Project: A student helped to establish a plan, identify resources, and set up a structure to continue the consortium's work. The student produced a series of maps and provided technical assistance.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

East Side GIS

Context: East Side Neighborhood Development Company works with residents and businesses to improve housing, commercial areas, and civic life in the Payne-Phalen area of St. Paul. The organization wanted to track and analyze community-directed revitalization activities.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota helped conduct a user needs-analysis and developed a geographic information systems (GIS) project to support community work. The student created a user manual, helped facilitate staff training in GIS, and assisted in development of GIS applications.

Report: "The Development and Implementation of GIS at East Side Neighborhood Development Company." Michelle Roman. Unpublished report, 2001. 18 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc23/copc23.html>.

[COPC 023]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Elliot Park Geographic Information System

Context: Elliot Park Neighborhood, a neighborhood organization in Minneapolis, requested assistance exploring land use in the Elliot Park neighborhood using geographic information systems (GIS) technology.

Project: A course on urban GIS offered by the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota focuses on data sources, acquisition of spatial data, data structure, analysis methods, and geographic information visualization, with an emphasis on urban neighborhoods. Through the course, students gain expertise in the actual utilization of GIS for the analysis of urban problems. In fall 2001, students were partnered with six Minneapolis neighborhood organizations.

One group assisted Elliot Park Neighborhood with an inventory and analysis of neighborhood data and mapped these data using GIS software. In addition, they analyzed the data and provided oral and written reports to Elliot Park staff.

CURA Programs: University-Neighborhood Network (UNN) and Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Historical and Archival Projects

Neighborhood Archives Project

Context: Neighborhood organization documents provide valuable historical information about the work of the organization and its staff. However, every time an office is moved or a new staff person is hired, there is a risk that the collection will be disposed of or misplaced.

Project: About 130 history students from Metropolitan State University, Augsburg College, and the University of St. Thomas helped gather neighborhood documents and evaluate their quality, form, condition, content, and possible uses. The students salvaged documents abandoned when the neighborhood organization People of Phillips disbanded, and surveyed records for the Jordan, Seward, Powderhorn, Longfellow, Elliot Park, Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake neighborhoods. The documents they collected will be housed at public libraries throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

CURA Program: Training Program for Community Organizers (TPCO)

Neighborhood Historic Preservation Archive Project

Context: The Neighborhood Historic Preservation Archive Project collects and preserves useful and historically significant material from neighborhood organizations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This pilot project helped collect and inventory documents from five neighborhood groups.

Project: A graduate student in education and psychology at the University of Minnesota researched how to preserve and survey an organization's historically significant documents and produced a manual for use by neighborhood groups.

Report: "A Manual for Preserving the Records of Neighborhood Organizations." Kathryn Gustafson. Unpublished report, 2001. 9 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1163/npcr1163.html>. [NPCR 1163]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Oral History of Swede Hollow

Context: The Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) is a community organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the Swede Hollow area of St. Paul, one of Minnesota's oldest immigrant settlements. One of the organization's ongoing projects is to record oral histories of people who had a connection to the Swede Hollow community.

Project: Lifespan Development, a course offered by the Department of Psychology at the University of St. Thomas, is designed to increase students' knowledge and comprehension of the developmental process through the study of the stages of development. Students in the course are required to spend some time with an older person getting to know him or her and collecting information about his/her family and community. As part of the course, students produce a written oral history report based on their interviews. A group of students partnered with FOSH for their course project. The organization connected students with community residents who had grown up in Swede Hollow. Copies of the oral history report were given both to FOSH and to the person the student interviewed.

CURA Program: University-Neighborhood Network (UNN)

Document Preservation Training Research Project

Context: The Seward Neighborhood Group and Minnesota History Center needed assistance to develop the curricula to teach Neighborhood Archives Project participants how to conduct trainings on neighborhood preservation.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota helped organize this project.

Report: "Guide to Establishing a Historical Document Survey Project." Rebecca Couvrette. Unpublished report, 2000. 43 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1148/npcr1148.html>. [NPCR 1148]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Northeast History Resource Development Project

Context: The Mississippi Corridor Neighborhood Coalition (MCNC) is a neighborhood-based planning, organizing, education, and advocacy group working on behalf of neighborhoods and 17 community groups in Minneapolis. It is dedicated to reclaiming the Mississippi River as a neighborhood amenity, restoring its ecosystem, and identifying needed resource tools and contacts.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in history and cultural studies developed a list of resources and researched city and tax records for information on historically significant buildings and building uses. A written, audio, and video history were created.

Report: "Bibliography of Historical Resources for Northeast Minneapolis." Lara Kelland. Unpublished report, 2000. 26 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1158/npcr1158.html>. [NPCR 1158]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Edward G. Goetz

Landscape Design and Community Aesthetics

Bottineau Neighborhood Oral History Project

Context: Bottineau Neighborhood Association wanted to preserve the neighborhood's rich history and celebrate its diversity.

Project: Two undergraduate students from Macalester College helped design phase one of the research project, identify candidates for interviews, conduct interviews, coordinate audio and video recording of the interviews, and write a final report documenting the stories of residents.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

History of District 5

Context: The Payne-Phalen District 5 Planning Council—a group that focuses on crime prevention, promotion of social and educational activities for residents, and land-use planning—wanted to document the council's history.

Project: An undergraduate student from the University of Minnesota gathered information on planning council projects and history; designed research tools to gain feedback from residents, business owners, staff, and members of the board of directors; and organized the information into a final report for the council.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Seward Oral Histories Project

Context: The Seward Archive Project, an initiative of the Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG), needed assistance documenting and preserving neighborhood activities for future generations.

Project: A graduate student in architecture at the University of Minnesota conducted a literature review of the oral history process and helped develop a training manual and workshops for conducting oral histories.

Report: "How to Record the Oral History of Your Neighborhood." Jeff Zeitler. Unpublished report, 2001. 31 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1159/npcr1159.html>. [NPCR 1159]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Humboldt Industrial Area Landscape Design

Context: The Humboldt Industrial Area is a heavy industrial and railroad corridor in northeastern Minneapolis surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Increasing development along the nearby Humboldt Greenway has prompted the community to work with their industrial neighbors to create a more community-friendly space. The community requested assistance with a design project for the area.

Project: Students in a course on urban and regional planning at the University of Minnesota connected with neighborhoods in northeast Minneapolis to work on a landscape design project for the Humboldt Industrial Area. Students worked with the community to identify goals for the project, one of which was to create an environment that softened the impact of industry on the surrounding communities. At the end of the semester, students presented the neighborhoods with a landscape design plan for the site. The plan used native and durable vegetation to create a visually pleasing streetscape. The project provided students with hands-on planning experience and experience working with a local community. As a result, some students became interested in community action. The neighborhoods involved received useful input on the design project.

CURA Program: University-Neighborhood Network (UNN)

Sylvan Shores Sustainable Development Planning

Context: Sylvan Shores is a nonprofit association of property owners in a 1,700-acre area of rural Todd County. The development of permanent homes is just beginning at Sylvan Shores, and the community wants to balance economic, environmental, and social concerns in a way that ensures a good quality of life for all community members.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs helped the community assess the pros and cons of incorporating as a city and developed a resource guide for new residents on ways to protect their environment as they plan for construction.

Report: "Report to Sylvan Shores Property Owners Association." Nathan Dorr. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Sylvan Shores Property Owners Association, 2001. 29 pp. [CAP 023]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Billboard Policy and Planning in St. Paul

Context: Scenic St. Paul Campaign and the St. Paul District Council Environment Committees are collaborating on a campaign to minimize and monitor billboard signage in St. Paul. There are 585 billboards in the city of St. Paul and an additional 30 along federal freeways within the city limits. St. Paul has more than any other city in the state.

Project: An undergraduate student in history and journalism at the University of Minnesota will help determine the impacts of billboards in St. Paul, gather comparable information from surrounding and similar urban areas, monitor the changing messages presented on the billboards, and develop tools to communicate results of the analysis to the community as a whole.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Rural Development

Center for Small Towns

Context: As we enter the 21st century, rural Minnesota and its many small communities will face enormous challenges and opportunities. The Center for Small Towns was created to help small towns in their struggle for survival and vitality as they find new ways to successfully transition through this period of rapid change.

Project: CURA was one of the original partners in helping to establish the Center for Small Towns, an outreach program located on the University of Minnesota Morris (UMM) campus that serves smaller communities in the west-central part of the state through applied research. The center also collaborates with the Center for Rural Design, University College, the University of Minnesota Extension Service, and the University's Rural Development Council. Through its programs, the center creates opportunities for faculty and students to become more directly involved in the challenges and problems facing rural communities, and also enables local leaders to have a point-of-entry to the resources available through the University of Minnesota. Recently, the Small Cities Center received a large grant from the Blandin Foundation to expand its programs—which focus on small towns with fewer than 5,000 persons—to help them to enhance their vitality, foster learning through application, and connect more closely with the UMM student body. A major part of the Blandin-supported initiative includes expanding citizen participation in the processes that communities use for charting their futures.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Sustainable Development Program Inventory

Context: The Experiment in Rural Cooperation (ERC) is a new entity that strives to create partnerships between community groups in southeastern Minnesota and the University of Minnesota to advance sustainable development. The organization needed assistance identifying potential resources in the region for sustainable development.

Project: An undergraduate in urban studies from the University of Minnesota completed a regional resource mapping survey of community leaders to learn what resources were available in southeastern Minnesota. Results from the survey were compiled into a report that the ERC's board of directors is using to focus its programs and set priorities.

Report: "Southeast Minnesota Resource Mapping Survey." Kari Droubie. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Experiment in Rural Cooperation, 1999. 56 pp. [CAP 005]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Community Building

Understanding and Supporting Our Diverse Community Project

Context: The Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) is a small, resident-based nonprofit organization in Minneapolis that helps community members access resources and become self-sufficient and serves as a liaison between residents and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. The organization wanted to gain a better understanding of the community and how it can work with service providers and networks to support area residents.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in education helped collect demographic information in the Glendale neighborhood. Residents were interviewed to identify cultural assets and potential networks in the community and inform community- and capacity-building activities.

Report: "A Field Study of Appreciative Inquiry Method: Understanding and Supporting Our Diverse Community." Mesut Akdere. Unpublished report, 2002. 31 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1179/npcr1179.html>. [NPCR 1179]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Developing Cross-Cultural Relationships

Context: The St. Paul District 7 Planning Council focuses on community organizing and engaging residents, business and property owners, and workers in having a voice in decisions that affect them. The council needed help identifying programs and events developed by other neighborhoods that successfully bring together people from different cultures to address common issues, interests, and concerns.

Project: An undergraduate student in urban studies and Latin American studies at Macalester College helped identify program leads from staff and organizational leaders, contacted neighborhood organizations with successful programs, and collected information from key participants.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Technology

Steele County Community Revival

Context: The Village Revival Committee of Steele County is working to mobilize small communities around Owatonna to develop plans to maintain a “small-town” feel in the midst of encroaching development.

Project: A graduate student in planning at the University of Minnesota piloted a planning process in the village of Clinton Falls using materials developed for urban neighborhoods. The outcome was the town’s decision to host a community potluck that attracted 70 people. A follow-up survey of residents indicated interest in building community and a willingness to participate in bringing this about. A final report from the project was presented to the county board, and the Village Revival Committee of Steele County is using this project as a stepping stone to work with other villages.

Report: “The Villages of Steele County: Community Revival.” Chad McCauley. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Village Revival Committee of Steele County, 1999. 17 pp. [CAP 009]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Impact of Peace Poles

Context: The Peaceful Love Warriors (PLW) promotes peace in the Frogtown and Summit-University neighborhoods in St. Paul. Fifty Peace Poles have been planted in those neighborhoods and PLW wanted to measure the impact of the poles in the community.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota designed a tool and a process for measuring the relationship of Peace Poles to the community.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Minneapolis Neighborhood Resources Inventory

Context: The Central Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA) is a neighborhood association for the Central neighborhood in Minneapolis. The neighborhood has a diverse population and houses a range of agencies that serve the differing needs of neighborhood residents. The organization wanted assistance compiling and updating information for its Welcome Wagon packet, which lists resources available in the neighborhood and which is distributed to new residents.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in human ecology and housing studies researched all public and private organizations that make resources available for residents of Minneapolis neighborhoods. Relevant information was then incorporated into the Welcome Wagon packet for distribution to residents of Central neighborhood.

CURA Program: Communiversy Program

Western Minnesota Technology Audit

Context: The Western Area City Cooperative (WACCO) is a joint powers entity that represents several cities and counties in western Minnesota that have joined to stretch their available funds for county and city services. They share equipment, human resources, and training, and participate in cooperative purchasing. The cooperative also offers assistance to its communities in the area of professional development, and requested help from CURA for such an endeavor.

Project: An undergraduate at the University of Minnesota’s Morris campus was hired by WACCO to design and conduct technology audits for some of the smaller communities in the cooperative. The student prepared reports for those communities that suggested how to make city and county governments more efficient, and also provided onsite training in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access to some communities.

Report: “Western Area City County Cooperative (WACCO) Technology Audit.” Curtis J. Kunkel. Unpublished report prepared for the Western Area City County Cooperative, 2002. 34 pp. [CAP 047]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Networking for the Future

Context: The Blandin Community Investment Partnership (BCIP), an initiative of the Blandin Foundation, is assisting communities throughout the state in carrying out self-assessments, creating a vision for the future, and identifying priorities for action. The partnership was interested in integrating new information technologies into their efforts.

Project: A graduate student in education worked with BCIP to research current Internet technologies and develop a plan to use new communications technologies to better link BCIP with Minnesota communities. The partnership is using this study to inform their plans for building virtual links between communities.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Neighborhood Organizations

Neighborhood Organizations Conference

Context: Neighborhood organizations face unprecedented challenges as housing conditions and business prospects change, crime rates increase, relationships with government agencies become more uncertain, and raising funds becomes more difficult.

Project: In response to these challenges, CURA sponsored a conference in October 2001 on “The Role and Future of Neighborhood Organizations in the Twin Cities.” The conference provided key information and discussion on the current neighborhood environment, the changing role of neighborhood organizations, and what neighborhood organizations can do to adapt and thrive in challenging times. Two follow-up conferences have been held to continue exploring these themes.

CURA Program: Training Program for Community Organizers (TPCO)

Grassroots Fundraising Opportunities

Context: The St. Paul District 7 Planning Council organizes communities and engages residents, business and property owners, and workers in decisions that affect them. The council needed help identifying stable grassroots fundraising opportunities for small neighborhood organizations.

Project: A graduate student in economics at the University of Minnesota researched various grassroots fundraising strategies and determined how such strategies could be incorporated into neighborhood organizations’ fundraising efforts.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Community-University Collaborations

Community-University Partnerships Celebration

Context: The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) are two University of Minnesota initiatives that foster community-university collaborations. Both organizations are interested in highlighting the importance of such collaborative efforts for enhancing the capacity of community organizations, providing rich educational experiences for students, creating more meaningful research opportunities for faculty, and helping the University of Minnesota fulfill its land grant and urban missions.

Project: In spring 2002, RSDP and CURA hosted a celebratory event to showcase these connections. A graduate student at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs worked with RSDP and CURA to plan, implement, and publicize this event. This assistance helped CURA and RSDP achieve their short-term goal of enhancing the visibility of these programs and increasing faculty and student participation in collaborative work with communities in Minnesota.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Program Evaluation and Assessment

Assessment of the East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center

Context: The Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) program is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) partnership project that attempts to bridge the worlds of academia and community by focusing university faculty and student research on community issues identified by local organizations in a targeted urban area. In 1999, community organizations on St. Paul’s East Side entered into such a partnership with CURA, Macalester College, and Metropolitan State University. The work of the program was coordinated by the East Side COPC Steering Committee, which requested an independent assessment of the outcomes of the three-year project.

Project: A CURA research associate conducted a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis to assess the achievements of the partnership. The report from this analysis provides an overview of the national COPC program, a description of the goals and structure of St. Paul’s East Side COPC, a review of the tangible outcomes generated through COPC research, an assessment of the East Side COPC program based on personal interviews with the program partners, and a discussion of lessons learned from the collaboration as well as the opportunities for future successes.

Reports: *Assessment of the East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center.* A Report Prepared for the East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center Steering Committee. Barbara Lukermann. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 02-1. 64 pp. [C1026]

“The Process of Adjusting to Change: Lessons Learned from the East Side Partnership.” John Poupart and Barbara Lukermann. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 35–39. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article9.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

District 7 Community Empowerment Evaluation

Context: The District 7 Planning Council focuses on community organizing in the Thomas/Dale neighborhood in St. Paul. Council members wanted to more effectively document its work in achieving goals and outcomes and its overall impact on community empowerment.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota researched models for evaluating impact; developed a survey and database for conducting and documenting the evaluation; interviewed residents, organizers, and business and property owners; wrote a report; and coordinated a workshop to share the information.

Reports: “A Method for Measuring Community Empowerment.” Nancy Lueke. Unpublished report, 2002. 17 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1177/npcr1177.html>. [NPCR 1177]

“Minneapolis Neighborhood Information Systems Toolkit.” John Paul. Unpublished report, 2001. 14 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1176/npcr1176.html>. [NPCR 1176]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Crime Prevention and Policing

Cleveland Neighborhood Revitalization Program Evaluation

Context: The Cleveland Neighborhood Association (CNA) works to improve the quality of life in north Minneapolis. Cleveland neighborhood is home to 3,440 diverse residents, housed mostly in single-family homes, who have concerns about crime, safety, and economic development.

Project: A graduate student in public health at the University of Minnesota evaluated the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) projects in the area by collecting information on activities, interviewing people involved in implementing NRP projects, and assessing perceptions of the program's effectiveness. A report and workshop will inform other neighborhoods about how to conduct similar evaluations.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Context: Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association wanted to continue their effort at crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), which uses design principles to create neighborhood conditions that reduce crime.

Specifically, the organization wanted to facilitate parking design discussions, create zoning plans, and develop more sample site plans for future projects.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota helped research CPTED principles, conduct a workshop, and prepare a report.

Report: "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design: Central Avenue Project." Christine Stark. Unpublished report, 2000. 25 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1155/npcr1155.html>. [NPCR 1155]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Seward Neighborhood Community-Oriented Policing

Context: The Seward neighborhood wanted assistance evaluating their community-oriented policing initiative.

Project: Two students from the University of Minnesota designed the tools for and conducted an evaluation of the Seward community-oriented policing effort, and compared the program with recognized best practices for such programs in other communities.

Reports: "Seward Neighborhood and Community-Oriented Policing (COP): Comparison to Best Practices." Michelle Milinins. Unpublished report, 1999. 17 pp. [NPCR 1122]

"Community Oriented Policing Evaluation of the Seward Neighborhood." Paul Hannah. Unpublished report, 1999. 35 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1142/npcr1142.html>. [NPCR 1142]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Neighborhood Crime and Safety Data

Context: Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA) receives monthly crime statistics showing the locations of various crimes in the neighborhood. To identify areas of persistent crime and focus outreach efforts, the organization wanted to use the data to create maps that are compatible with their geographic information systems (GIS) parcel data.

Project: A CURA staff member and two graduate students in geography and planning from the University of Minnesota worked with HNA staff to add neighborhood crime statistics as a GIS layer by placing points on a map that corresponded to the month the crime occurred and the type of crime. The map was then modified to show all residences within 300 feet of burglaries during a particular month and was mailed to residents in these areas. This allows neighborhood staff to identify areas of persistent crime and focus outreach efforts. This project will also help inform the crime and safety committee's watch list and will prove useful in the neighborhood's contact with the police department

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)



Photo courtesy of Community Crime Prevention/SAFE

Thomas-Dale Crime and Community Outreach Program

Context: The Thomas-Dale Block Club is a network of individual block clubs and neighborhood residents working together to improve and advocate for the Thomas-Dale area. The organization wanted to research how similar communities are working to reduce crimes such as drug trafficking, loitering, and dog fighting.

Project: An undergraduate student in political science from Metropolitan State University gathered data on crime prevention in other communities.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Community Needs Assessment

Northfield Downtown Development Analysis

Context: The Northfield Downtown Development Corporation (NDDC) requested assistance fulfilling their mission to promote a vital, active, user-friendly downtown for business owners, residents, and visitors.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs collected data from downtown business groups and property owners to assess existing conditions in downtown Northfield, as well as the needs and prospects for a more vital downtown. This information is being used in the city's planning efforts.

Report: "Northfield Downtown Development Corporation Report." Michael Moore. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Northfield Downtown Development Corporation, 2001. 19 pp. [CAP 025]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Belle Plaine Community Assessment

Context: Belle Plaine, a thriving community in southern Minnesota, was growing at a rapid pace during 2002. The city wanted to incorporate input from citizens into their plans for expansion, identify potential future needs of citizens in the community, and help newcomers integrate into the community.

Project: A graduate student from the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota created an assessment tool designed to identify what the citizens of Belle Plaine expected from their city. The student then used the instrument to collect data, analyzed the data obtained, and wrote an action plan to respond to citizens' stated needs and desires.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Northwest Minnesota Regional Assessment

Context: The Northwest Minnesota Foundation required assistance with the completion of a resource and economic assessment of the region to help direct the investment of funds in the communities they serve.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs helped the organization develop a definition of *quality of place* that residents of the region can embrace. This work included reviewing and analyzing literature regarding the concept of quality of place and conducting a survey of local residents to determine what they value most in their communities.

Report: "Quality of Place in Rural Minnesota." Nathan Dorr. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, January 2002. 24 pp. [CAP 038]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Mike Greco

Community Celebrations and Recreation

Leadership Education Needs Assessment

Context: The South Central Active Citizenship Initiative, which is dedicated to encouraging civic participation in south-central Minnesota, wanted to understand the barriers limiting citizen involvement in the Mankato community and local organizations.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs worked with the initiative to conduct a needs assessment concerning citizen participation. This baseline assessment is being used by community organizations to inform their efforts in building leadership and civic involvement.

Report: "The Mankato Active Citizenship Report." Chad McCauley. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of South Central Active Citizenship Initiative, 2000. 10 pp. [CAP 012]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Milaca Community Library Feasibility Study

Context: The Milaca Community Library was in desperate need of library space.

Project: The Friends of the Library worked with a graduate student in the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health to survey residents and community groups in the Milaca area to assess people's understanding of the current situation, find out if there is community support for expanded library space and services, and determine what kinds of additional services residents would like. This information was used to move forward with a proposal to expand the library.

Report: "Milaca Community Library Needs Assessment/Feasibility Study." Amy Hays. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Milaca Friends of the Library, 2000. 36 pp. [CAP 026]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Steve Schneider

East Side Neighborhood Tour

Context: East Side Neighborhood Development Company works with residents and business people to improve housing, commercial areas, and civic life in the Payne-Phalen area of St. Paul. The organization wanted to develop an antique fair and tour in the neighborhood.

Project: A graduate student in organizational leadership from the College of St. Catherine helped plan and implement the Old Town Payne Avenue Antique Fair and Neighborhood Tour.

Report: "Planning and Implementation of 2002 Old Town Payne Avenue Antique Fair and Neighborhood Tour Payne/Phalen Neighborhood, City of St. Paul." Michelle Noha. Unpublished report, 2002. 8 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc33/copc33.html>. [COPC 033]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Park Programming

Context: The Harrison Neighborhood Association wanted to assess whether funds for park programming were being used constructively.

Project: A graduate student in healthcare administration at the University of Minnesota assessed Harrison Community Center's park programming by gathering community input and researching similar sized park programming.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Stevens Square Art Fair Poster

Context: Stevens Square–Loring Heights is a historic urban neighborhood in Minneapolis with an active arts community. Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO), a neighborhood organization serving residents in the area, requested assistance designing a poster for an upcoming community art fair.

Project: Students in a computer-assisted digital design course in the College of Design, Housing, and Apparel at the University of Minnesota worked with SSCO to draft designs for 60 posters (3 by each student in the class). The organization reviewed the drafts and narrowed the selections to 20, and a neighborhood committee was organized to choose the final poster to be used for the fair. This project gave students hands-on experience working with a client on a professional design project while helping SSCO receive the design assistance they needed.

CURA Program: University-Neighborhood Network (UNN)

Economic Development and Employment

Agriculture and Forestry

Farms to Schools Conference

Context: The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is devoted to fostering an ethic of stewardship to develop and promote systems of agriculture and land use that are environmentally sound, family-farm based, and socially just. The organization requested assistance with an upcoming conference.

Project: An undergraduate student in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota helped the organization plan the Farms to Schools Conference, which brought local farmers and food service staff together to develop methods to increase the use of locally produced food and farm products by institutional food service providers.

Report: "Farm to Schools Lunch Program: Implementing Local Rochester-Area Foods into School Lunches." Melissa Anne Wenzel. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Land Stewardship Project and the Experiment in Rural Cooperation, Fall 2001. 11 pp. [CAP 036]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Whole Farm Co-op Marketing Strategy

Context: Whole Farm Cooperative (WFC) is a member-/producer-controlled and operated marketing cooperative made up of families in central Minnesota. The co-op was interested in expanding the market for its sustainably grown products in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Project: A graduate student in public policy at the University of Minnesota conducted a market study for WFC to identify potential opportunities for market expansion. The project helped WFC refine its marketing strategy and adjust its prices to maximize sales in the Twin Cities.

Report: "Whole Farm Cooperative Marketing Options." Kelly McPeck. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Whole Farm Co-op, December 2001. 8 pp. [CAP 037]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Market Analysis for Woody Crops

Context: Badgersett Research Farms is a regional leader in the development of hybrid hazelnut and chestnut plant materials. The organization wanted to expand its business opportunities in the Upper Midwest.

Project: A graduate student in applied economics at the University of Minnesota conducted a market analysis of these plant materials and their respective nut crops, developed a business plan, and researched business structures and financing options to expand the enterprise. This information is being used by Badgersett and local growers cooperatives in their efforts to raise funds to help get the industry off the ground in the Upper Midwest and expand the work of Badgersett Research Farms.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Certified Forest Products Business Plan

Context: In 1997, public lands in Aitkin County became certified as a source of sustainable forest products. Local producers were interested in finding ways to take advantage of the market opportunities offered by this unique resource.

Project: A graduate student in the Executive MBA Program at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management conducted a feasibility study for small business owners who wish to collaborate on a venture to process and market certified wood or wood products. This study helped the community make informed decisions about how to pursue such collaborations.

Report: "Certified Firewood Marketing Plan for Certified Wood from Central Minnesota." Richard Barber. Conducted in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Department of Forestry, January 2001. 21 pp. [CAP 031]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Redevelopment and Revitalization

Barriers to Financing Sustainable Agriculture

Context: The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is a nonprofit membership organization that works to increase the sustainability of farmers, their communities, and the environmental landscape they manage. The organization wanted to unearth finance-related myths and misunderstandings affecting sustainable agriculture and new-farmer communities.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management provided assistance conducting and analyzing surveys that identified and described barriers to fruitful banker-farmer relationships outside the usual arenas of conventional agriculture.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Swine Industry

Context: Following national trends, the number of larger swine producers in Minnesota has grown rapidly in recent years, while the number of smaller enterprises has declined. Consequently, policy disputes have arisen over the appropriate size of swine production operations in Minnesota based on their relative environmental, social, and economic consequences.

Project: Two professors and two graduate students in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota investigated the regional economic and fiscal impacts of the Minnesota pork production industry's purchases at both the local and state levels. The study considered two types of pork production operations (farrow-to-finish and finishing), and compared the relative impact of large- and small-scale operations of each type. The study determined that (1) given a constant volume of production for both small and large operations, the local (county-level) economic impact is greater with small swine operations, but that workers' wages are better in larger operations; and (2) although there is substantial variation in the amount of inputs and services purchased at the county level by pork production operations of different types and sizes, nearly all inputs and services are purchased in-state. Based on these results, the researchers concluded that local governments might logically favor small producers because their economic impact tends to be more local, while state policy makers might not be concerned about the recent shift to larger operations because the state-level economic impact is not affected appreciably by the shift.

Reports: "Evaluating Economic and Fiscal Impacts of an Evolving Swine Industry." By William F. Lazarus, Diego E. Platas, and George Morse. *CURA Reporter* 31 (February 2001): 16–22. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-Feb/article3.pdf>.

"Economic and Local Government Impacts of the Minnesota Swine Industry." William Lazarus, George Morse, Diego Platas, and Steffanie Guess-Murphy. Unpublished report, 2000. 63 pp. [B2000-1]

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Phalen Corridor Outreach

Context: The Phalen Corridor Initiative is a community redevelopment project to help redevelop four inner-city neighborhoods located on a railway corridor on St. Paul's East Side. The organization wanted to provide opportunities for resident input on proposed redevelopment projects in the corridor.

Project: Several undergraduate students from Macalester College helped staff volunteer committees and facilitate communication throughout the corridor on current issues. This established a foundation for a series of community meetings and a quarterly newsletter to keep neighborhood residents and businesses informed.

Report: "Students as Interns: The Partnership with the Phalen Corridor Initiative." Curt Milburn. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 32–34. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article8.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Organizational Models for Urban Revitalization Partnerships

Context: Stevens Square–Loring Heights is a historic urban neighborhood within walking distance of downtown Minneapolis. The Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO) wanted to develop urban revitalization partnerships with local community organizations, particularly faith-based organizations.

Project: A graduate student in art history at the University of Minnesota researched and developed organizational models for SSCO to use to partner with other organizations on revitalization projects.

Report: "Models of Community Action in Steven's Square: Faith-Based and Community Organization Collaboration." Janet Whitmore. Unpublished report, 2001. 13 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1168/npcr1168.html>. [NPCR 1168]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Community Reinvestment Act

Context: The Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), an advocate for affordable housing and economic opportunity for disadvantaged people and neighborhoods in Minneapolis, wanted research and analysis on opportunities for local banks to better serve the community reinvestment needs of Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Project: A graduate student in urban and regional planning from the University of Minnesota helped map the Federal Reserve Bank Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) assessment areas for the 14 banks serving significant portions of Minneapolis. The student collected information on community development characteristics of service areas and reviewed the CRA reports filed by area banks. Opportunities for banks to enhance CRA activities were identified.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

East Side Latino Resource Center

Context: The East Side Latino Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center. The task force needed help researching and writing an economic development plan for the East Side Latino Resource Center.

Project: Graduate students from the University of Minnesota's rhetoric and technical communications program conducted focus groups, synthesized data, and wrote a report.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Redevelopment on Lyndale Avenue North

Context: The Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association wanted to evaluate and assess the business/industrial corridor on Lyndale Avenue North and create a marketing plan to attract businesses to the area.

Project: A graduate student in the geography program at the University of Minnesota assisted with evaluating the redevelopment potential of the area.

Report: "Evaluating Redevelopment on Lyndale." Jun Zhang. Unpublished report, 2001. 46 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1170/npcr1170.html>. [NPCR 1170]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Del Sol Business Improvement District Feasibility Study

Context: The Riverview Economic Development Corporation (REDA), founded by small business owners on St. Paul's West Side, wanted to establish a business improvement district (BID) to help clean and maintain sidewalks, parking lots, streets, and public spaces in the Riverview Commercial District.

Project: An undergraduate student in urban studies and geography from Macalester College assessed the feasibility of developing a BID in the commercial district.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Phalen Corridor Initiative Development Strategy

Context: The Phalen Corridor Initiative is a community redevelopment project to help redevelop four inner-city neighborhoods located on a railway corridor on St. Paul's East Side. The organization wanted assistance with its effort to redevelop key commercial properties and gateways.

Project: An undergraduate student in economics from the University of St. Thomas and an undergraduate student in communication studies and urban studies from Macalester College helped incorporate issues and interests from community outreach meetings into the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development and St. Paul Port Authority's development framework.

Report: "Students as Interns: The Partnership with the Phalen Corridor Initiative." Curt Milburn. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 32–34. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article8.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Standish-Ericsson First Step Program

Context: Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association wanted to evaluate the neighborhood's Neighborhood Revitalization Program-supported First Step Program.

Project: An undergraduate student in geography from the University of Minnesota helped assess the First Step Program's impact on the community.

Report: "Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association: Neighborhood Revitalization Program—First Step Action Plan Evaluation." Benjamin Rainbow. Unpublished report, 2000. 49 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1150/npcr1150.html>. [NPCR 1150]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Stevens Square–Loring Heights Redevelopment Project

Context: Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO) serves the Stevens Square–Loring Heights neighborhood, just south of downtown Minneapolis. The Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF) and SSCO wanted to work on a redevelopment project to build a stronger community and prioritize tasks. A working group comprised of SSCO and PCNF members oversaw the project.

Project: A graduate student in art history at the University of Minnesota assisted the working group in researching and creating a redevelopment implementation plan for the Stevens Square–Loring Heights neighborhood.

Report: "Stevens Square–Loring Heights Neighborhood Clinton Sector Redevelopment Plan." Janet Whitmore. Unpublished report, 2001. 16 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1164/npcr1164.html>. [NPCR 1164]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Transit-Oriented Development

East Side Business Recruitment and Outreach

Context: Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services is a partnership between residents, government, and financial institutions to improve the housing and quality of life in the Dayton's Bluff community. The organization wanted to recruit businesses to the area and create jobs for residents of the neighborhood.

Project: An undergraduate student in economics from Macalester College worked on business recruitment activities, conducted follow-up visits with businesses in the East 7th Street corridor, and helped determine the next steps for implementation of a transit-oriented development plan for the area.

Report: "Survey of East 7th Street Businesses." Elizabeth Seefeldt. Unpublished report, 2001. 43 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc32/copc32.html>. [COPC 032]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Assessing Mixed-Use Transit-Oriented Development Models

Context: The Hiawatha Corridor Neighborhood Alliance (HCNA) is a collaboration of 10 neighborhood organizations in south Minneapolis adjacent to the Hiawatha light-rail transit route. The alliance wants to look at mixed-use developments that have been successful in transit corridors in other communities and assess implications for the neighborhoods in the Hiawatha area.

Project: An undergraduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota will work with HCNA, community members, and faculty to research and identify opportunities for mixed-use redevelopment (housing and retail/commercial) along the Hiawatha corridor and investigate similar communities that have mixed-use development. Findings will be presented to neighborhood development committees as a resource for planning.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

East 7th Street Transit-Oriented Development

Context: Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS) is a partnership between residents, government, and financial institutions to improve the housing and quality of life in the Dayton's Bluff community. The organization requested assistance creating a strategic marketing plan for the East 7th Street corridor.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota helped DBNHS create a marketing plan for transit-oriented development along the corridor.

Report: "The East Seventh: A Cosmopolitan Corridor." Thomas Daniel et al. Unpublished report, 2001. 32 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc18/copc18.html>. [COPC 018]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Business Development Program Evaluation and Outreach

Context: Seward Redesign is a nonprofit community development corporation that serves the Seward neighborhood and surrounding community in Minneapolis. The organization wanted to collaborate on community-directed development with residents from Seward and Phillips neighborhoods since they will be directly impacted by the new Twin Cities light-rail transit (LRT) system.

Project: An undergraduate student in American studies and sociology from the University of Minnesota worked with Seward Redesign to design and conduct a survey to assess the needs of area businesses, solicit feedback regarding the organization's economic development programming, and develop and update profiles of businesses.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Employment

State of Work in Minnesota

Context: Minnesota's strong economic growth during the 1990s was accompanied by increasing inequality among workers. Low- and moderate-wage workers lost ground to higher wage workers, workers found themselves working significantly longer hours, and the cost of basic family needs such as housing became out of reach even for some middle-income workers.

Project: A researcher from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' Minnesota Budget Project teamed up with two researchers from the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management to investigate the economic realities of Minnesota's workforce at the arrival of Labor Day 2000.

Report: *Making a Living? The State of Working Minnesota Labor Day 2000.* Nan Madden, with Molly Moilanen and Lisa Jordan. Minneapolis and St. Paul: Labor Education Service and Minnesota Budget Project, 2000. 26 pp. [B2000-2]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Job Bank Outreach

Context: The East Side Work Resources Hub creates neighborhood access to services for job seekers on St. Paul's East Side. The organization wanted to develop outreach strategies to link area residents of color with its job bank resources.

Project: A graduate student in rhetoric from the University of Minnesota assisted East Side Work Resource Hub staff with development of a workforce outreach plan and database.

Report: "The Job Bank—Merrick Community Services Client Database." Marianallet Mendez. Unpublished report, 2001. 52 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc22/copc22.html>. [COPC 022]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Employment in West Central Minnesota

Context: In the year 2000, west-central Minnesota suffered from underemployment. At the time, the state was at full employment, employers were desperate for workers, and officials were interested in learning what factors kept some people from working full-time or working at positions that did not take full advantage of their skills.

Project: A professor of economics at the University of Minnesota's Morris campus successfully competed for a grant from the state Department of Trade and Economic Development to investigate underemployment in Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, and Traverse Counties in west-central Minnesota. To supplement matching funds from each county and from the Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission, CURA supplied additional matching funds for the project. The project involved extensive surveys of employers and workers in the region. The research showed that while workers have relatively high skill levels, employers seem unable to provide the wages or benefits that would reduce underemployment in the region.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Employee Turnover in Minnesota

Context: Employee turnover is a critical issue for many businesses and industries struggling to compete in the globalized marketplace. The problem is particularly significant in Minnesota, where turnover among employees exceeds the national average.

Project: Dennis Ahlburg, professor of human resources and industrial relations in the Carlson School of Management's Industrial Relations Center, held the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs for the 2001–2002 academic year. During his appointment, Ahlburg investigated why employees leave companies in Minnesota. As part of his research, Ahlburg conducted a survey of a selected group of employees to track their employment behavior over time and determine the factors that underlie them, examined employee turnover in the long-term-care industry in Minnesota, and initiated a project on recruitment and retention of childcare workers in the state for the Department of Children, Families, and Learning.

CURA Program: Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs

Self-Employment among Displaced United Defense Workers

Context: Downsizing at the United Defense facility in Fridley in 1998 affected more than 200 workers, most of whom were long-term employees within 10 years of retirement. Roughly two-thirds already had skills necessary to pursue self-employment opportunities, and others were involved in training programs that provided them an avenue for self-employment. Researchers were interested in assessing the entrepreneurial activities of workers dislocated from the facility.

Project: A faculty member in human resource development and education at the University of Minnesota and a community researcher used questionnaires and personal interviews to examine the difficulties displaced United Defense workers encountered in initiating and pursuing self-employment options. The project focused on the workers' interest in self-employment, the support and technical business assistance they received, and the success rate among those who pursued an independent business venture. The project also attempted to determine the factors that contributed to self-employment success and failure and to evaluate the usefulness of similar self-employment programs to the state of Minnesota.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Human Resources

Minnesota Human Resources Management Practices Study

Context: Although many factors underlie competitive success for businesses, one factor that is frequently overlooked is the technology of managing workers—the day-to-day practices of human resources management. Basic decisions such as how compensation structures are set, how decision-making rights are allocated, and how much training employees receive have major effects on organizational performance and, by extension, the health of the regional economy. Researchers were interested in examining the effects of human resources management on businesses in Minnesota.

Project: Faculty and graduate student researchers from the Industrial Relations Center at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management documented the spread and impact of innovative human resources management practices within the state. Supported by grants from CURA, the Sloan Foundation, and the University's Retail Food Industry Center, the Minnesota Human Resources Management Practices Study had three main goals: to gain a detailed picture of which human resources practices have been adopted by Minnesota firms over time; to determine how the mix of practices differs across industries and ownership structures in the state; and to evaluate the relationships between human resources practices and employee productivity, firm profitability, and workplace safety. The researchers found that the organization of work in Minnesota firms, and the human resources practices that accompany it, have been thoroughly transformed since the early 1980s, largely as a result of increased reliance on computer-based technologies. The "new" workplace relies more heavily on employee involvement in both decision making and in firm performance, requires greater worker skills, and entails more complex tasks than the "old" workplace.

Report: "What Works at Work? Evidence from the Minnesota Human Resources Management Practices Study." By Avner Ben-Ner, Fanmin Kong, Tzu-Shian Han, Nien-Chi Liu, Yong-Seung Park, and Stephen J. Smela. *CURA Reporter* 31 (May 2001): 9–17. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-May/article2.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Corporate Supervisor Training for the "New Workforce"

Context: Corporate managers and supervisors—especially those in low-income areas in the Twin Cities—need greater understanding of the concerns of employees who have low incomes, may be parolees, are recent immigrants, etc.

Project: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Employment Network (NET), a nonprofit employment training organization, entered into a partnership with CURA to develop a supervisor training curriculum. The partnership was funded by the McKnight Foundation and the Archibald Bush Foundation. The project included incentives for employers to promote such employees out of beginning-level jobs and produced a written curriculum and video presentation for employee supervisors that can be distributed to those dealing with new workforce issues.

CURA Program: New Initiative

State Economic Policy

Update on the Upper Midwest's Trade Centers

Context: The expansion and contraction of trade centers in the Upper Midwest was tracked by CURA in a 1963 study and a 1990 follow-up study. To support its upcoming legislative initiatives on interregional corridors, which are designed to provide essential access to regional trade centers, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) requested an update to the 1990 study.

Project: A former graduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota who conducted data analysis for the 1990 trade centers follow-up undertook this 1999 update based on data from Claritas Corporation and Dun & Bradstreet. The study used the same "hierarchy of trade centers" model presented in the original 1963 report, which distinguished trade centers based on population, the number of business establishments the trade center supports, and the mix of business types. According to the 1999 analysis, the number of major metropolitan areas had doubled during the previous decade and Minnesota experienced more change than the other six states in the Upper Midwest. Growth in cities of modest size or larger appeared to be at the expense of smaller places. The vast majority of the change in Minnesota was from cities moving up the hierarchy of trade centers. This update was a major component of MnDOT's 2000 Statewide Transportation Plan.

Reports: "Update on the Upper Midwest's Trade Centers." William Casey. *CURA Reporter* 30 (December 2000): 17–22. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Jan/article3.pdf>.

Trade Centers of the Upper Midwest: 1999 Update. William Casey. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 1999. 36 pp. Available online at <http://www.oim.dot.state.mn.us/projects/irc/rtc.html>. [B9900]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Minnesota Sales Tax Reform

Context: As part of his Big Plan of 2001, Governor Jesse Ventura proposed to change the role of the sales tax in Minnesota, most notably by extending it to a broader range of services while lowering the rate from 6.5 to 6%. The governor's sales tax reforms died in the state legislature later that year, and his attempt to revive part of the package in 2002 did not succeed. Despite these failed attempts at reform, the future of the sales tax in Minnesota remains a live issue.

Project: A professor of law and public affairs at the University of Minnesota worked with the Minnesota Department of Revenue to investigate the failure of Ventura's tax reform proposals. The professor investigated Minnesota's sales tax debate in the context of initiatives and reforms in other states to see if these experiences could help inform Minnesota's efforts at tax reform and explain why Ventura's proposals were rejected.

Report: "Minnesota's Unreformed Sales Tax." Robert T. Kudrle. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Fall 2002): 9–14.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Economic Theory

Identifying Important Industries and Occupations

Context: Each state has an office that is responsible for labor market and other economic data collection, research, and analysis. In Minnesota, the office is the Department of Economic Security, Research, and Statistics. While these offices have never come together to do joint research, Minnesota proposed doing regional research with the other members of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Region V, which includes Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa.

Project: A graduate student in the Master of Public Policy program at the University of Minnesota worked with department staff on a research project on key industries and occupations. The project identified industries and occupations that are characteristic of the Upper Midwest and considered the economic or workforce characteristics that have aided in their development historically. The student helped to define the project scope and audience, as well as the industries and occupations to be examined.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program

E-Commerce Survey

Context: As more and more people gain access to the Internet and become comfortable making purchases online, e-commerce has begun to change the way many people purchase products. However, it has been difficult to document the extent of such change in any meaningful way.

Project: Through the Minnesota Center for Survey Research, a University of Minnesota professor of marketing interested in e-commerce in Minnesota was able to ask a few questions about e-commerce on the Fall 1999 Minnesota State Survey. At that time, more than 75% of Minnesotans had Internet access and 36% of those had made online purchases. Most purchases were for books or magazines, travel arrangements, or computer software. Based on his analysis, the professor estimated \$243 million had been spent by Minnesotans in the preceding year on Internet purchases.

Report: "1999 Minnesota State Survey." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 1999. 130 pp. [MCSR 00-1]

CURA Program: Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Consumption at the Minnesota State Fair

Context: One of the most important changes in Western society during the last millennium is the shift from a culture centered on production to one focused on consumption. During the modernist era, production (one's skill at a particular craft or trade) was considered the source of an individual's social worth and identity, and consumption was dismissed as a necessary but wasteful activity. After World War II, some theorists contend that Western culture experienced a reversal in the relationship between production and consumption. So-called "postmodernist" culture de-emphasized production and celebrated the consumption of goods as the source of individual value and social identity. A researcher at the University of Minnesota wanted to investigate the validity of this hypothesis.

Project: A professor of marketing from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota used the Minnesota State Fair as a historical case study to investigate the relationship between production and consumption during the modernist and postmodernist periods. After analyzing both quantitative data (data on prize awards and concessions sales) and qualitative data (discussions of the fair in the popular press and official annual reports), the professor concluded that the Minnesota State Fair has been characterized by three historical periods: an era dominated by production (1859–1932), an era of transition from a production-orientation to a consumption-orientation (1933–1946), and an era dominated by consumption (1947–present). He attributed these changes to four cultural factors in the United States: commercial expansion, market orientation, urban rationalization, and the legitimization of recreation.

Report: "The Reversal of Production and Consumption at the Minnesota State Fair." By Mark Ritson. *CURA Reporter* 30 (September 2000): 1–9. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Sep/article1.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Natural Capitalism Conference

Context: Natural capitalism is a new business model based on the notion that businesses can satisfy customer needs, increase profits, and help solve environmental problems simultaneously by applying four basic principles: increasing the productivity of resource use; shifting to biologically inspired production with closed loops, no waste, and no toxicity; shifting the business model away from the making and selling of things to providing the service that the thing delivers; and reinvesting in natural and human capital.

Project: In October 2000, CURA, the Green Institute, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance co-sponsored a conference on natural capitalism and eco-industrial development at the Earle Brown Center on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. "The Greening of Economic Opportunity: At the Firm, Industry, and Community Level" featured a keynote address by Hunter Lovins, pioneer in sustainable development and natural capitalism; workshops by staff of the Rocky Mountain Institute; and workshops and presentations on eco-industrial development by staff of the Work and Environment Initiative at Cornell University.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Investment

Foreign Direct Investment in Minnesota

Context: During the 1980s, nearly every state in the nation was engaged in efforts to increase international business development by encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI) in their state's economy. A researcher at the University of Minnesota was interested in determining how Minnesota fared during the foreign investment rush of the 1980s compared with the other 48 states in the continental United States.

Project: Based on Bureau of Economic Analysis and International Trade Administration data, a professor of public affairs at the University of Minnesota compared Minnesota's performance in eight different economic sectors (manufacturing, wholesale, retail, finance, insurance, real estate, services, and other industries) with respect to six independent variables: gross state product (GSP), the rate of growth in GSP, the economic structure of the state, the state's distance from a major coastline, the level of trade union membership in the state, and the state's distance from the nation's manufacturing belt. The research concluded that Minnesota attracted more foreign direct investment than expected in only two sectors—real estate and miscellaneous industries—and that in general, a state's overall size and the existing structure of its economy were both significant factors in determining the state's FDI performance. Based on these findings, the professor concluded that Minnesota should take an indirect approach to encouraging foreign investment by establishing a generally favorable climate for the attraction, retention, and growth of desirable economic activities, with the expectation that this will contribute to a moderate increase in foreign investment.

Reports: *Minnesota as a Host for Foreign Direct Investment: A Comparison with Other States.* Robert Thomas Kudrle. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2000. CURA 00-3. 75 pp. [B1018]

"Minnesota's Performance in Attracting Foreign Direct Investment." Robert T. Kudrle. *CURA Reporter* 31 (October 2001): 12–18. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-Oct/article3.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Sustainable Financial Resources for Rural Minnesota

Context: Business enterprises in rural Minnesota often confront barriers that impede local "place-based" equity investing.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management researched mechanisms to provide equity to rural enterprises in southeastern Minnesota, identify enterprises that might make use of equity capital, and identify potential investors who might invest locally. The research was carried out with input from citizen leaders and with support from the Experiment in Rural Cooperation. This research will be used to develop a market mechanism that will attract new equity capital to rural southeastern Minnesota.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Market Analysis Studies

City of Rockford Market Study

Context: The City of Rockford, a community located 30 miles west of the Twin Cities, is planning to revitalize its small downtown and highway commercial area with redevelopment grants it has received. The community wanted to ascertain what would be the most useful businesses and services to develop in the city.

Project: A student from the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota designed, administered, and interpreted a citizen survey to gather information on desired businesses and services. The information from the survey is being used by the city in its planning efforts.

Report: "City of Rockford Survey Report." Jianchong Zhu. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of the City of Rockford, 2000. 10 pp. [CAP 014]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

LOCI Fiscal Impact Program Research

Context: Benton, Sherburne, and Wright counties each own a copy of LOCI, a fiscal and economic impact analysis software program that communities can use to help determine if it makes sense for them to offer financial incentives to businesses or community development projects. The counties requested assistance evaluating potential uses of the software program.

Project: A graduate student in applied economics from the University of Minnesota worked with the communities to analyze the usefulness of the software for different types of applications. This information is helping the communities decide if and when they should use LOCI.

Report: "Implementing the LOCI Software in Minnesota: Tests in Benton, Sherburne and Wright Counties." Frederic Wandey. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with Benton, Sherburne, and Wright County Economic Development Associations, Summer 2001. 17 pp. [CAP 044]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Downtown Red Wing Market Analysis

Context: Red Wing Downtown Main Street is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Red Wing through historic preservation and the National Main Street Program (NMSP) four-point approach. The organization desired a market analysis of the downtown area to guide revitalization efforts.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs conducted a market analysis using the NMSP format. The findings from this study were presented to the Red Wing Downtown Council, Red Wing Chamber of Commerce, city government, and service organizations as a catalyst for various downtown improvement programs. The analysis is also being incorporated into the City and Port Authority Community Economic Development plan.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Marketing Campaigns

Sheridan Neighborhood Business Community Study

Context: The Sheridan Neighborhood Organization in north-east Minneapolis transforms old industrial areas into residential areas. It developed a plan to guide business opportunities and integrate them into the neighborhood. Background research was needed to better understand the needs and plans of existing businesses in the community and identify what additional businesses they see as important.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota conducted a survey of Sheridan neighborhood businesses to learn their needs, plans, and desires. The student developed and analyzed results from a survey designed to assess the implications of business conditions and plans for neighborhood zoning, land use, and parking.

Report: "Sheridan Neighborhood Business Community Study." Kelly E. Albrecht. Unpublished report, 2001. 22 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1166/npcr1166.html>. [NPCR 1166]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Business Analysis of Lake Street Commercial Corridor

Context: Lake Street Partners (LSP) is a collaboration of 11 community organizations with similar economic and community development visions for the Lake Street community. The partnership needed assistance developing its work plan.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota assessed potential business growth and stability along the Lake Street corridor from Interstate 35W to Hiawatha Avenue.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Brownstone Project Marketing and Promotional Plan

Context: Model Cities Community Development Corporation (MCCDC) is a community-based corporation that helps to stimulate community development and empower economically and socially disadvantaged residents in the inner-core neighborhoods of St. Paul. The organization wanted to develop a marketing and promotional plan aimed at increasing the number of shoppers and visitors to the Brownstone project, a mixed-use community development project located in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood that integrates human services with economic development.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota helped coordinate an event and create promotional materials for economic development at Brownstone.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Cedar-Riverside Market Study

Context: The Cedar Riverside Business Association represents and promotes businesses and institutions in the Cedar-Riverside area. The association collaborated with the Office of Community Relations at the University of Minnesota to encourage University students, staff, and faculty to patronize businesses and attend community center events in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

Project: An undergraduate student in urban studies and geography from Macalester College researched options and wrote a report.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Wabasha Event Marketing Analysis and Development

Context: The Wabasha Area Chamber of Commerce wanted to increase the number of people visiting the Wabasha area for events and festivals.

Project: A marketing student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management assessed the success of previous marketing campaigns for events, examined the potential for adding new events, and wrote a marketing plan specific to the Wabasha area based on the most successful methods. This information is being used to improve future marketing efforts.

Report: "Event Marketing and Expansion Assessment." Laura Schmitz. Unpublished report, 2002. 42 pp. [CAP 049]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Main Street Marketing Plan Development

Context: East Side Neighborhood Development Company works with residents and business people to improve housing, commercial areas, and civic life in the Payne-Phalen area of St. Paul. The organization wanted to help several local businesses develop and implement marketing plans.

Project: An undergraduate in marketing from the University of St. Thomas developed marketing plans for three local businesses and provided technical assistance to begin implementation of the plans.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Tourism and Recreation

Micro-Entrepreneurship Outreach and Training

Context: The Augsburg Neighborhood Development Center wanted to conduct a marketing plan for local businesses.

Project: During the last four years, five students (two from the University of Minnesota, one from Augsburg College, one from the University of St. Thomas, and one from Metropolitan State University) have worked to identify prospective trainees and help develop the training format and follow-up plans.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Bryn Mawr Home-Based Business Study

Context: The Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association wanted to develop a plan to strengthen the neighborhood business association.

Project: An undergraduate student in geography from the University of Minnesota identified home-based businesses in Bryn Mawr, developed a recruitment plan, and examined various organizational models.

Report: "Bryn Mawr Home-Based Business Survey." Victoria Ford. Unpublished report, 1999. 45 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1139/npcr1139.html>. [NPCR 1139]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

King of Trails and Prairie Passage Tourism Project

Context: The King of Trails Coalition is an alliance of city governments, businesses, visitor organizations, and private citizens interested in promoting and protecting the historical, environmental, and cultural value of U.S. Highway 75 (the King of Trails) in western Minnesota. Prairie Passage is a national effort coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and five other state transportation departments to promote awareness of prairie-related natural, historic, and cultural resources and to protect prairie remnants on highway rights-of-way. These organizations were interested in promoting tourism along the major roadways in western Minnesota.

Project: An undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota's Crookston campus conducted a survey as the basis for creating a tourism directory for western Minnesota and a database of the existing tourism product mix in the area. This research will help the King of Trails Coalition and Prairie Passage improve their efforts to promote western Minnesota's communities and natural areas.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Lake of the Woods Area Recreation Plan

Context: The Zippel Bay Citizen's Group is committed to sustainable use of the Lake of the Woods region's resources and to expanding tourism in the region. Their goal is to protect the assets that bring visitors to the region while simultaneously improving economic opportunity for community residents.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs assisted the organization in exploring possibilities for tourism growth by reviewing and analyzing the literature on community-based tourism. The community is using the study to inform their planning efforts.

Report: "Foundations for Nature-Based Tourism in Lake of the Woods." Kelly McPeck. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with Lake of the Woods Citizen Advisory Group, January 2002. 15 pp. [CAP 039]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Wabasha Golf Course Expansion Feasibility Study

Context: The City of Wabasha was interested in exploring the possibility of expanding the city's 9-hole municipal golf course.

Project: Two graduate students in landscape architecture from the University of Minnesota worked with the City of Wabasha Economic Development Authority (EDA) to explore the feasibility of expanding the city's 9-hole golf course to 18 holes. The students completed an economic analysis of potential costs vs. increased income and recommended how the additional holes could be added. The EDA is using the reports to make recommendations to the city, and the design developed in this project is being used as a marketing tool by the city to acquire financing for the expansion and for the necessary land acquisition.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Robert Friedman

Food Systems

Cass Lake Tourism Assessment

Context: The Cass Lake Tourism Partnership requested assistance addressing the present status of tourism as an economic factor in the greater Cass Lake area and the potential for tourism to sustain the future growth of the area.

Project: A graduate student in the Carlson School of Management developed a snapshot of the local economy and the current role tourism plays in it; completed an in-depth analysis of the potential for tourism in the future economy and growth of the area; developed a database of existing tourism resources, opportunities, and barriers; and developed a written report of findings and recommendations. The results of this research influenced a strategic plan that is being formed to guide tourism development in Cass Lake.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Southwest Minnesota Multi-County Trail Development

Context: The End-O-Line Railroad Park is a county park in southwestern Minnesota that is working with nearby communities to develop a multicounty recreational trail. By developing the trail, the communities hope to attract more visitors to the area, thus enhancing the local economy.

Project: A graduate student studying recreation and leisure at the University of Minnesota completed a community assessment related to the trails project that is serving as a foundation for the next steps in the process.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Pelican Rapids Visitor Project

Context: Pelican Rapids Economic Development Council needed assistance developing self-guided tours for visitors on compact disc and audiocassette.

Project: An undergraduate student from the University of Minnesota's Morris campus conducted preliminary research to help initiate the project; worked with the advisory committee to identify points of interest in the area and collect information on area history, geography, flora and fauna, and agricultural economy; identified four circular tour routes based on identified points of interest; wrote scripts for self-guided tours; and, in conjunction with the advisory committee, developed a written report that documents the process and offers recommendations.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Institutional Food Market Survey

Context: The Community Design Center of Minnesota–Southeast wanted to identify opportunities for local food growers to sell their goods locally.

Project: A marketing student at the University of Minnesota worked with the center to survey public and private food services in southeastern Minnesota to see what might influence these organizations to buy foods produced locally rather than buying from traditional wholesalers. Organizations surveyed included schools, nursing homes, and bed and breakfast establishments. The results of the research were shared with local growers and grower cooperatives to help them identify new buyers and expand their operations to meet demands identified in the survey.

Report: "Institutional Food Market Survey." Petr Bilek. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Community Design Center of Minnesota–Southeast, 2000. 22 pp. [CAP 011]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Local Food Systems Project

Context: The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) have launched a Local Food Economies Venture intended to help farmers, producers, and processors distribute local food to consumers and to foster the reemergence of regional food systems.

Project: A graduate student of law and public policy at the University of Minnesota wrote a report on regional and local food activities in rural Minnesota and examined how the University of Minnesota could support local food economies.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Southeast Equitable Alternative Food Systems Project

Context: A group of farmers and community members in southeastern Minnesota are exploring the formation of a cooperative producers and consumers partnership that accounts for people's values (e.g., environmental concerns, food safety concerns, etc.).

Project: A student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management worked with the group to develop public relations materials that can be used to help launch the cooperative.

Report: "Omega Food Cooperative Report." Jennifer Kuyava. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Pine Island Economic Development Authority, 2001. 28 pp. [CAP 016]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Paradise Prairie Foods

Context: Paradise Prairie is a food line being developed by the Fore Seasons and Tavern on the Green restaurant based on its success with chowders. Paradise Prairie management needed assistance developing a community-based business model focused on creating a regional food economy.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management developed a plan for moving Paradise Prairie from a micro-enterprise to a viable product line. This plan will assist Paradise Prairie in evolving into a successful community-based business.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Housing

Affordable Housing

Land Use Planning Act of 1976

Context: In 1976, the Minnesota Legislature enacted the Land Use Planning Act (LUPA), which requires communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to develop a comprehensive plan that includes a housing element and implementation plan “to meet the local unit’s share of the metropolitan area need for low- and moderate-income housing.” No comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of LUPA or its impact on the availability of low- and moderate-income housing has been undertaken since 1976.

Project: In the summer of 2000, a research team consisting of 3 faculty members from the University of Minnesota, 12 graduate students taking part in a course at the University’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, and several undergraduate students enrolled in an urban studies course at Macalester College investigated how the Metropolitan Council has interpreted and administered LUPA’s housing requirements and how 25 high-growth suburban communities have implemented them. The study was funded by the Family Housing Fund with additional support from CURA, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, and the Urban Studies Program at Macalester College. The research team concluded that the 25 years following passage of LUPA have yielded minimal changes in either the planning or implementation of the housing elements of municipal land-use plans and that local planning and development processes around affordable housing remain largely unchanged.

Reports: *The Affordable Housing Legacy of the 1976 Land Use Planning Act.* By Edward G. Goetz, Karen Chapple, and Barbara Lukermann. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 02-2. 118 pp. [H1027]

“Twenty-Five Years of Planning for Low- and Moderate-Income Housing in the Twin Cities: The Legacy of the 1976 Land Use Planning Act,” by Edward G. Goetz, Karen Chapple, and Barbara L. Lukermann, *CURA Reporter* 32 (Summer 2002): 1–7. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Summ/Summ-02-art1.pdf>

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

Racial and Low-Income Housing Impact Statement

Context: The Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA) mobilizes people of all faiths to advocate for policies that increase the supply of affordable housing in the Twin Cities metro area and promote fair housing. The organization requested assistance preparing a racial and low-income impact statement for housing practices and policies.

Project: A graduate student in public policy at the University of Minnesota researched and reviewed existing literature on affordable housing, identified particular housing policies and practices in the Twin Cities area, and worked with MICAHA staff to prepare a racial and low-income impact statement.

Report: “Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis and Housing Development on Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color.” Rebecca Couvrette. Unpublished report, 2001. 51 pp. [H2001-1]

CURA Programs: Communitarity Program and Housing Initiative



Photo by Edward G. Goetz

Affordable Housing Preservation Project

Context: Central Community Housing Trust (CCHT) is a nonprofit housing provider that develops and manages affordable housing. The organization wanted assistance to plan ongoing capital improvements for CCHT properties.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota researched and organized information on major capital components of CCHT, determined necessary capital improvements, and created a capital improvements database.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

City Innovation Project

Context: City Innovation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to continuing the legacy of Otto Silha, former publisher of the *Minneapolis Tribune*.

Project: In 2001, CURA and City Innovation formed a partnership to create a University program focused on local government innovation in the development of affordable housing. Under the direction of the former Commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the partnership is working with housing developers, local government officials in Minnesota, faculty and students from the University of Minnesota’s College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the University’s Rural Design Center, and the Wilder Foundation to create and promote new technologies that can reduce the costs of housing construction. The purpose of the project is to bring housing design innovators together with builders and the local officials who control the regulatory processes under which new housing is built.

CURA Program: Visiting Scholar

Profile of Affordable Housing in St. Paul

Context: Community Stabilization Project, Rondo Community Land Trust, and Housing Preservation Project wanted to profile housing units in the St. Paul area to determine affordability and status.

Project: A graduate student in anthropology from the University of Minnesota researched and created an inventory of the city's recently demolished and newly constructed housing units.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Action Guide for Affordable Housing

Context: During the late 1990s, federal funds were made available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to address the affordable housing crisis in the Twin Cities metropolitan region.

Project: A graduate student in anthropology at the University of Minnesota worked with staff members from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Jewish Community Action, and the St. Paul Tenants Union to create an action guide and workbook for affordable housing advocates and citizens to advocate for use of CDBG program funds in St. Paul.

Report: "CDBG Workbook: Action Guide for Affordable Housing." Laura Davis, Laura Jelinek, Melissa Mandershied, and Mark Schuller. Unpublished report, 2000. 43 pp. [H2000-1]

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

Affordable Housing for Asian Americans

Context: The Asian Development Corporation (ADC) is a nonprofit community development corporation serving the Asian and Pacific American community. The organization wanted to identify affordable housing trends and resources for Asian American communities.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota helped the ADC create a business plan for the development and redevelopment of duplex housing for Asian families.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Defining Affordable Housing in St. Paul

Context: The City of St. Paul could not assess how it was meeting the affordable housing needs of its residents because the definitions for "preserved" affordable housing units and "affordability" were unclear. Rondo Community Land Trust, the Community Stabilization Project, and the Housing Preservation Project wanted to establish definitions and develop standards.

Project: A graduate student in public health from the University of Minnesota helped clarify and create definitions shared by community organizations and public agencies by reviewing public policies on affordable housing, interviewing groups, collecting public and organizational records, and designing an ongoing data collection process.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Affordable Housing Development Funding Sourcebook

Context: Central Community Housing Trust is a nonprofit housing services provider in central Minneapolis that offers real estate acquisition and housing development services, asset management assistance, and other resident services. The organization wanted to develop a sourcebook for housing development staff that could serve as a readily accessible reference for those seeking funding sources for new and underfunded affordable housing projects.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota researched potential national, state, and local affordable housing funds and financing approaches; interviewed local and national affordable housing developers about innovative sources and approaches for affordable housing development; and presented findings to nonprofit housing developers and intermediaries for feedback and further development.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Affordable Housing Trends in the Summit-University Community

Context: The mission of the Rondo Community Land Trust is to meet community housing needs while preserving economic and cultural diversity. The Selby Area Community Development Corporation's mission is to bring together people and organizations with diverse backgrounds to enhance the quality of life for all of the area's residents. The Rondo Community Land Trust and the Selby Area Community Development Corporation wanted to conduct a study of the trends in affordable and low-income housing in the Summit-University community.

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota examined market values, single-family housing, homeownership programs, and demographic factors. Geographic information systems (GIS) technology was used to illustrate trends.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Edward G. Coetz

Homeownership Services

50/30 Campaign

Context: HomeLink, a project of the East Side Neighborhood Development Company that provides homeownership assistance, wanted to increase homeownership rates for people of color on St. Paul's East Side.

Project: A graduate student in education from the University of Minnesota helped develop a media and marketing campaign to assist HomeLink with its effort.

Report: "Homeownership and Community Building on the East Side of St. Paul." Laura Davis. Unpublished report, 1999. 16 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc14/copc14.html>. [COPC 014]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

A+ Homes for Learning Project

Context: Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services is a partnership between residents, government, and financial institutions to improve the housing and quality of life in the Dayton's Bluff community. The organization needed technical assistance and help with coordination and outreach efforts.

Project: An undergraduate student in housing from the University of Minnesota worked with local homeowners, education providers, and others to develop and conduct homeownership workshops.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Housing Resource Web Site

Context: The Hamline-Midway Area Rehabilitation Corporation (H-MARC) is a community development agency that promotes the general welfare of the Hamline-Midway community in St. Paul by helping to stabilize and rehabilitate housing stock. The organization wanted to create a housing resources Web site to assist homeowners.

Project: An undergraduate student from St. Thomas surveyed existing community Web sites, researched information for a housing resource Web site, and designed a site. The student created a how-to manual to assist other organizations to build a Web site and research potential resources.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

East Side Community Housing Project

Context: The American Indian Policy Center is a nonprofit center for research, policy development, and education on issues affecting the American Indian community in the Midwest. The organization wanted to encourage culturally specific outreach and housing education in the American Indian community.

Project: A student helped research barriers to housing for American Indians and investigate housing resources and American Indian perceptions about housing.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

HomeLink Marketing and Media Campaign

Context: Because St. Paul's East Side has lost manufacturing jobs, homeownership has declined and the neighborhood has diversified. HomeLink, a project of the East Side Neighborhood Development Company that provides homeownership assistance, wanted to create a media and marketing campaign to increase sustainable homeownership.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota scripted a Hmong homeownership education video and developed promotional materials.

Report: "HomeLink Marketing and Media Campaign: To Increase Homeownership Rates for People of Color on the East Side of St. Paul." Jennifer L. Marcks. Unpublished report, 2001. 83 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc24/copc24.html>. [COPC 024]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Homeownership Support Services Survey

Context: The Home Ownership Center is an organization dedicated to helping low- and moderate-income individuals purchase and maintain homes. The center provides a network of community-based organizations with the tools and resources to deliver education, loan counseling, and support for potential new homebuyers. The center did a survey to determine the availability of homeownership support services in Minnesota and to identify service gaps.

Project: A graduate student in urban and regional planning at the University of Minnesota worked with staff to gather additional information and complete the survey.

CURA Programs: Communitiversity Program and Housing Initiative

Low-Income Homebuyers Program Feasibility Study

Context: Community Neighborhood Housing Services (CNHS) provides safe and sanitary housing to residents in its service area. The organization wanted to expand its services by purchasing, rehabilitating, and selling homes to low-income families and creating plans for new housing development.

Project: An undergraduate student in urban studies from Macalester researched vacant rental properties and lots on the West Side and conducted a Low-Income Homebuyers Program feasibility study.

Report: "Vacant Housing in the Context of a City Neighborhood: The West Side, St. Paul, Minnesota." Rebecca Brown. Unpublished report, 1999. 34 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1137/npcr1137.html>. [NPCR 1137]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

GIS and Data Resources

Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Evaluation

Context: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS) began as a three-year project to create an integrated property database system with an analytical component for use in neighborhood planning and the prevention of housing deterioration and abandonment. To measure program outputs and outcomes, a comprehensive evaluation needed to be conducted for the project.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota documented baseline information and helped identify comparison neighborhoods. The student measured attitudes of city and neighborhood staff and leaders, assessed current practices of program participants for dealing with problem properties, and monitored current housing conditions in participating neighborhoods. In 2001, MNIS evolved into a freestanding CURA program (see p. 88).

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Payne-Phalen Housing Information GIS

Context: The East Side Neighborhood Development Company wanted to develop a housing information system using geographic information systems (GIS) to better manage and track community housing priorities and impacts.

Project: A graduate student in geographic information science from the University of Minnesota worked on database development, trained staff, and created maps of targeted housing.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Introducing Minneapolis Neighborhoods to GIS

Context: Lyndale Neighborhood Association, Elliot Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, Mississippi East Neighborhood Development Corporation, Midtown Phillips, and Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association wanted assistance learning to integrate, analyze, and present information on housing dynamics and impacts using geographic information systems (GIS) technology.

Project: A graduate student in GIS from the University of Minnesota assessed current organizational data system capabilities, including hardware, software, and digital data; assembled and formatted data from public sources; designed databases to serve organizational applications; assisted with GIS applications; and provided training and support on the use of the database. The final product included recommendations for further database development.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Foreclosure

Real Estate Foreclosures

Context: Minnesota Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) is a membership-based community organization that advocates for low- and moderate-income families in the Twin Cities. The organization requested assistance with a study of real estate home loan foreclosures by subprime lenders in the Twin Cities metropolitan area during the 1990s.

Project: A graduate student worked with Minnesota ACORN to determine whether there was a correlation in the 1990s between foreclosures and nonconventional mortgages and whether the hardest hit areas were neighborhood minority communities with a stable rate of homeownership.

Report: *Drained Wealth, Withered Dreams: The Disparate Impact of Predatory Lending in the Twin Cities.* Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Minneapolis: ACORN and ACORN Housing Corporation, 2001. 47 pp. Available online at <http://www.acorn.org/acorn10/predatorylending/reports.htm>. [B2001-1]

CURA Program: Communiiversity Program



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Housing Needs Assessment

Housing Barriers and Resources for African Americans in East St. Paul

Context: The African American Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center. The task force wanted to conduct a needs assessment of the African American community in Districts 4 and 5 in St. Paul and investigate ways to improve services and programs.

Project: An undergraduate student from Macalester College profiled each of the housing programs and services available, interviewed key staff and clients from each program, researched local and national housing programs and models that provide culturally relevant services, supported educational efforts, and prepared a final report.

Reports: "Housing Barriers and Resources for African Americans in East St. Paul." Jamie Lane. Unpublished report, 2001. 46 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc28/copc28.html>. [COPC 028]

"Student Perspectives on the East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center." Elizabeth Seefeldt, Jamie Lane, and Jessica Deegan. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 24–26. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article6.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

District 5 Housing Stability Project

Context: The St. Paul District 5 Planning Council wanted to develop culturally specific outreach strategies to stabilize housing in the area.

Project: A graduate student in anthropology from the University of Minnesota helped research problem properties in District 5 to support the development of appropriate outreach strategies.

Report: "Process and Procedure: How Structural Problem Properties Are Addressed in the City of St. Paul." Laura Olson. Unpublished report, 2001. 13 pp. [COPC 019]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Greater Minnesota Housing Template

Context: The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a nonprofit organization created to bring together affordable housing advocates and developers to advance the preservation and creation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families. The partnership requested assistance designing a market survey instrument that could be used to analyze housing needs in the communities they work with.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management worked with rural Minnesota organizations to create a housing market study template. This template will aid rural communities in documenting and analyzing housing needs, the first step toward increasing the amount of affordable housing in Greater Minnesota.

Report: "Minnesota Housing Partnership Report." Tory Cason. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Minnesota Housing Partnership, April 2002. 49 pp. [CAP 040]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Liberty Plaza Needs Assessment

Context: The Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation (TCHDC) is a nonprofit developer and owner of low- and moderate-income housing in Minneapolis and St. Paul with a mission to provide affordable housing for families in the Twin Cities. The organization collaborated with Liberty Plaza Inc. to rehabilitate and preserve Liberty Plaza, a 173-unit low-income housing development in St. Paul. All units were converted into a 100% project-based Section 8 housing facility. The organization needed to investigate the social service and cultural needs of residents to better serve them.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in rhetoric conducted a needs assessment of Liberty Plaza.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Supportive Housing Mapping

Context: Whittier, Stevens Square, and Loring Park neighborhood residents were concerned about the concentration of existing supportive housing and social services in their neighborhoods. When the addition of the Lydia House project was proposed, residents wanted data to support their argument against the development of the Lydia House.

Project: A CURA staff member and two graduate students in geography and planning from the University of Minnesota worked with staff of the Whittier Alliance to collect data on supportive housing facilities and map both City- and neighborhood-identified sites and their relationships to the proposed site. The maps showed the City of Minneapolis significantly underestimated the number of supportive housing facilities in the neighborhood. The maps were presented during oral arguments in a lawsuit brought by neighborhood residents against developers of the proposed facility and the City of Minneapolis that is pending in U.S. District Court. The neighborhood plans to continue adjusting maps as additional facilities are identified or as existing sites expand services.

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Housing Stock Evaluation

Macalester-Groveland Housing Assessment

Context: Macalester-Groveland Community Council is a nonprofit neighborhood organization in St. Paul. The council works to identify and address issues of concern among area residents. It had been several years since the City of St. Paul had conducted a housing assessment in the area, and the council was interested in an updated housing condition assessment.

Project: Students in a housing and community development course in the College of Design, Housing, and Apparel at the University of Minnesota learned about the linkages between housing and community development by exploring the process of residential neighborhood change and the impact of housing on neighborhood condition. They also learned to conduct neighborhood housing assessments and then applied this knowledge by carrying out a housing assessment for a course-based project. Groups of students completed projects in four different Minneapolis and St. Paul neighborhoods. One group worked with Macalester-Groveland Community Council. Students visited the neighborhood, surveyed and rated the condition of more than 300 homes, assembled the data, and provided a written report to the neighborhood. Students had the opportunity to apply the skills they had learned in the classroom and the council received an updated assessment of housing conditions in the area.

CURA Program: University-Neighborhood Network (UNN)

Payne-Phalen Housing Condition Survey and Assessment

Context: East Side Neighborhood Development Company works with residents and business people to improve housing, commercial areas, and civic life in the Payne-Phalen area of St. Paul. The organization wanted to modify a problem property toolbox used by another local redevelopment organization, with an emphasis on resources available to residents in the area.

Project: An undergraduate student from Macalester College worked with the organization to adapt the toolbox for use in the Payne-Phalen area.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Researching the Superblock

Context: North East Neighborhood Development Corporation (NENDC) works in the northeastern quadrant of St. Paul to improve area housing and small businesses. The area is dominated by single-family homes and 1950s-era apartment buildings that comprise a "super block."

Project: A graduate student in geography from the University of Minnesota assisted NENDC in defining the facets of the super block.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Seward Housing Study

Context: Seward Redesign is a nonprofit community development corporation that serves the Seward neighborhood and surrounding community in Minneapolis. Seward Redesign's mission is to plan, advocate, implement, and preserve development that responds to community needs and creates living wage jobs, affordable life-cycle housing, and quality goods and services.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota prepared a housing profile of neighborhood housing types, tenure, and condition. The student also helped assess housing issues and identified strategic opportunities to address housing problems, especially along the Hiawatha light-rail transit corridor and Midtown Greenway.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

At-Risk and Problem Properties

Powderhorn Park At-Risk Property Locator

Context: Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) wanted to improve its ability to identify properties in the neighborhood that are at risk of abandonment.

Project: A CURA staff member and two graduate students in geography and planning from the University of Minnesota worked with PPNA to develop a set of criteria to identify properties at risk of abandonment. Indicators included building condition, estimated market value, tax delinquency, and intent to condemn notices. Geographic information systems (GIS) technology was then used to map the properties and properties were assigned a risk score based upon how many indicators were present. Based on these data, a list with contact information was compiled and is being used for outreach and advocacy efforts.

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Hamline-Midway Early Warning System Analysis

Context: The Hamline-Midway Area Rehabilitation Corporation (H-MARC) is a community development corporation that promotes the general welfare of the Hamline-Midway community in St. Paul by helping to stabilize and rehabilitate housing stock. The organization wanted to test the ability of its housing early warning system (HEWS) to predict housing distress.

Project: An undergraduate in geography from the University of St. Thomas updated and compared datasets from H-MARC's 1997 and 1998 HEWS databases and analyzed trends in housing distress.

Reports: "Housing Early Warning System Feasibility in the Hamline Midway Area." Eric Myott. Unpublished report, 1999. 20 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1121/npcr1121.html>. [NPCR 1121]

"Developing and Analyzing the Neighborhood Early Warning System in Hamline-Midway." Eric Myott. Unpublished report, 2000. 24 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1143/npcr1143.html>. [NPCR 1143]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Problem Properties and Property Reclamation

Context: Logan Park Neighborhood Association needed to identify problem properties to be included in the neighborhood's redevelopment plans.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota developed and researched criteria for selection of problem properties to be considered for the redevelopment plan.

Report: "Logan Park Neighborhood Association: Problem Properties." Christine Stark. Unpublished report, 1999. 12 pp. [NPCR 1135]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Early Warning Indicators in the Phillips Neighborhood

Context: The Phillips Neighborhood Network wanted to test the ability of its housing early warning system (HEWS) to predict housing distress and inform housing organizers if a house is at risk of being abandoned.

Project: A graduate student in social work from the University of Minnesota developed a HEWS to prevent abandoned housing within a designated eight-block area of the Phillips neighborhood.

Report: "Developing an Early Warning System for an Eight-Block Area of Minneapolis' Phillips Neighborhood: Methodology, Results, and Implications for Future Studies." Julie Miller. Unpublished report, 1999. 52 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1138/npcr1138.html>. [NPCR 1138]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Edward G. Goetz

Employment and Housing

Survey of Union Members' Housing Situation

Context: Family and Children's Service (FCS) is a private, nonprofit family service agency in Minneapolis that works to strengthen families and communities by providing assistance in the areas of mental health counseling, family and community initiatives, domestic violence prevention and intervention, public policy advocacy, and family life education.

Project: As part of FCS's Jobs and Affordable Housing Campaign, CURA supported a graduate research assistant and a faculty member at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs to analyze data on housing collected from 850 members of six union locals representing four different unions. The results of the survey indicate a severe housing cost burden, even for households with two incomes.

Report: "Housing Survey for Union Members." Edward G. Goetz. Unpublished report, 2002. 26 pp. [H2002-1]

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

Affordability of Housing for Low-Wage Workers

Context: St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations (SPEAC) is a coalition of 17 St. Paul and suburban Protestant and Roman Catholic churches working to bring about greater economic and social justice and end racism in the seven-county metropolitan region. The alliance is investigating the issue of affordable housing in the context of the relationship between low-wage jobs and the affordability of housing.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota gathered data for selected municipalities in the Twin Cities metro area regarding the number of low-wage jobs, the contributions such jobs typically make to total family income, and the number and size of affordable housing units in each community. The student analyzed these data to determine what percentage of low-wage workers in the community can afford to live there according to affordable housing criteria.

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

Affordable Housing/Employment Relationship

Context: The Twin Cities Economic Development Group (TCED) works to establish a regional vision and strategy that enables low- and moderate-income people to benefit from a strong regional economy. The organization requested assistance with an ongoing research project on the relationship between housing affordability and employment opportunities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Project: A graduate research assistant at the University of Minnesota researched case studies of two employees at Twin Cities companies and examined factors that led to residential and job choices, including transportation options, household earnings, household composition, compensation, career ladders, and advancement opportunities. The student prepared a final report for the organization on the relationship between these factors and employment.

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

Housing Program Assessments

Homeowner Survey Responses for Dayton's Bluff

Context: Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS) is a partnership between residents, government, and financial institutions to improve housing and quality of life in the Dayton's Bluff community. Staff at the organization wanted to analyze and compare the experiences of Southeast Asian homebuyers to those of other homebuyers.

Project: A student and a faculty member at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs helped the organization create, mail, and analyze results from a survey of 24 families who received home buying assistance from DBNHS.

Report: "Report on Homeowner Survey Responses for Dayton's Bluff NHS." Edward G. Goetz. Unpublished report, 2000. 8 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc16/copc16.html>. [COPC 016]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Cost Analysis of Single-Family Home Construction

Context: The City of St. Paul has intensified its scrutiny of the costs of development projects undertaken by community development corporations (CDC).

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota conducted a comparative cost analysis for Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services and other St. Paul CDCs. The analysis looked at single-family home construction in St. Paul undertaken by CDCs and by private for-profit developers.

Report: "Comparative Cost Analysis of Single Family Home Construction." David Tyler McKay. Unpublished report, 2000. 25 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1162/npcr1162.html>. [NPCR 1162]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

HomeLink Program Assessment

Context: HomeLink, a project of the East Side Neighborhood Development Company that provides homeownership assistance, wanted to determine the impact of its programs to decide how services could be improved to support homeownership.

Project: A graduate student in public health from the University of Minnesota helped carry out an assessment of the HomeLink program that identified ways to improve service to clients.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Rental Housing

East Side Housing Forum

Context: The St. Paul District 4 Community Council wanted a profile of the East Side, Ramsey County, and St. Paul housing programs.

Project: An undergraduate in ethnic studies from Metropolitan State University coordinated an East Side Housing Forum and helped profile emergency housing and homeownership programs.

Report: "Housing Barriers and Resources for African Americans in East St. Paul." Jamie Lane. Unpublished report, 2001. 46 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/copc28.copc28.html>. [COPC 028]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)



Photo illustration by Marc Beitz

Hmong HomeLink Evaluation

Context: HomeLink, a project of the East Side Neighborhood Development Company that provides homeownership assistance, wanted to learn about Hmong residents' experiences with the program in order to improve service.

Project: An undergraduate student in elementary education at Concordia College conducted follow-up visits with Hmong participants in the HomeLink program to document their experience and gather suggestions for improvement.

Report: "HomeLink Hmong Program Evaluation." Kong Sue Xiong. Unpublished report, 2000. 21 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc21/copc21.html>. [COPC 021]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Minnesota HOME Line Tenant Hotline Service

Context: HOME Line is a nonprofit organization that provides services to Minnesota tenants, most of whom are low-income residents. The organization operates a tenant hotline, provides legal representation for tenants facing eviction, maintains a high school presentation program that teaches students the basics of becoming a renter, organizes tenants of subsidized buildings threatened with conversion to market rents by withdrawal from federal housing assistance programs, and engages in policy advocacy around low-income housing issues. The organization requested assistance with its Tenant Hotline Service Project, which involved expanding the service area of the organization's hotline from suburban Hennepin County to the entire state of Minnesota.

Project: An undergraduate English student from the University of Minnesota assisted HOME Line with its expansion project. The goal of the project was to create a database that included the following information: the location of county courthouses throughout the state; a list of which cities have housing codes, as well as a summary of what each city's code encompasses; names and phone numbers of housing code officers in each city; names, addresses, and phone numbers for agencies throughout the state that offer emergency financial assistance to low-income families; and the addresses and phone numbers of legal aid offices in Minnesota. The student researched materials for and input them into the database.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Hamline-Midway Rental Housing Stock Assessment

Context: Hamline-Midway Area Rehabilitation Corporation (H-MARC) is a community development corporation that promotes the general welfare of the Hamline-Midway community in St. Paul by helping to stabilize and rehabilitate housing stock. The organization wanted to gather information about local rental housing.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in public affairs organized a data warehouse of local rental housing information and prepared a visual presentation of the data for H-MARC.

Report: "Hamline-University Rental Profile." Katherine Ember. Unpublished report, 2000. 19 pp. [NPCR 1145]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Hamline-Midway Rental Housing Preservation

Context: Hamline-Midway Area Rehabilitation Corporation (H-MARC), Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC), and neighborhood residents collaborated to form the Alternatives to Single-Family Housing Task Force. The task force wanted to identify strategies to preserve and create rental housing in the neighborhood.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota supported the Alternatives to Single-Family Housing Task Force by conducting research and analyzing strategies.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Public Housing

Affordable Rental Housing on the East Side

Context: The need for affordable housing for low-income children who attend schools in the Dayton's Bluff and Payne-Phalen communities in East St. Paul is growing. An ongoing system was needed to facilitate participation of property owners and assist families with eligible children in locating and retaining community housing.

Project: A graduate student in education psychology at the University of Minnesota worked with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the East Side Neighborhood Development Company to research how Section 8 can contribute to quality and desirable rental housing on the East Side. Property owners were located who accept Section 8 housing vouchers and undesirable participants were identified.

Report: "From Research to Action: Housing Mobility and Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School." Thomas O'Connell and John Vaughn. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 11–14. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article3.pdf>.
CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

District 6 Rental Housing Profile

Context: North End Area Revitalization (NEAR), which has taken a holistic approach to improving the Rice Street North End/District 6 in St. Paul via business and housing development projects, wanted to expand its efforts to include rental housing.

Project: An undergraduate student in anthropology and Latin American studies from Hamline University developed a profile of rental housing and resident needs in District 6.

Report: "North End Rental Census." Sarah Pazandak. Unpublished report, 2001. 12 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1152/npcr1152.html>. [NPCR 1152]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Edward Goetz

Hollman Consent Decree Evaluation

Context: In 1998, CURA was contracted by the Family Housing Fund and the State of Minnesota to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the consent decree in *Hollman v. Cisneros*, a lawsuit alleging that public housing and Section 8 programs in Minneapolis perpetuate racial and low-income segregation.

Project: A research fellow at CURA and associate professor at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs conducted the three-year evaluation. The research project included a survey of more than 200 north side residents displaced from public housing as a result of the decree, an analysis of census data comparing the neighborhoods of these residents before and after leaving the north side, and an effort to track the use of *Hollman* special mobility certificates and the creation of replacement housing stock in the Twin Cities metropolitan area for relocated families. The evaluation produced a series of eight reports, which concluded that the consent decree produced mixed results in the construction of replacement housing units, the reduction of race and poverty concentration in public housing in the Twin Cities, and the use of special mobility certificates.

Reports: "Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: *Hollman v. Cisneros*." Edward G. Goetz. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Fall 2002): 1–8.

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Reports 1–8. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 02-03. 326 pp. Available at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/publications/Hollman.html>. [H1026]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 1: Policy Context and Previous Research on Housing Dispersal. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-5. 92 pp. [H1018]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 2: Planning for North Side Redevelopment. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-6. 46 pp. [H1019]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 3: Baseline Data Analysis for North Side Redevelopment. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-7. 33 pp. [H1020]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 4: Changes to the Public Housing Stock in Minneapolis. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-8. 17 pp. [H1021]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 5: Relocation of Residents from North Side Public Housing. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-9. 33 pp. [H1022]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 6: The Experiences of Dispersed Families. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-10. 35 pp. [H1023]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 7: Mobility Certificates. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-11. 29 pp. [H1024]

Deconcentrating Poverty in Minneapolis: Hollman v. Cisneros. Report No. 8: Replacement Housing. Edward G. Goetz. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-12. 41 pp. [H1025]

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

Underrepresented or Disadvantaged Groups

Latinos/Latinas and Latino/Latina Americans

Latinos/Latinas on the West Side of St. Paul

Context: The nonprofit organization Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER) wanted to document the experience of the Latino/Latina community on St. Paul's West Side.

Project: After contacting community leaders to learn what they wanted to know about the West Side, HACER staff examined demographic data, interviewed West Side residents, and conducted numerous focus groups. With editorial assistance from CURA, HACER issued a bilingual report that looks at where Latinos/Latinas live on the West Side, what their strengths and needs are, and what specific issues affect this area. Photographs and quotes from interviews and focus groups provide both historical and contemporary perspectives on the West Side neighborhood, the oldest Latino/Latina community in St. Paul.

Report: *Los Latinos en el West Side de St. Paul/Latinos on the West Side of St. Paul*. Minneapolis: HACER, 2002. 46 pp.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Latino/Latina Communities in Rural Minnesota

Context: According to 2000 U.S. Census figures, Latinos/Latinas now account for one-quarter of the population in some rural communities in Minnesota. Many rural communities have struggled to adjust to these changing demographics and the increasing diversity of their populations.

Project: Along with the University of Minnesota's Office for Multicultural and Academic Affairs, CURA provided support for a graduate research assistant to work with Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER) and the Center for Rural Policy and Development at the University of Minnesota's Mankato campus to examine what helps and what hinders the development of healthy Latino/Latina communities in rural Minnesota. Seven rural communities were selected for the study: Willmar, Worthington, Albert Lea, Owatonna, St. James, Pelican Rapids, and Long Prairie. The project produced a report of findings that included specific policy recommendations for the Minnesota State Legislature.

Report: *The Vitality of Latino Communities in Rural Minnesota*. Deborah Bushway. Mankato, MN: Center for Rural Policy and Development, 2001. 48 pp.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Photo by Robert Friedman



Latinos/Latinas in Dakota County

Context: The nonprofit organization Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER) wanted to investigate the growing Latino/Latina community in Dakota County (located just south of St. Paul's West Side neighborhood), which had an estimated 10,000 Latino/Latina residents in 1999.

Project: For the purposes of the study, HACER examined demographic information, conducted face-to-face interviews with Latinos/Latinas and others in the area, and conducted focus groups with Latinos/Latinas who work or live in the county. With support from CURA, HACER published a bilingual report that includes photographs and quotes from the interviews to help convey why Latinos/Latinas come to Dakota County and the opportunities and difficulties they have encountered there.

Report: *Realidades Suburbanas: Latinos en el Condado de Dakota/ Suburban Realities: Latinos in Dakota County*. Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER). Minneapolis: HACER and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 1999. CURA 99-2. 61 pp. [M1109]

CURA Program: New Initiative

East Side Latino/Latina Resource Center

Context: The East Side Latino Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center. The task force identified the need for a resource center for cultural and social services.

Project: A graduate student in rhetoric and technical communication from the University of Minnesota helped to develop an operating and funding plan for the center. The report identified a strategy and resources for developing the center.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Africans and African Americans

Latina Services Evaluation

Context: Casa de Esperanza is a nonprofit agency whose mission is to eliminate violence against women and children in the Latino/Latina community and to offer culturally appropriate services to battered Latina women and their children. The organization wanted to examine the effectiveness of services available through various Latino/Latina agencies.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota organized focus groups of Latino women and girls in south Minneapolis to determine their need for community services and examined current services offered by Latino/Latina agencies in Minneapolis to identify duplication or gaps in service.
CURA Program: New Initiative

Strengthening the Latino/Latina Community in Todd County

Context: In the last five years, the Latino/Latina community in Todd County has grown from 20 to 800 people and now makes up about 3% of the total population. The county recognized the importance of identifying and addressing the needs of these newcomers and of helping them to integrate into the community.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs worked with the Todd County Community Hispanic Liaison Program to develop and implement a process to identify leaders within the Latino/Latina community and gather input and direction on how to develop solidarity. The student's work included assessing language barriers and making recommendations for building community between the Latino/Latina and traditional communities. This information is being used in county planning efforts.

Report: "Strengthening the Latino Community in Todd County." Eduardo Millet. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Todd County Community Hispanic Liaison Program, 2001. 16 pp. [CAP 024]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Latinos/Latinas on the East Side of St. Paul

Context: The nonprofit organization Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER), in partnership with the East Side Latino Task Force, wanted to document the experience of the Latino/Latina community on St. Paul's East Side, focusing on the community development issues of housing, economic development, and jobs.

Project: A graduate student in rhetoric and a graduate student in scientific and technical communication from the University of Minnesota compiled area demographics using 1990 U.S. Census data and 1997 school and county data, informant interviews, and focus groups, and conducted an inventory of the resident and organizational resources in the area. With editorial and financial support from CURA, HACER published a bilingual report based on this research using photographs and interview quotes to convey the richness of the East Side community, identify the opportunities and needs of residents, and identify specific issues that affect this area.

Report: *Los Latinos in el East Side de St. Paul/Latinos on the East Side of St. Paul.* Minneapolis: HACER, 2001. 46 pp. [M2001-1]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Hennepin County African American Men Project

Context: The Hennepin County Office of Planning and Development was directed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners to conduct an in-depth study of African American males between the ages of 18 and 30. The county requested assistance with this research.

Project: Hennepin County and CURA supported several graduate students to provide research assistance for the project. The goals of the study were to (1) develop a socio-economic profile of African American males aged 18–30 in Hennepin County, (2) understand the social and economic forces that produce unfavorable outcomes for these men, (3) identify and make recommendations concerning how the county can enhance the quality of life for African American men, (4) determine to what degree the county's current policies and resource allocations address the issues these men face, and (5) make recommendations to improve the measurable outcomes and effectiveness of county programs serving African American men. The study used community forums, focus groups, personal interviews, and consultation with key community members. Recommendations from the study are currently being implemented.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Public Services for Liberian Immigrants

Context: Many Liberian immigrants in the Twin Cities area live in Brooklyn Park or Brooklyn Center in the northwest area of Hennepin County. The Liberian Community of Minnesota Corporation wanted better data on the actual number of Liberians living in the Twin Cities as well as more accurate data on where they live.

Project: A graduate student in public policy from the University of Minnesota worked with the organization to gather population and housing location data. The ultimate goal of the project was to increase funding for and improve public services targeted at Liberian immigrants.

Report: "How Many Liberians Live in Northwest Hennepin?" Lori Sakk. Unpublished report, January 2002. 4 pp. [M2002-1]

CURA Program: Communitiversity Program

INFO-U Services for the Somali Community

Context: The University of Minnesota Extension Service INFO-U program shares practical research-based information with the public through a 24-hour prerecorded phone service and a Web site. INFO-U wanted to reach out to the Somali community to see if and how this service could be useful to them.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs worked with INFO-U and the Somali community to analyze what information would be useful, develop and translate scripts for prerecorded messages, and design a plan for community evaluation of the scripts. This research will lead to a new set of Somali prerecorded phone message scripts for use on INFO-U.

Report: "INFO-U af Soomaali." Hodan Farah and Debbie Newman. Unpublished report, 2002. 4 pp.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Migrant Workers

African American Community Outreach

Context: The East Side African American Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center. The task force wanted to research crime issues and their impact on East Side African American families, and develop culturally specific outreach strategies.

Project: A graduate student in social work at the University of Minnesota helped compile area demographics, conduct interviews, and create an inventory of the resident and organizational resources in the area. Based on this research, the student developed presentations for the task force concerning crime on the East Side.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Somali Resource Center Needs Assessment

Context: The Somali community in the Twin Cities is one of the largest in the United States. The Somali Resource Center requested assistance conducting a needs assessment of Somalis living in Hennepin County.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs conducted a series of focus group discussions with male and female Somalis of various ages, surveyed organizations that serve the Somali population to learn about their activities and the services they offer, and reviewed published studies on the Somali community in Minnesota. The student then used the results of the focus groups and survey to determine how well the needs of the Somali community matched available services and to compare the needs of Somalis as identified by previous studies with those identified in the focus groups.

Report: *Somali Community Needs Assessment: A Report Prepared for the Somali Resource Center.* Mia U. Robillos. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2002. CURA 01-4. 74 pp. [M1112]

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Jennifer Simonson

Migrant Farmworkers in South-Central Minnesota

Context: Each year, 20,000 to 35,000 migrant agricultural workers are recruited to Minnesota to work in farm fields and food processing plants. Most are permanent legal residents of the United States from the border region of southern Texas and northern Mexico who spend April through November in Minnesota, then return home during the off-season. Little reliable information is available about these workers, their families, or their living or working conditions in Minnesota.

Project: In cooperation with the U-Migrant Project and the University of Minnesota Extension Service, CURA provided support for a graduate student who helped a group of migrant worker advocates in Owatonna conduct a survey of 180 migrant farmworkers in south-central Minnesota. Survey topics included where workers live when not employed in Minnesota, how workers travel to the state, agricultural companies' recruitment practices, housing and working conditions for migrant laborers, the contributions farmworkers make to Minnesota communities, and the general experiences of migrant workers in Minnesota. The survey aided in the formation of Centro Campesino (Farmworkers' Center), a membership-based advocacy group for migrant workers in Minnesota.

Report: Victor Contreras, Jaime Duran, and Kathryn Gilje. "Migrant Farmworkers in South-Central Minnesota: Farmworker-Led Research and Action for Change." *CURA Reporter* 31 (February 2001): 1-8. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-Feb/article1.pdf>

CURA Program: Communiiversity Program

Housing Affordability for Migrant Workers

Context: Centro Campesino was founded by and for migrant farmworkers with the purpose of establishing community and improving working conditions and the quality of life for migrant workers and year-round Latino/Latina residents in Minnesota. The organization requested assistance compiling data on the housing needs of migrant workers in south-central Minnesota.

Project: In collaboration with the University of Minnesota's Housing Program in the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, CURA helped support a student research assistant from the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences to work with Centro Campesino and a professor in design, housing, and apparel to complete a housing needs assessment for agricultural migrant workers in the Owatonna area. The data from this research project will help Centro Campesino provide documentation for their application for federal migrant worker housing funds and will help direct the organization's housing efforts.

Report: "Migrant Worker Housing Survey Results from South-Central Minnesota." Jaehyun Byun and Ann Ziebarth. Unpublished report conducted in cooperation with Centro Campesino, May 2002. 44 pp. [CAP 041]

CURA Program: Housing Initiative

American Indians

American Indian Policy Center Interns

Context: Located in St. Paul, the American Indian Policy Center (AIPC) is a nonprofit center for research, policy development, and education on issues affecting the American Indian community in the Midwest. The organization requested assistance from CURA for several ongoing projects.

Project: During the last two years, CURA has helped support four graduate research assistants in communication disorders, social work, and anthropology who have collaborated on a booklet for organizations interested in working with native peoples titled *To Build a Bridge: An Introduction to Working with American Indian Communities*; helped to gather information through talking circles, community meetings, and interviews to facilitate a long-term capacity-building project for American Indian communities in St. Paul; gathered information on issues between elders and youth in Minnesota's American Indian communities; and collected background information in support of a proposed Center for Social Change, a culturally directed strategy center for the delivery of public services. Building on previous work, a graduate student will receive support from CURA in fall 2002 to incorporate new census data into the AIPC's existing database, which focused initially on communities on St. Paul's East Side but which has now been expanded to include the entire Twin Cities metropolitan area. These data have been used to justify and direct the preliminary design of a multi-service and cultural center for American Indians on St. Paul's East Side.

Reports: *American Indian Capacity Building in St. Paul, Minnesota*. Don Eubanks and John Poupart. St. Paul: American Indian Research and Policy Institute, 1999, 15 pp. [M9807]

To Build a Bridge: An Introduction to Working with American Indian Communities. John Poupart et al. St. Paul, MN: American Indian Policy Center, 2000. Call 651-644-1728 to order.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Resources for American Indian Women

Context: The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC) is a nonprofit social and education service center in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis that provides services to American Indian women and their families in the Twin Cities metro region and on several area reservations. The organization's mission is to develop culturally based programs that empower American Indian women and assist them in achieving personal and family goals within their own communities and in society at large. The organization requested a graduate student intern to help develop new curricula for culturally based programming at the center.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in environmental health assisted the center's staff in gathering, organizing, and synthesizing resource material and developing new curricula in several areas, including culturally based chemical dependency treatment, parenting, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

CURA Program: Communiversy Program

U Migrant Project

Context: The University Migrant Project (UMP) began in 1994 when concerned Latinos and others initiated conversations among migrant farmworkers, people at the University of Minnesota, and various agencies that serve migrant communities concerning the issues affecting the state's approximately 20,000 migrant farmworkers.

Project: In 1995, UMP received funding from CURA, with additional support from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Executive Vice President and Provost, Minnesota Extension Service, and the Office for Special Learning Opportunities (OSLO). The project focused on educating the University community and the public about migrant farmworkers and issues affecting their lives, and also sought to improve migrant workers' living and working conditions. With regret, CURA closed its book on UMP in 2001 when the project officially ended.

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Asians and Asian Americans

American Indian Multipurpose Facility Feasibility Study

Context: The East Side American Indian Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota conducted a feasibility analysis for a planned multipurpose American Indian center on St. Paul's East Side and updated a demographic database about American Indians living in St. Paul.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

University of Minnesota Legacy at White Earth

Context: The White Earth Reservation Tribal Archives is charged with collecting and preserving the history of the White Earth people and the reservation. With advances in science, technology, and the law threatening to infringe on the well-being of the White Earth community, the agency wanted to better understanding the effects of University of Minnesota research on American Indian communities in Minnesota.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota studied the effects of University research from 1900 to the present. This information will inform the White Earth Nation's future negotiations with University researchers.

Report: "Where the Food Grows on Water: Continuance of Scientific Racism and Colonialism." Jill Doerfler. Unpublished report prepared for the White Earth Tribal Archives, 2002. 41 pp. [CAP 048]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Traditional American Indian Healing and Gardening

Context: Peta Wakan Tipi (Sacred Fire Lodge in the Lakota language) has been providing culturally specific housing and support services for recovering American Indian people in the Twin Cities since 1986. One program operated by the organization is Dream of Wild Health, a preservation project that collects, grows, and educates people about plants in the ancient traditions of American Indian healing and gardening in the Upper Midwest and Canada.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in archaeology assisted the organization by conducting a literature review and completing the database of indigenous plants the organization had initiated.

CURA Program: Communiversity Program

American Indian Community Outreach

Context: The American Indian Policy Center wanted to develop culturally specific outreach strategies.

Project: Four graduate students from the University of Minnesota compiled area demographics using 1990 U.S. Census data and 1997 school and county data, key informant interviews, and focus groups, and compiled an inventory of the resident and organizational resources in the area.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

North Minneapolis Southeast Asian Initiative Evaluation

Context: The North Minneapolis Southeast Asian Initiative is a collaboration between five community organizations, residents, the Lowry-Emerson Police Substation, and a Hmong police officer from the Fourth Police Precinct. The coalition builds partnerships between Southeast Asian families and the wider community and educates about the special needs of Southeast Asians. The initiative wanted to identify ways to get immigrant groups involved in activities in the larger community and develop solutions to problems Southeast Asian residents face.

Project: A graduate student in public policy at the University of Minnesota conducted interviews with key informants in the Southeast Asian community and reviewed written materials created by the initiative to assess why Southeast Asian residents might be reluctant to participate in the larger community. An undergraduate student in finance from Augsburg College identified problems facing Southeast Asian residents, proposed solutions, and compiled a list of potential resources and partnerships to address the problems.

Report: "North Minneapolis Southeast Asian Initiative Project Evaluation." Friendly Vang. Unpublished report, 2002. 20 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1178/npcr1178.html>. [NPCR 1178]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Needs Assessment of Displaced Tibetans

Context: The Tibetan Resettlement Project, a program of the Immigration Act of 1990, allowed 1,000 Tibetans living as refugees in India and Nepal to come to the United States as permanent legal residents. Approximately 160 Tibetan men and women settled in the Twin Cities area. The Minnesota Tibetan Association and the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota sought to assess the current and future needs of the community.

Project: A research team composed of a University of Minnesota graduate student, a medical doctor and faculty member at the University, and a staff member of the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota developed a 15-page survey instrument for a community-based survey of Tibetan nationals and their families in the Twin Cities area. The survey collected information on premigration experiences, migration, traumatic stressors, psychosocial adjustment, acculturation, physical health and disability, and general health and social services. The student also conducted focus groups with five groups of Tibetan nationals.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Researching Strategies for Improving Hmong-Police Communication

Context: The Jordan Area Community Council and Southeast Asian Community Council wanted to identify strategies for improving Hmong-police communication.

Project: An undergraduate student in finance from Augsburg College helped research and implement several strategies to increase communication.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Women

Hmong Community Outreach Project

Context: The East Side Hmong Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center. The task force wanted to develop culturally specific outreach strategies.

Project: A graduate student in social work from the University of Minnesota compiled area demographics using interviews, focus groups, and an inventory of the resident and organizational resources in the area.

Report: "Outreach to Hmong Americans on the East Side of St. Paul." May Chuyangheu and Sheng Thao. Unpublished report, 2001. 24 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc25/copc25.html>. [COPC 025]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Lao Assistance Center Client Database

Context: The Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota (LACM) provides a variety of services for Laotian clients throughout Minnesota. The organization lacked a database system for organizing, managing, and retrieving client and program information.

Project: In spring 2002, CURA connected four community organizations with students from the Department of Management Information Systems at Augsburg College. One group of students worked with LACM to design a database that enables the organization to track the number of clients they are serving, the characteristics of the people served, and the types of services provided to them. The students also trained LACM staff how to use and update the database. This partnership gave students the opportunity to apply their database design skills to a community project while providing LACM with the technological expertise they required.

CURA Program: University-Neighborhood Network (UNN)

Underrepresented Populations Project

Context: The Northeast Minnesota Historical Center (NEMHC), a subsidiary of the St. Louis County Historical Society, is charged with maintaining a historical archive pertinent to northeastern Minnesota at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus (UMD). The center is undertaking a multiyear project to recover, collate, and catalog historical materials pertinent to underrepresented populations in the northeastern region of Minnesota, with a particular focus on women, women's history, and women's issues.

Project: A faculty member and a research assistant in the College of Education and Human Service Professions at UMD worked with the manager and curator of the Manuscript Collection at NEMHC to review 160 existing collections and to either write a new collection summary or supplement the existing collection summary. The goal of the project was to make existing materials on women, women's history, and women's issues in the region more accessible to researchers and lay users.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)



Photo by Robert Friedman

Multicultural Programs and Resources

Directory of Nonprofit Organizations of Color in Minnesota

Context: There are more than 600 organizations in Minnesota dedicated to serving communities of color. However, many of these organizations are difficult to find using traditional information sources.

Project: First published by CURA in 1991, *A Directory of Nonprofit Organizations of Color in Minnesota* lists not-for-profit associations, organizations, and mutual assistance and fraternal groups in the state of Minnesota that are controlled by people of color or primarily serve one or more communities of color. The directory provides contact information and a brief description of the organization, and organizations are indexed alphabetically by name, by the community the organization serves, and by the main activity in which the organization engages. Also included are mailing label matrices for all organizations listed. An undergraduate student helped to update information for all organizations listed in the fourth edition of the directory and CURA's editor facilitated the conversion of the directory to a fully searchable database available on the Web at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/publications/npoc.html>.

Report: *A Directory of Nonprofit Organizations of Color in Minnesota*, fourth edition. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2001. CURA 01-13. 301 pp. [M1111]
CURA Program: New Initiative

Rochester Diversity Council

Context: The percentage of people of color in Rochester has more than doubled since the mid-1990s, creating new challenges and opportunities for both old and new residents of the community.

Project: Two graduate students in the College of Education and Human Development worked with the Rochester Diversity Council to develop and facilitate focus groups with communities of color, analyze the information collected, and issue a final report on ways to build understanding within the community and empower people of color to advocate for positive change and growth. This initial effort produced the Rochester in Support of Everyone (RISE) project. In preparation for a community-wide education campaign, a student from the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts researched and reviewed materials developed by RISE and others and condensed them for use in two outreach publications. These assistantships were partially funded by the Initiative Fund of Southeast and South Central Minnesota.

Reports: "RISE: Rochester in Support of Everyone." Leanne Baylor. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Rochester Diversity Council, 2000. 15 pp. [CAP 013]

"Rochester in Support of Everyone Focus Group Summaries and List of Resources." Sarah Moody. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Rochester Diversity Council, 2001. 28 pp. [CAP 022]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

University of Minnesota Sesquicentennial Diversity Project

Context: Part of the University of Minnesota's 150th birthday celebration, the Sesquicentennial Diversity Project was a University-wide effort to supplement University Archives' holdings of resources on diversity, multiculturalism, and underrepresented groups.

Project: To participate in the project, CURA's librarian compiled a bibliography of CURA research reports from 1968 to 2000 that focus on historically underrepresented groups. The bibliography lists entries in the following categories: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, Latinos/Latinas, multicultural, aging/seniors, people with disabilities, and women.

Report: *CURA Research Reports on Underrepresented Groups: Reports Based on CURA Research Projects, 1968–2000*.

Margaret R. Wolfe. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2001. CURA 01-2. 38 pp. [M1110]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Faribault Welcome Center Needs Assessment

Context: Faribault, a community of 20,000 people, has become increasingly culturally diverse with the arrival of newcomers of Latino/Latina, Somali, Sudanese, and Asian heritage. The Faribault Diversity Council has recently opened a Welcome Center for new residents to the community and requested assistance identifying the services and resources needed by such residents.

Project: An undergraduate student at Carleton College worked with the Welcome Center and with new immigrants to identify and prioritize the needs of visitors to the center, and compiled resources that the center can use to assist visitors.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Montevideo Cultural Diversity Research

Context: The Cultural Diversity Council, which serves a three-county area in west-central Minnesota, works to strengthen intercultural relationships and build communities that embrace multiculturalism. The council needed assistance evaluating current programs and services in the community.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota worked with the council to conduct an assessment of needs and services to understand the realities of people of color in the region. This information will help the council understand how existing community structures are utilized by diverse groups and how they can be improved.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Children and Youth

Northeast Artists Resource Guide

Context: Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association is a non-profit organization that promotes and supports the quality and diversity of artistic resources based in Northeast Minneapolis to benefit the greater community. The association wanted to identify and create a resource guide of artists in the area, particularly ethnic artists.

Project: An undergraduate student in cultural studies and comparative literature from the University of Minnesota interviewed local businesses, Edison School families, and arts organizations of color to create a resource guide.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Faribault Diversity Center Needs Assessment

Context: The population of Faribault has become increasingly diverse in the past several years as new immigrants have moved to the area. The Faribault Diversity Coalition, formed to support the needs of these new community members, is working to establish a Cultural Diversity Center to help new residents connect to the community and help businesses and organizations better serve the needs of recent immigrants.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management worked with the community to assess current and existing needs and programs in the county and to help identify priority goals.

Report: "Faribault Diversity Project Report." Ernest Mureithi. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Faribault Diversity Council, Fall 2000. 6 pp. [CAP 030]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Social Problems and Aspirations among Iron Range Youth

Context: A professor in the Department of Sociology-Anthropology at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus (UMD) is working with the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Agency, a state agency intended to help strengthen and diversify the economy of northeastern Minnesota, to replicate a 1988 in-class survey of Minnesota Iron Range high school students. The survey is being replicated due to recent closings of steel and taconite facilities in the Iron Range, with an eye toward producing information that may be useful to policy makers and others trying to address the economic and social changes affecting the region.

Project: Students from UMD are helping to revise, update, and analyze results from questionnaires. The project is slated for completion during the 2002-2003 academic year.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Youth Activities Project

Context: The East Side African American Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC). There was a need to identify school and community leadership and to coordinate youth activities so that models for culturally specific youth activities could be identified.

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota helped identify resources for providing cultural and educational enrichment activities for African American youth on the East Side. A report was produced to inform youth programs, schools, and community members about potential youth activities and resources.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

At-Risk Youth Tennis Program Evaluation

Context: The nonprofit Inner City Tennis Foundation provides tennis programs for at-risk Minneapolis youth aged 3 to 15 through neighborhood parks and in cooperation with various community agencies. Inner City Tennis Foundation programs are designed to deliver developmental assets that protect youth from high-risk behavior and promote positive attitudes rather than to focus on skill development in sports-related activities. The foundation wanted to research and develop a blueprint for an improved program evaluation model.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in education psychology assisted program staff with the initial stages of developing a more extensive program evaluation model. The model was intended to expand the number of participant personality traits measured and increase the range of individuals asked to report on behavior changes among participants. The foundation is using this blueprint to revise its program evaluation efforts.

CURA Program: Communiversy Program

Youth Cultural Arts Programs

Context: The Boys and Girls Club of Duluth provides programming that promotes the healthy development of youth aged 6 to 18, particularly those who come from disadvantaged circumstances. The organization's programs include citizenship and leadership clubs, prevention programs, job and life skills training, homework help, technology education, arts education, and environmental education and recreational activities. The organization's annual evaluation committee identified a need to provide more cultural arts programs for youth on site.

Project: After receiving a \$25,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation to purchase equipment for an expanded arts education program, the organization worked with an undergraduate student in theater from the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus to develop a performing arts program. The student initiated several arts programs the club now supports.

CURA Program: Communiversality Program

Empowering Latino/Latina Youth

Context: La Escuelita is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the development of Latino/Latina youth, specifically in the areas of academic enrichment, service-learning, recreation, and cultural empowerment. Although some youth development and service learning practices are universal, practitioners generally agree that successful application of these practices must take into account the unique linguistic, cultural, and ethnic heritage of youth. The organization requested assistance identifying a theoretical framework for its programs that takes into account Latino/Latina heritage.

Project: A graduate student in education psychology at the University of Minnesota researched literature on youth development and Latino/Latina youth-serving organizations and, in conjunction with La Escuelita staff, produced a report that included a framework for evaluating such organizations.

CURA Program: Communiversality Program

African American Youth and Elders Council

Context: The African American Task Force is one of four task forces working with the St. Paul East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center. The task force wanted to research youth activities on the East Side and organize residents around the needs and wants of African American youth.

Project: An undergraduate student in geography from the University of Minnesota helped research and organize youth activities and produced a report to support the task force's future efforts.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Education

Educational Achievement

Increasing School Success for Children of Color

Context: The academic performance of children of color is in a state of crisis. Concerned community organizations have created new initiatives such as after-school tutoring, mentoring, and academic enrichment programs to help combat academic failure. Questions remain, however, regarding whether the programs work, whether they can be replicated, and whether they work better for some groups than for others.

Project: The director of the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice and a graduate student from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs are conducting focus groups and interviews with stakeholders to identify aspects of successful community-based programs that can be incorporated into long-term education programs. Three school districts are now working with the center to evaluate their community-based initiatives.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

American Indian High School Dropouts

Context: More than half of American Indian students in Minnesota fail to complete high school despite efforts by the state and by reservations to improve American Indian education.

Project: A professor and an instructor in the Department of Education at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus conducted open-ended, extended interviews with 36 American Indian high school students across the state. The students voiced opinions on good teachers, racism, developing a cultural identity, the ideal school, resilience, and the influence of gangs. Based on these interviews, the researchers determined that a more holistic approach to American Indian education is needed and that part of the solution to the high dropout rate may lie with the students themselves.

Report: "Our Children's Song: American Indian Students and the Schools." Thomas Peacock and Elizabeth Albert. *CURA Reporter* 30 (January 2000): 11-16. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Jan/article2.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Cloquet Basic Skills Test Analysis

Context: The Communications Department at Cloquet Senior High School strives to help all students improve in the mechanics and usage of standard formal English.

Project: A faculty member in the Department of Sociology-Anthropology at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus, an undergraduate student, and other professionals helped design a 100-question test to measure student's recognition of grammar/punctuation principles and provide a measure of progress over an academic year and across academic years. For three years, the test has been given to students in the 9th through 12th grades. Preliminary project findings have been presented to the Cloquet School Board and to the superintendent and high school principal.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Student Engagement Program Evaluation

Context: Check and Connect is a student engagement program designed to promote active participation in school and help students stay on track to graduate. The program is partially funded by the Dakota County Community Services Office. Although early evaluations indicated the program was generally successful, a control group was not included when the program began. To better gauge the program's effectiveness, the county commissioned a retrospective comparison study to compare Check and Connect students to a group of similarly situated students who did not participate in the program, and to determine whether or not the number of years a child participated in the program contributed to increased success.

Project: A graduate student in the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs conducted an evaluation of the Check and Connect program by comparing students who participated in the program with students in a control group. The comparison study confirmed that Check and Connect was effective in increasing student engagement. In addition, study results suggested a relationship between time spent in the program and student improvement. The results of the study will help policy makers conduct a rigorous cost-benefit analysis and make future funding decisions concerning the program.

Report: "Elementary Check and Connect: A Retrospective Comparison Study and Time-Series Analysis." Chrissy Guyer. Unpublished report prepared for Dakota County Community Services, 2001. 22 pp. [C2001-1]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Language and Literacy

Increasing Literacy in Urban Schools

Context: Often children living in low-income urban areas struggle to gain basic competency in reading. Two effective strategies for literacy programs are the use of community volunteers to increase the amount of individual attention that students receive and extended-day/extended-year programs that increase students' learning time. The Jordan Park School of Extended Learning (SOEL) on the near north side of Minneapolis uses both strategies. Researchers from the University of Minnesota wanted to learn how well these strategies are working.

Project: Two professors in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota teamed up to document and evaluate the literacy program at SOEL. Their research produced recommendations for a district-wide model of literacy programming and for a model training and support program for community literacy volunteers.

Report: "Reading Achievement in an Urban School: Collaboration for Reform." Marika Ginsburg-Block and Susan Watts-Taffe. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Fall 2002): 15–21.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program



Photo by Steve Schneider

Dakota Language Immersion Program

Context: Like almost all other Native American languages in the United States, the Dakota language is in imminent danger of becoming extinct as the number of speakers of the language dwindles. To confront the problem, some American Indian communities have turned to indigenous language programs that employ immersion education techniques. The Upper Sioux community near Granite Falls needed assistance establishing such a program.

Project: A professor of linguistics at the University of Minnesota worked with the Upper Sioux community to establish a preschool immersion program by collaborating on the training of tribal elders to work with the pre-school children. The professor also documented and analyzed how the program was created and produced a narrative description of the process that will be of use to other educators and scholars interested in immersion education.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Community Education

New Earth Partnership Waste Education Project

Context: The New Earth Partnership (NEP) is a coalition of faith communities that encourage each other in reducing ecological impact. The partnership requested assistance developing education projects in communities of faith on reducing the amount of product packaging in church and household garbage and on composting food waste.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota developed and administered a survey of churches regarding product packaging and disposal methods, helped develop several educational methods to address waste disposal issues, evaluated the effectiveness of these approaches, and coordinated training programs on composting.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Adult Involvement in Community Education

Context: Cambridge-Isanti Community Education (CICE), part of School District 911, is dedicated to providing opportunities for lifelong learning to enhance and enrich the lives of community members. As part of a program improvement plan, CICE wanted to identify factors that encourage adult involvement in community education and in the school district.

Project: A graduate student from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs completed a literature search for the community on adult involvement in community education.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Distance Learning Center Plan

Context: Sibley County officials wanted to investigate the possibility of establishing distance learning centers for citizens in the county.

Project: A graduate student in the Department of Work, Community, and Family Education at the University of Minnesota helped a network of service providers and volunteer leaders in Sibley County develop the concept of a Lifelong Learning Center and explore the feasibility of distance learning sites for each community in Sibley county. Their findings were developed into a report that was presented to community leaders and that provided guidance for moving forward with the Lifelong Learning Center.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Housing Stability and Education

Achievement Plus Initiative Status Report

Context: Dayton's Bluff Elementary School is a community school on St. Paul's East Side with a diverse student population. The school was chosen to participate in the Achievement Plus Initiative, a program designed to provide wraparound social and health services through before- and after-school enrichment programs for students. A strategy was needed to make the school accountable for fulfilling the stated objectives of the initiative.

Project: A graduate student in educational policy and administration at the University of Minnesota identified the stated objectives and commitments the school had made as part of the initiative and documented test scores, program participation, and performance to assess the program's financial expenses and student performance rates.

Report: "Status Report on the Achievement Plus Initiative at Dayton's Bluff Elementary." Roxanne Peterson. Unpublished report, 2001. 21 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc26/copc26.html>. [COPC 026]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)



Photo by Nancy Johnson

Children's Stability Project

Context: The St. Paul District 4 Community Council collaborated with Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School to provide families of children that attend the school with stable housing options. Assistance was needed coordinating the effort, known as the Children's Stability Project.

Project: A graduate student in anthropology at the University of Minnesota helped to coordinate the Children's Stability Project and produced an evaluation of the efforts to date.

Reports: "Evaluation of the Dayton's Bluff Children's Stability Project, Year Two." Laura Davis. Unpublished report, 2001. 29 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc29/copc29.html>. [COPC 029]

"From Research to Action: Housing Mobility and Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School." Thomas O'Connell and John Vaughn. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 11–14. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article3.pdf>.

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Multiculturalism and Diversity in Education

Multicultural Perspectives on Children's Learning

Context: Family involvement in children's learning is an important means for improving student success in school. However, educators often report difficulty involving families from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Project: The Keeping Involvement Diverse in Schools (KIDS) Project sought to understand the various ways families from diverse backgrounds support children's education by helping their children learn at home. A professor and two graduate students in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota interviewed more than 100 African American, Native American, and European American families whose children attend Minneapolis Public Schools to learn about their schools' roles in supporting and involving families, and about how they as parents helped support their children's learning using six critical learning practices (standards and expectations, structure, opportunities to learn, support, climate/relationships, and modeling). Across all ethnic groups, the researchers found that similar themes emerged regarding what schools do well in supporting and involving parents and what they could do better. Likewise, for all six critical learning areas, parents from all ethnic backgrounds expressed a high degree of similarity in the activities and practices they used to promote their children's learning, as well as the frequency with which they used them. Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that schools can enhance home support for learning by following through on parents' recommendations for improving communication between home and school.

Report: "Voices from Home: How Diverse Families Support Children's Learning in Similar Ways." Amy Esler, Yvonne Godber, and Sandra L. Christenson. *CURA Reporter* 31 (February 2001): 9–15. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-Feb/article2.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Jane Addams School for Democracy Evaluation

Context: Jane Addams School for Democracy, a community-based education and action center located on St. Paul's West Side, is a collaborative effort of neighborhood families and local colleges and universities. The school was created in 1996 as a democratic space designed to cultivate the talents, cultures, and interests of people from diverse backgrounds and traditions.

Project: A graduate student in the Master of Public Affairs program at the University of Minnesota helped carry out a qualitative evaluation of the school. Results suggested the school provides an enriching environment for all participants. The study also suggested that in order to create safe, democratic spaces, community members and students must be given the opportunity to develop consistent, ongoing, and multidimensional relationships.

Report: "Creating Democratic Spaces: Jane Addams School for Democracy." Nicholas Longo and John Wallace. *CURA Reporter* 30 (June 2000): 10–14. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Jun/article2.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Higher Education

College Financing for High School Graduates

Context: Minnesota has one of the most generous state student aid programs in the nation. Given changing educational and economic climates in the state, however, policy makers may need to reconsider whether current expectations regarding students' and families' contributions to college expenses are reasonable, and whether current policies allow students to attend their preferred institutions in their preferred way.

Project: A professor in the Department of Educational Policy and Administration at the University of Minnesota, a researcher with the University's Postsecondary Education Policy Studies Center, and the director of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Offices teamed up to investigate higher education financing policies in the state. The trio of researchers conducted focus groups and interviews with students and educational leaders on the topics of financing and choice in higher education. Based on their findings, they concluded that cost and financing are not the most important aspects of decisions regarding college attendance for most students, and that disseminating postsecondary education information, involving key high school personnel, and reaching out to parents are likely to be the most important potential interventions. These interventions, in turn, may provide a context for cost and financing information to become more salient factors in the decision-making process.

Report: "Postsecondary Opportunity and Choice: Factors Influencing the Attendance Decisions of Minnesota Students." James C. Hearn, Karen Zentner Bacig, and Robert K. Poch. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Spring 2002): 16–21. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Spr/hearn-et-al.pdf>.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Northern Lights Leadership for Institutional Change

Context: The Northern Lights Leadership for Institutional Change (NL-LINC) project works to build the capacity of university and college faculty to pursue teaching, research, and outreach on issues of public concern through engagement and collaboration with local communities. Formerly housed in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (COAFES) on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, the project director was looking for another home for NL-LINC at the University.

Project: A collaboration between CURA, North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, NL-LINC offers development and learning opportunities that help faculty to rethink their role as expert; reevaluate the nature of scholarship in partnership with communities; and design research projects that contribute to reciprocal, equitable, and socially relevant practice. The NL-LINC project also hosts semi-annual regional seminars for University and community stakeholders around themes related to engagement and collaboration.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Work Skills Training

Job Skills Training Program Survey

Context: Twin Cities Rise! is a 10-year-old nonprofit skills development organization that recruits low-income adults—primarily men of color—and provides them with intensive work skills training, education, and support services to help participants find jobs with companies that pay living wages. The organization noticed over time that some participants left the program early but had been hired into good jobs.

Project: A University of Minnesota graduate student in public health conducted a two-semester survey of participants who left the program early but found jobs to find out how many there were and to learn the circumstances of their leaving the program early and finding work on their own.

CURA Program: Communiversy Program

School-to-Work Program Assessment

Context: The East Side Work Resources Hub creates neighborhood access to services for job seekers on St. Paul's East Side. The organization wanted to assess the school-to-work program at Harding High School.

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota identified ways to improve the Harding School-to-Career Program by surveying 2,200 current and former students who had utilized the program.

Report: "Survey of Harding High School's School-to-Career Program." Sarah Berman. Unpublished report, 2001. 32 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/copc/reports/copc27/copc27.html>. [COPC 027]

CURA Program: East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Health Education

HIV/AIDS Education Curriculum for Native American Women

Context: The mission of the Minnesota American Indian AIDS Task Force (MAIATF) is to provide education and outreach to prevent the spread of HIV in the Native American Indian community and provide direct services to American Indians living with HIV and their families. In 1998, MAIATF developed an innovative peer education program to address the rapidly increasing HIV and sexually transmitted disease rates among American Indian women. The organization requested assistance making the curricular materials for this program more user friendly so they could be shared with other nonprofit health organizations around the country.

Project: A graduate student in the Department of Education Policy and Administration at the University of Minnesota reorganized and rewrote portions of the curriculum using a teacher-formatted lesson plan that included writing objectives, related activities, time frame, and an evaluation for each lesson.

CURA Program: Communiversy Program

Environmental and Agricultural Education

Farmamerica Agricultural Curriculum Development

Context: Farmamerica was commissioned in 1978 by the Minnesota State Legislature to preserve and promote the strong agriculture heritage of the state. The organization wanted to expand its educational offerings at its 120-acre site in Waseca.

Project: A graduate student in conservation biology at the University of Minnesota prepared a report on developing an expanded educational program plan for the site. The document included research on program formats, curricula, program delivery, staffing, program fees, marketing strategies, program collaborators, and action plans. The results of the project are being used for program planning. One of the recommendations in the report was to hire a professional educator. At their November 1999 meeting, the board gave approval to hire a public program educator.

Report: "Summary of Market Research on Nonformal Agricultural and Environmental Education Programs in Minnesota and Recommendations for Programming at Farmamerica." Lori Pommerenke. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Farmamerica, 1999. 26 pp. [CAP 010]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Farm Machinery Building Exhibit

Context: The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) operates the Village of Yesteryear in Owatonna. The farm building was filled with hundreds of artifacts, but the building was in disarray, the lighting was poor, and there was very little interpretive signage for visitors.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota helped to design and develop a useful interpretive exhibit on farm history for the building.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Regional Environmental Education Resource Directory

Context: The Southeast Environmental Education Committee (SEEC) is a group of nature center, state park, and teacher representatives from southeastern Minnesota who plan and organize environmental education workshops and activities throughout the region. The committee wanted to update its inventory of environmental education resources in the region.

Project: In conjunction with SEEC, a graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota worked on a database of environmental education resources in southeastern Minnesota and organized a workshop for the region's environmental educators to share the results. The information from this study will enable school districts to learn what others are doing, with the goal of networking and sharing resources.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Eagle Bluff Agricultural Curriculum Development

Context: The Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center (EBELC) was founded in 1978 to provide quality outdoor environmental education experiences. The center wanted to explore the potential for expanding their residential learning center curriculum to include agricultural production in the southeastern Minnesota region.

Project: A graduate student in environmental education from the University of Minnesota gathered information on agricultural production programs and curricula from around the country and prepared a list of recommendations. The information from this study served as the basis for a Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources grant request to implement the program.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



History and Archaeology

Mississippi Headwaters Oral History Analysis

Context: The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) works to protect and enhance natural, cultural, historical, scientific, and recreational aspects of the Mississippi River in north-central Minnesota. In order to fulfill this mission, MHB initiated the Oral History Project in 1999. This project collected and preserved oral histories containing unique and valuable information about the area through the use of tape-recorded interviews. The board requested assistance organizing and promoting the collection.

Project: An anthropology student at the University of Minnesota helped MHB revise, analyze, and index the oral histories that had been collected; served as a representative for MHB at workshops and events; and prepared several stories for inclusion in press releases, on Web sites, and in various publications. This assistance has been influential in preserving and disseminating the history of the Mississippi headwaters area.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Fish Lake Dam Project

Context: Minnesota Power owns land at the Fish Lake Dam site near Duluth that has great archeological significance. The site provided a unique opportunity to look at a sequence of human occupations spanning several thousand years, from the Paleo-Indian Tradition to the Woodland Tradition.

Project: A three-year cooperative project between Minnesota Power and the Archaeometry Laboratory at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus combined research, teaching, volunteer participation, and public outreach as part of an archaeological excavation at the Fish Lake site. Excavations undertaken during 2000 continued the work of previous years by combining the efforts of University of Minnesota students, volunteers from the local community, and archeological professionals. Students and volunteers learned excavation techniques and recorded data from their field work under the supervision of professional archaeologists. Students also learned archaeological method and theory through discussion periods. Additional excavations are planned for the future, but already significant information is available about the long history of human occupation in northeastern Minnesota.

Report: *Archaeological Excavation at the Fish Lake Dam Site: Year 2000*. Susan Mulholland. Duluth, MN: Center for Community and Regional Research, 2001. Archaeometry Laboratory Report No. 01-14. 28 pp. [E2001-1]

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Itasca County Resorts and Tourism Exhibit

Context: The Itasca County Historical Society wanted assistance developing a resorts and tourism exhibit to be added to the historical society museum located in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota helped to develop the exhibit by interviewing resort owners and others to collect oral histories, collecting artifacts and photos, interpreting manuscripts, reviewing old newspaper articles, and assisting with archival conservation. The exhibit will help visitors understand the history and role of resorts and tourism in the county.

Report: "Itasca County Resorts and Tourism." Andrea Burns. Unpublished report, 2002. 3 pp.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Land Use, Population, and Transportation

Brownfields

Brownfields in the Twin Cities

Context: Brownfields emerged as a major public policy issue in the 1990s. Efforts to clean up and redevelop these obsolete and contaminated industrial areas have been particularly innovative in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota received support for a dissertation project on the causes of brownfields, the geography of environmental contamination, barriers to brownfield redevelopment, and the tools Minnesota has used in recycling decaying industrial lands. Using case studies of actual redevelopment projects in the Twin Cities metro area, the student concluded that the locations and potential uses of brownfields constrain the market value of redeveloped land and should therefore be a consideration when prioritizing redevelopment projects. The research also recommended reform of the dysfunctional land development system that produces brownfields.

Report: "Brownfield Sites: Causes, Effects, and Solutions." Mark D. Bjelland. *CURA Reporter* 30 (January 2000): 1–10. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Jan/article1.pdf>.

CURA Program: John R. Borchert Fellowship

Twin Lakes Brownfield Redevelopment

Context: As the size and number of suburban cities in the United States has grown, so has the number of suburban brownfields—former industrial sites that remain vacant, polluted, and underutilized after they are abandoned by their owners. The Community Development Department for the City of Roseville, an inner-ring suburb of the Twin Cities, requested assistance with a major brownfield reuse project.

Project: Two graduate students from the Master of Planning Program at the University of Minnesota worked with Roseville's economic development specialist and planning director on redevelopment planning for the Twin Lakes Business Park. The students worked on environmental assessment planning, engaged in geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, maintained communication with the Environmental Protection Agency Office for Region V; helped write grant applications for livable communities funding; and created outreach materials for nearby residents, Twin Lakes property owners, and real estate developers.

Reports: "Reusing Brownfields: Obstacles and Opportunities for Inner-Ring Suburbs." Jeffrey L. Miller. *CURA Reporter* 31 (October 2001): 1–9. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-Oct/article1.pdf>.

"The Potential for Housing on Former Brownfields: A Smart Growth Alternative to Leaving Land Idle at the Core." Jill Mazullo. Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Local Government Planning Internship Program

Photo by Neil Kveberg, courtesy of MnDOT



Lake Land Usage

Sustainable Lakes Project

Context: In 1997, the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) awarded the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA) and CURA \$270,000 to develop comprehensive lake management plans for five pilot lakes in conjunction with their lake associations and to use the experiences of those associations and their lake plans to develop a sustainable lake management model.

Project: The two-year Sustainable Lakes Project ended in summer 1999 with the completion of the five pilot lake plans and publication of the *Sustainable Lakes Planning Workbook: A Lake Management Model*. The project involved eight students from the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and six faculty and staff from the University of Minnesota. The workbook contains detailed descriptions of the model process for lake management planning, including instructions for conducting a lakeshore property owners' survey, color watershed maps, sample survey instruments, summaries of the five pilot lake management plans, an appendix on data assessment, a list of resource agencies for lake management, and a series of articles on land-use impacts on water quality. The model can be used by lake associations and communities to develop and implement lake management plans in cooperation with other jurisdictions such as watershed districts, lake improvement districts, soil and water conservation districts, county water plans, and state resource agencies.

Reports: "Sustainable Lakes Project: A Lake Management Model for the Future." Paula West and George Orning. *CURA Reporter* 30 (December 2002): 15–22. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Dec/article3.pdf>.

Sustainable Lakes Planning Workbook: A Lake Management Model. Minnesota Lakes Association. Minneapolis: Minnesota Lakes Association and CURA, 2002. 150 pp. \$25.

CURA Programs: New Initiative and Visiting Scholar

Land Use Policy

Land Use on Rice County Lakes

Context: Rice County officials wanted to determine the development pressures on six lakes in the county and analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of this development.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota created a land-use map for each lake; determined suitable and sustainable land uses for undeveloped land; identified environmentally sensitive areas; and reviewed relevant county zoning ordinances, water plans, and county lake projects.

Report: "Analysis of Impacts of Land Use Patterns on General Development Lakes in Rice County, Minnesota." Catherine Neu. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Rice County Planning and Zoning Department, 2001. 26 pp. [CAP 019]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Douglas County Lake Usage Plans

Context: Douglas County is experiencing significant development pressures that pose a threat to water quality and land management. The county requested assistance developing comprehensive lake management plans for various lakes in the region.

Project: This ongoing project involves a visiting scholar with expertise in lake management, a graduate assistant in planning from the University of Minnesota, and a graduate student in the Master of Geographic Information Science program at the University. The team is working with Douglas County officials, lake associations, and citizens to formulate a 20-year comprehensive management plan for priority lakes in the county and provide leadership training to facilitate lake associations taking an active role in lake quality preservation. The project involves compiling available watershed data for integration into a county geographic information system (GIS), educating lake associations about the cause-effect relationship between land use and lake water quality, increasing public awareness of water quality issues in their watersheds, facilitating input from lake associations regarding local ordinance changes, and using incentive-based regulations and education to ensure preservation of remaining lakeshore properties. To date, draft management plans have been developed for three priority lakes in the county: Lake LeHomme Dieu in Alexandria, Lake LaGrand in Latoka, and Lake Andrews in Lake Mary township. In addition, working groups have been formed for each lake association to advise on lake plan content and development, a set of lake management issues has been developed to drive the lake and watershed planning process in the county, a lakeshore owner survey has been developed for use by the county, and a shoreline inventory system has been developed that links photos of lakeshore properties with county parcel identification numbers.

CURA Program: Visiting Scholar

Alternative Land-Use Policies

Context: Land use has become a critical issue for many Minnesota communities. In response, county boards and planning commissions are trying to fashion land-use and development policies to balance the competing goals of promoting economic growth, controlling urban sprawl, and preserving farmland and green space. The neighboring communities of Chisago and Isanti Counties, which are geographically similar and share major transportation arteries, have chosen radically different land-use strategies.

Project: A professor in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota will investigate the economic impact of alternative land-use and development policies in these two counties. The goal of the project is to understand how their development strategies have influenced their fiscal health so county policy makers and residents can choose a strategy for development that will help them achieve their long-term fiscal goals.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Impact of Tribal Trust Lands

Context: The legal status of American Indian lands in the United States affects the distribution of powers among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as economic benefits to tribal and nontribal communities. In Minnesota, local governments concerned about loss of tax revenue have opposed the placement of lands in trust by American Indian tribes.

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota received support from CURA to conduct dissertation research on how geography and law interact to produce differing economic effects on tribal and nontribal communities in different areas of Minnesota. The student is using spatial data analysis, legal research, and a comparative case study as part of the research project.

Report: Forthcoming in the *CURA Reporter*.

CURA Program: John R. Borchert Fellowship

Photo by Neil Kveberg, courtesy of MnDOT



Neighborhood Planning

Development on the Rural-Urban Edge

Context: Maintaining the agricultural and rural character of communities on the outer edges of the Twin Cities is becoming more challenging as people who settled in these exurban areas age and begin to seek out alternative living arrangements. Consequently, there are serious questions about whether designated permanent rural areas in the metropolitan region can indeed remain truly rural.

Project: A professor emeritus of planning and public affairs at the University of Minnesota used Cottage Grove and Denmark Township, two communities at the urban-rural edge of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, as the subjects of a case study of growth and development during the period 1970–1990. The case studies showed that although the growth of Cottage Grove during the study period was much as one might expect of a middle- and upper-income suburb, the township of Denmark experienced a quite different transformation, from a small farming community with an average median income to an affluent exurban community. Based on this analysis, the professor concluded that current policies aimed at preserving permanent agricultural and rural areas cannot guarantee their preservation during the next 40 years, and recommended that more vigorous policies and regulatory tools be explored to assure that designated permanent rural areas remain rural.

Report: “Is the Twin Cities ‘Permanent Rural’ Area Truly Permanent?: A Case Study on the Rural-Urban Edge.” Richard S. Bolan. *CURA Reporter* 30 (September 2000): 16–25. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Sep/article3.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Robert Friedman

Midtown Greenway Land-Use and Transit Project

Context: The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a grassroots group representing residents and businesses from the 14 neighborhoods through which the Midtown Greenway—a nonstop bicycle highway within a wider Greenway along the 29th Street rail corridor—passes. Land use on the area adjacent to the Greenway will be significant to the success of the Greenway as a revitalizing force in the communities it intersects. Design parameters, parking and building citing guidelines were needed to encourage commercial and residential development friendly to the Midtown Greenway.

Project: A graduate student in architecture at the University of Minnesota reviewed zoning overlay district requirements and criteria, assessed current zoning requirements, assessed existing land-use studies of the Midtown corridor and how they relate to the zoning overlay, compared and analyzed existing zoning overlay districts in Minneapolis and other comparable cities, and prepared a final zoning overlay district report.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Seward Longfellow Greenway Planning

Context: Longfellow Community Council, Seward Neighborhood Group, and Seward Redesign were collaborating on a joint planning process for the areas around the eastern portion of the planned Midtown Greenway, scheduled for completion in 2003 or 2004. Their goals for the project were to integrate divergent residential and industrial land uses in the area; integrate the Midtown Greenway with current land uses, transportation systems, and amenities; and integrate the Midtown Greenway as a natural corridor with parks, waterways, and other natural features in the area.

Project: A CURA staff member and two graduate students in geography and planning from the University of Minnesota worked with staff from the collaborating organizations to create basic maps of the area including aerial photos, land-use, zoning, public transportation, bicycle paths, and polluted site maps. The neighborhood organization anticipates the maps will aid in assisting residents and involved parties in visualizing and quickly identifying existing features within the planning area. The maps and GIS software may also have future applications such as creating maps of planned redevelopment and analyzing nonconforming land uses.

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Master Plan for Elliot Park

Context: Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI)—a neighborhood organization representing residents and businesses east of downtown Minneapolis—needed redevelopment plans for Elliot Park.

Project: An undergraduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota got input from residents and planning and design professionals to develop a master plan for future land use, and residential and commercial development for the neighborhood.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Calhoun Gateway Small Area Plan

Context: West Calhoun Neighborhood Association (WCNA) and Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) wanted to develop a land-use plan for the target area near Calhoun Village and Calhoun Commons to improve infrastructure and resources for residents and visitors.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs from the University of Minnesota helped develop a land-use plan by meeting with residents and city officials to ascertain existing and potential uses of the area, and developed and presented a draft and final plan to the organizations.

Report: “Calhoun Gateway Small Area Plan.” Beth Elliot. Unpublished report, 2002. 38 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1181/npcr1181.html>. [NPCR 1181]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Lake Street Planning Project

Context: The Longfellow, Powderhorn Park, and Whittier neighborhoods wanted to address concerns from Minneapolis City Hall officials about the lack of a comprehensive plan for development along Lake Street. The neighborhoods decided to collaborate on a long-term land-use plan for the area by consolidating existing neighborhood master plans.

Project: A CURA staff member and two graduate students in geography and planning from the University of Minnesota worked with staff from the neighborhood organizations to collect existing planning information and overlaid this data on city of Minneapolis base maps. Initial maps of Lake Street were created with major development nodes, an existing land-use map, and a zoning designation map. The resulting comprehensive plan will be used by neighborhoods to convey development ideas to the city council, mayor, planning department, residents, developers, and other stakeholders in Minneapolis.

CURA Program: Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Midtown Greenway Zoning Overlay Research

Context: The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a grassroots group representing residents and businesses from the neighborhoods the greenway passes through. Midtown Greenway—a nonstop bicycle highway along the 29th Street rail corridor in south Minneapolis—helps provide transportation, recreation, green space, jobs, economic development, and housing revitalization. Land use adjacent to the greenway will contribute to its success as a revitalizing force in the community. An analysis was needed to determine the practical effects of the draft overlay.

Project: A graduate student in urban planning from the University of Minnesota wrote a report to illustrate impacts of the overlay and provide suggestions for improvement.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Loring Park Neighborhood Boundary Adjustment Study

Context: Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) is a neighborhood organization in south Minneapolis that cultivates continuing leadership and helps create harmony in a diverse neighborhood. The organization wanted to assess the feasibility of changing the boundaries of the Loring Park neighborhood to include the Harmon Area, a part of Downtown West.

Project: An undergraduate student in landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota researched the history, policy, and procedures for establishing Loring Park’s boundaries; identified stakeholders; and created a case study in changing neighborhood boundaries.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo by Steve Schneider

Marcy-Holmes Master Plan

Context: The Marcy-Holmes neighborhood is located in southeastern Minneapolis near the University of Minnesota’s East Bank campus. A local redevelopment organization wanted to undertake a master planning process for future growth.

Project: An undergraduate student in urban studies at Augsburg College helped conduct a literature review on contemporary neighborhood-University conflicts and collaborations; identify successful projects and programs that have addressed the impact of universities on their neighborhoods; research the University’s plan for growth and how that may impact the neighborhood; and summarize recommendations for the master plan on housing, crime and safety, economic development, and environmental issues in the neighborhood.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

City and Regional Planning

Pine Island Long Range Comprehensive Plan

Context: The City of Pine Island, located in Goodhue County in south-central Minnesota, requested assistance creating a comprehensive plan for their community to guide development.

Project: A graduate student in planning at the University of Minnesota developed a comprehensive plan for the City of Pine Island. The plan included data on housing, population, and land-use trends, as well as an updated local zoning map. The information in the plan was presented to community leaders and made available to area residents. The final document developed as part of this project was adopted by the City of Pine Island in June 1999, and the information gathered is being used to plan future growth and guide overall community development.

Report: "Pine Island 21st Century Vision: Long Range Comprehensive Plan." Andrew Mielke. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Pine Island Economic Development Authority, 1999. 11 pp. [CAP 002]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Upper Minnesota Valley Needs Assessment

Context: The Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission is implementing a community-based planning project in the three-county region of Big Stone, Chippewa, and Lac qui Parle in western Minnesota and required some baseline information for the project.

Project: An undergraduate student from the University of Minnesota's Morris campus conducted an asset and needs assessment of transportation, housing, land use, infrastructure, business opportunities, and educational facilities in these counties and assisted with the planning process.

Report: "Big Stone County Draft Comprehensive Plan." Lynnae Glieden. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, June 2002. 125 pp. [CAP 043]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Cook County Land-Use Plan

Context: In spring 2002, the Cook County Zoning Land Ordinance Revision Committee had the goal of revising the outdated ordinances of Cook County. Due to rapid development pressure in the area, the ordinances no longer reflected the comprehensive land-use plan passed in 1997.

Project: A geography major at the University of Minnesota reviewed data collected as part of the 1997 plan monitoring effort and reviewed existing ordinances to gauge how well they match the desired future living conditions for communities in Cook County. This research will allow the committee to revise out-of-date ordinances by supplying the hard facts and data necessary to make such changes.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

MetroGIS Benefit Study

Context: MetroGIS is a stakeholder-governed organization with staff support provided by the Metropolitan Council. The organization's mission is to share data across the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region. Since its inception in 1995, MetroGIS staff have interacted with hundreds of people through forums, workgroups, and committees. However, no formal effort has been made to evaluate the organization.

Project: With a grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee, CURA staff evaluated the benefits of MetroGIS to its stakeholders. Three major benefits were identified: more data is being shared among stakeholders, the MetroGIS DataFinder Web site (<http://www.datafinder.org>) is making it easier for people to locate the data they need, and there is now a better attitude throughout the region about data sharing.

Report: "MetroGIS Benefits Study." William J. Craig and David Bitner. Unpublished PowerPoint Presentation. 1999. 29 pp. Available online at http://www.metrogis.org/benefits/studies/survey_1999_results.pdf

CURA Program: New Initiative

GIS at the University of Minnesota

Context: The University of Minnesota has been a leader in geographic information systems (GIS) research and education. The faculty and other resources that provide that strength are spread across many units at the University—from the Departments of Computer Science, Forest Resources, and Geography to the Natural Resources Research Institute and the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate.

Project: To help identify these resources, CURA has developed a Web-based portfolio documenting GIS-related research, faculty, educational opportunities, and facilities at the University. The Web site was originally developed to support the University's membership in the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, but has proven useful to people in Minnesota both inside and outside the University.

Report: Available only online at <http://www.geog.umn.edu/umucgis/>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Westford Township GIS Demonstration Project

Context: Martin County has started to develop geographic information system (GIS) layers and obtain geographic positioning system points for the county. However, existing GIS layers in each county department are not accessible by other departments.

Project: A graduate student in geography at the University of Minnesota assisted the county to bridge the gap and make the GIS layers available across all county departments.

Report: "Westford Township GIS Demonstration Project." Min Wang. Unpublished report conducted in partnership with Martin County, August 2001. 18 pp. [CAP 035]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Data Resources

GIS Professional Code of Ethics

Context: Geographic information systems (GIS) is a relatively new field. Pioneering work in the field was conducted at the University of Minnesota in the early 1970s. In Minnesota alone, thousands of people work in this field in the private sector and at all levels of government.

Project: A code of ethics is being developed for the GIS profession, with leadership from the assistant director at CURA and with significant input from a professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus. The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is the lead professional organization in developing certification standards and a code of ethics for the profession.

Report: The draft code of ethics is available online at http://www.urisa.org/ethics/code_of_ethics.htm

CURA Program: New Initiative

Guide to Semester Courses in GIS and Land-Related Studies

Context: The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs has long been interested in geographic information systems (GIS), and CURA's assistant director serves as co-director of the University of Minnesota Master of Geographic Information Science program. We recognized a need to make it easier for students, faculty, and others to find GIS-related courses at the University.

Project: An online catalog was created listing GIS-related courses from 18 departments and programs on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. It is aimed at building interdisciplinary bridges and serving the needs of University students and the outside community interested in geographic information systems.

Report: "Guide to Courses in GIS and Land-Related Studies on the Twin Cities Campus, University of Minnesota." Margaret R. Wolfe. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2000. CURA 00-2. Available only online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/publications/gis-guide.html>. [L1054]

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Chris Pouliot

Spatial Data Mining

Context: Widespread use of spatial databases has increased interest in "mining" useful but implicit spatial patterns among data. The sheer size of such spatial data sets often makes it difficult to search for meaningful patterns or relationships among data. However, spatial data mining—which draws on techniques from machine-learning, database management, and statistics—holds the promise of rapidly uncovering patterns within spatial databases with minimal human effort or intervention.

Project: A faculty member, a postdoctoral associate, and two graduate students in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Minnesota developed a model for incorporating spatial properties into a data mining framework and applied this model to an example from ecology involving red-winged blackbird habitat in order to demonstrate the implications of spatial data mining for policy makers. The researchers concluded that spatial data mining has potential applications in many areas, including environmental management, crime prediction, transportation and land-use planning, econometrics, regional science, epidemiology, geographic analysis, and remote sensing.

Reports: "Spatial Data Mining: An Emerging Tool for Policy Makers." Sanjay Chawla, Shashi Shekhar, Wei Li Wu, and Xinhong Tan. *CURA Reporter* 30 (September 2000): 10–15. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/00-Sep/article2.pdf>.

Spatial Databases: A Tour. Shashi Shekhar and Sanjay Chawla. Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, forthcoming 2003.

CURA Program: Faculty Interactive Research Program

Upper Midwest Conference on Demographics

Context: The Upper Midwest Conference on Demographics for Policy Analysts has been held regularly since 1997. The local steering committee is composed of representatives from the University of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, and the state Demographic Center. The Third Upper Midwest Conference on Demographics for Policy Analysts was held at the Earle Brown Continuing Education Center on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus in fall 2001.

Project: The 2001 conference was cosponsored by CURA; the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota; and state universities in Wisconsin, Iowa, and North and South Dakota. The conference explored the theme "The Changing Face of Demographic Data: Census and Other Data Sources for Policy Analysis," and provided a unique opportunity for both experienced data analysts and newcomers to learn about census and noncensus data available for policy analysis, recent population trends, new methods of analysis, and current trends in the data environment.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Resource and Land-Use Maps

Quality of Life Data

Context: The associate director of CURA served on a National Research Council research committee working on a book about data for place-based decision making.

Project: The committee produced a book titled *Community and Quality of Life*, which includes a chapter coauthored by CURA's associate director. The book considers the range of data needed by communities to plan and participate in decisions that affect the quality of life in those communities. It includes discussions of the concept of livability and livability indicators, the importance of place and connectedness, appropriate measurement and analysis of livability, decision-support processes, and data and analysis tools for decision support. An appendix on federal data sources is also included. The book will be of use to planners, planning decision makers, planning educators and students, social scientists, and community activists.

Report: *Community and Quality of Life: Data Needs for Informed Decision Making*. Committee on Identifying Data Needs for Place-Based Decision Making and Committee on Geography, National Research Council. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 2002. 184 pp. \$44.95 hardcover. ISBN 0-309-08260-9.

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Neil Kveberg, courtesy of MnDOT

Watershed Resource Maps

Context: In 1997, the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) awarded the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA) and CURA \$270,000 for a Sustainable Lakes Project (see page 70) to develop a lake management model for use throughout the state. Part of this project involved creating resource maps for use by counties and municipalities. The LCMR awarded additional staff funds to CURA to make these resource maps available through the University of Minnesota library system.

Project: The John R. Borchert Map Library and CURA are collaborating to produce a series of 21 digital resource maps showing all 5,000 minor watersheds in Minnesota. These maps will be available at the level of minor watershed, township, city, or county. The series will include the following resource maps: government political boundaries, presettlement vegetation, shaded relief, slope, area roughness, geomorphology, public ownership, water features, land use, forest cover, soils, septic tank suitability, groundwater contamination potential, erosion (runoff) susceptibility and water orientation, scenically attractive areas, scenically attractive public and private land within one-quarter mile of a road (i.e., likely residential or recreational development areas), scenically attractive land more than one-quarter mile of a road, agricultural irrigation areas likely to cause groundwater contamination, aerial photography, and U.S. Geographical Survey. Both printed and electronic versions of the maps are available. The maps will inform local comprehensive planning and zoning across the state.

CURA Program: Visiting Scholar

State Land-Use Map

Context: Minnesota has a rich mix of land uses and those uses change over time. The state has no systematic program to monitor and map land use. The last land-use map of the state was produced in 1969.

Project: With support from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, a new "Census of the Land" map has been completed, along with a database that is being used by state and local governments. Major partners in data development included the Association of Minnesota Counties and the International Coalition. The four-foot-by-five-foot wall map was produced by CURA, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Report: Copies of the wall map can be purchased from the Science Museum. A digital version of the map is available online at <http://mapserver.lmic.state.mn.us/landuse/>.

CURA Program: Visiting Scholar

Population

Twin Cities Land Cover Information Assessment

Context: Since the inception of the Metro Greenways Program in 1998, the Metropolitan Department of Natural Resources (Metro DNR) and other agencies and groups have been amassing detailed land cover information for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. The value of this information has become evident in strategic regional planning and interregional corridor design. Metro DNR wanted a graduate student to work with staff to analyze its land cover information relative to projected regional growth.

Project: A graduate student in landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota worked with a core team of five Metro DNR staff members to conduct an extensive literature review, and assist with models for specific habitats such as wetland uplands by figuring out the measures and parameters to be used in developing consistent models. This work helped to advance a new Metro DNR regional natural resources assessment.

CURA Program: State Agency Internship Program

2000 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and State of Minnesota Population Distribution Maps

Context: New population data from the 2000 U.S. Census indicated significant shifts in population distribution in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and throughout the state during the last ten years.

Project: In cooperation with Minnesota Planning (State Demographic Center and Land Management Information Center), the Metropolitan Council, and the Cartography Laboratory at the University of Minnesota, CURA produced two four-color, poster-sized wall maps showing population distribution for the state of Minnesota and the Twin Cities area based on 2000 U.S. Census data. Printed back-to-back, the maps include population distribution, county and city names, major water features, and selected major roads and highways.

Reports: *2000 State of Minnesota Population Distribution Map*. Minneapolis: CURA, Minnesota Planning, and the Metropolitan Council, 2001. 17" x 22" wall map. CURA 01-3. [L1055 MN]

2000 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Population Distribution Map. Minneapolis: CURA, Minnesota Planning, and the Metropolitan Council, 2001. 17" x 22" wall map. CURA 01-3. [L1055 TC]

2000 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and State of Minnesota Population Distribution Maps. *CURA Reporter* 31(2): 18–19. Maps reduced to 8 1/2" x 11".

CURA Program: New Initiative



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Snowbird Travel

Context: Snowbird travel—the phenomenon of elderly residents leaving a state in winter for extensive time in warmer states—is common in Minnesota.

Project: With funds from the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies, CURA worked with the Minnesota Office of Tourism to analyze the TravelScope® and the American Travel Survey, data sources that can be used to track travel to and from other states. Researchers were pleased to learn that large numbers of sunbird residents (residents of sunbelt states) tend to take out-of-state vacations during the summer months, suggesting that it might be possible to balance snowbird losses during the winter by increasing summer travel from sunbelt states. They concluded that more vigorous marketing and attractive vacation packages, including air travel, would be required to attract travelers from distant sunbelt states.

Report: "Travel Flow between Minnesota and the Sunbelt: Examination of Two National Travel Surveys in Their Ability to Track Minnesota's Snowbird Population and Provide Regional Tourism Marketing Information." Linda Limback and William J. Craig. Unpublished report, 1999. 21 pp. [S9903]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Transportation

Update of *Minneapolis–St. Paul: People, Place and Public Life*

Context: *Minneapolis–St. Paul: People, Place and Public Life*, coauthored by John Adams and Barbara VanDrasek, presents a comprehensive look at the settlement of the Twin Cities in the early 1990s. Published in 1993, the book predated the significant demographic changes in the Twin Cities metropolitan area during the mid- to late 1990s.

Project: John Adams, professor of geography, planning, and public affairs and chair of the Department of Geography, was the first holder of the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs for the 2000–2001 academic year. During his appointment, Adams began an update and revision of *Minneapolis–St. Paul: People, Place and Public Life* based on population and housing data from the 2000 U.S. Census.

CURA Program: Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs



Photo by Robert Friedman

Light-Rail Transit in the Twin Cities

Context: In the late 1980s and early 1990s, planning for light-rail transit (LRT) in the Twin Cities reached a high-water mark. One of the fundamental questions at that time was how to develop a comprehensive network of LRT lines that would provide complete coverage of the Twin Cities metropolitan area without duplication of service.

Project: Under the sponsorship of CURA and the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota and with additional support from the SRF Consulting Group and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, a graduate student in transportation planning from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee conducted a study of the LRT system in Portland, Oregon, to determine the service area of the system. The study identified three distinct market areas for the Portland LRT system based on users' mode of access to the station (walking, driving, or riding a bus). The study was completed in 1999, and informed the graduate student's subsequent work as a transportation planner at the Metropolitan Council responsible for LRT and busway planning. The study also informed the Metropolitan Council's 2020 Regional Master Plan for Transit, which attempts to develop a network of exclusive LRT and busway transit lines that cover the Twin Cities metro area without duplicating service.

Report: "Riding the Rails: Light-Rail Transit Market Areas in the Twin Cities." Francis E. Loetterle. *CURA Reporter* 31 (May 2001): 1–8. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/01-May/article1.pdf>.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Hiawatha Corridor Redevelopment Project Timeline

Context: Neighborhoods adjacent to the Hiawatha light-rail transit corridor needed to be informed of planning and funding decisions that affected them and given opportunities for input.

Project: A graduate student in landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota identified agency information contacts, detailed milestones, phases, and opportunities for community input in the process and built a Web page to facilitate communication needs and process.

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Light-Rail Transit Educational Material

Context: The Longfellow Community Council wanted to develop educational materials concerning light-rail transit to distribute to residents and businesses.

Project: A graduate student in sociology from the University of Minnesota identified existing information sources and assessed informational needs among residents and businesses, and then compiled relevant information on light-rail transit into a usable format.

Report: "Light Rail Transit Resource Guide." Veronica Mendez. Unpublished report, 2000. 27 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1144/npcr1144.html>. [NPCR 1144]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Alternatives for Twin Cities Regional Growth Patterns

Context: The rapid growth in commercial and residential development in the Twin Cities metropolitan area has been accompanied by growth in the total area of land developed and has raised concerns about the direct costs of the infrastructure needed to support development and the social and environmental side effects of development patterns. The Transportation and Regional Growth Study (TRGS) is a research and educational effort designed to increase understanding of the linkages between land use, community development, and transportation in the metro area. Thus far, the research component of the TRGS encompasses six research projects, of which five have been completed: Twin Cities regional dynamics, passenger and freight travel demand patterns, full transportation costs and cost incidence, transportation financing alternatives, and transportation and urban design. The sixth project, currently under way, focuses on institutional and leadership alternatives.

Project: Sponsored through the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council, the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota, and CURA, this ongoing project considers the role of institutional structures and policy decision making in both the public and private realms in the context of transportation and land use in Minnesota. To date, CURA's involvement has included direct participation in the project by our director and one of our planning research associates, as well as support for a graduate student from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The project is expected to provide a historical overview of transportation, environment, and land-use planning policies and programs at federal, state, and local levels during the latter half of the twentieth century; describe the political processes for decision making and resource allocations; and analyze how these have shaped the development patterns in the region.

CURA Program: New Initiative

Planning for Franklin Avenue Light-Rail Transit Station

Context: Seward Redesign is a nonprofit community development corporation that serves the Seward neighborhood in Minneapolis. The organization wanted to research land use and zoning in the area and investigate multimodal transportation and mixed-use development along transit corridors in other cities.

Project: A graduate student in landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota helped the organization develop a community vision and guidelines for redevelopment around the planned Franklin Avenue light-rail transit station.

Report: "Franklin Avenue Light Rail Transit Task Force." Veronica Mendez. Unpublished report, 2000. 21 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1147/npcr1147.html>. [NPCR 1147]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Phillips Light-Rail Transit

Context: Phillips Environment, Transportation and Community (Phillips ETC) is a neighborhood-based program that focuses on local greening projects, pollution prevention, and sustainable transportation. Phillips ETC wanted to develop and compile basic educational materials on light-rail transit (LRT) to disseminate to area residents.

Project: A graduate student in public affairs at the University of Minnesota researched other cities that have built LRT lines and gathered resident input on land-use planning around the planned LRT line through Phillips neighborhood.

Report: "The 35W/Lake Street Access Project: Study of Transportation Planning Through a Public/Private Partnership Process." Antonio M. Rosell. Unpublished report, 2001. 16 pp. Available online at <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1157/npcr1157.html>. [NPCR 1157]

CURA Program: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)



Photo courtesy of Hiawatha Project Office

Trails and Recreation

Mill Towns Recreational Trail Feasibility Study

Context: The Mill Towns Trail Board was interested in creating a recreational trail linking the cities of Faribault and Northfield.

Project: A planning student from the University of Minnesota prepared a feasibility study on the trail. The study included an economic analysis, construction plan, and management plan, and the findings were presented to Rice County Commissioners and the city councils of Northfield and Faribault. In a second project, the student conducted focus groups and organized and led meetings of property owners along the proposed trail routes. She then worked with a volunteer trail association and with the Department of Natural Resources trails staff to prepare a legislative funding request. This request resulted in a \$150,000 grant to build a pedestrian bridge on a portion of the trail. The Mill Towns Trail Board has used the cost-benefit analysis in their work with legislators, county commissioners, and city council members, and they are using the property owner report as they begin right-of-way acquisition. The county planner will use the long-term trail plan in a new countywide comprehensive plan.

Reports: "Analysis of the Proposed Mill Towns Trail." Jennifer Ringold. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Mill Towns Trail, 1998. 23 pp. [CAP 001]

"Rice County Focus Group Meetings for Trails—Final Report." Jennifer Ringold. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Mill Towns Trail, 1999. 7 pp. [CAP 003]

"Landowner Meetings—Final Report." Jennifer Ringold. Unpublished report conducted on behalf of Mill Towns Trail, 1999. 9 pp. [CAP 004]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Trail Corridor Analysis

Context: The Minnesota Trails Initiative (MTI) is a citizen-based nonprofit organization that requested assistance with their goal of establishing a multipurpose recreational trail system along the Minnesota River Valley.

Project: Two students from the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota worked with MTI to complete a corridor analysis for a proposed segment of the trail between Granite Falls and Skalbekken County Park. The community is using this analysis to make decisions regarding the trail and to support funding requests.

Report: "Supporting Data for the Series of Analysis Maps Created for the Minnesota Trails Initiative Granite Falls to Skalbakken Park Trail Study." Dan Petrik and Jeff Zeitler.

Unpublished report conducted in partnership with Minnesota Trails Initiative, August 2001. 10 pp. [CAP 034]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Northeast Minnesota Bikeways Plan

Context: The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) is a regional planning agency and the Minnesota Department of Transportation is a cabinet-level department of the State of Minnesota. These agencies wanted to encourage continued improvement of the bicycling environment throughout northeastern Minnesota.

Project: A faculty member in the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus and several graduate interns at ARDC conducted a study of various alternative bikeway plans for the Arrowhead region. The study resulted in a draft bikeways plan published by ARDC, as well as a workshop for planners in August 2000 at Duluth's Hampton Inn titled "Planning and Engineering for Bicycling in Traffic." The project will help to guide local, county, and state jurisdictions in planning and developing bicycle facilities and programs for the Arrowhead region.

CURA Program: Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Regional Trails Plan for Brainerd Lakes Area

Context: One of the greatest assets of the Brainerd Lakes Area is the Paul Bunyan Trail, which runs 48 miles from Brainerd to Hackensack. People in the community were interested in exploring ways to develop spurs to this trail or link the trail to other trails in the region.

Project: A graduate student in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota collected physical data on the trail environment to help the community develop a regional trails plan.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)



Conservation Design

Lake Koronis Trail Project

Context: The Lake Koronis Trail Advisory Committee wants to develop a 15.6-mile nonmotorized recreational trail from the city of Paynesville to (and around) Lake Koronis.

Project: In summer 2002, a student from St. Cloud State University helped the trails committee develop an inventory of landowners along the proposed routes, complete a physical features inventory along the trail routes, and create a presentation with this information using maps and photos. The student also developed an action plan for the committee that identifies necessary tasks involved in planning, constructing, and maintaining the trail, and created an inventory of public and private resources available to fund various elements of the proposed project.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Wabasha County Recreational Trail Feasibility Study

Context: The Wabasha County Community Development Corporation (CDC) wanted to extend the Great River Ridge Trail, a bike and pedestrian trail, through the Zumbro Valley in southeastern Minnesota.

Project: A University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture student worked with the community to determine potential pathways for the trail through the valley. The student's analysis included ecological considerations, potential flooding constraints, scenic options, preservation of history, cost, and a recommendation for the trail design. The Wabasha County CDC and a volunteer trails committee are using this information as they work to plan, develop, and raise funds for the proposed trail.

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Watonwan County Trails Expansion Project

Context: Watonwan County wants to expand existing bike trails to enhance recreation and tourism in the area. A volunteer trails committee has been exploring the feasibility of turning an old railroad bed into a bike trail.

Project: A graduate student in recreation and leisure at the University of Minnesota assessed public opinions and concerns regarding this trail through focus groups, explored cost and design options, and developed a work plan for the community. This information is being used to develop proposals to fund the trail expansion.

Report: "Watonwan and Blue Earth County Focus Group Meetings for Recreational Trails—Final Report." Tom Holman. Unpublished report prepared for Watonwan and Blue Earth Counties Trails Advisory Board, 2002. 20 pp. [CAP 046]

CURA Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Conservation Design on the Apple Blossom Scenic Drive

Context: The Apple Blossom Scenic Drive, a state-designated scenic byway in southeastern Minnesota known for its striking beauty and the ardent property rights sentiments of landowners in the area, is facing significant growth pressures from the greater LaCrosse (Wisconsin) area.

Project: The Design Institute at the University of Minnesota's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture partnered with CURA to provide support for a CURA staff member and two landscape architecture graduate students at the University. The team worked with the Minnesota Land Trust, a conservation organization that works with private landowners and local units of government to preserve valued land through conservation easements. The project examined the potential for conservation design—an approach to subdivision design that arranges proposed houses around valued resources—to respond to growth pressures along the Apple Blossom Scenic Drive. The students and staff member assisted with the development of conservation design scenarios for a section of the drive, which were then discussed with local planners, planning commissioners, and elected officials in the area. They also developed a portfolio of conservation design cases from throughout Minnesota for the Minnesota Land Trust to use as an educational tool.

Report: "Quality of Life and a Sense of Place in Southeast Minnesota." Patrick Nunnally. Unpublished paper, 2001. 31 pp. [L2001-1]

Conservation Design Portfolio: Preserving Minnesota Landscapes through Creative Development. Minnesota Land Trust. St. Paul: Minnesota Land Trust, 2001. 23 pp. plus seven four-page brochures. Available online as of November 2002 at <http://www.mnland.org/development.htm>. [L2001-2]

CURA Program: New Initiative

Community Visioning Needs Assessment

Context: The Minnesota Design Team (MDT) is a volunteer group of architects, landscape architects, urban designers, planners, and other experts in design and community development that helps Minnesota communities develop shared visions for improving their physical and environmental designs. Communities served by MDT have noted the need for assistance implementing design plans. To pilot an implementation phase for their design charrettes, MDT partnered with Minnesota Project (a nonprofit dedicated to environmental protection and sustainable development) and Tree Trust (a nonprofit that promotes environmental stewardship through education and employment programs).

Project: A graduate student at the University of Minnesota worked with the partners to conduct a needs assessment of past MDT communities. The student identified leaders in each community served by MDT since 1992, surveyed community members and leaders who participated in MDT projects, conducted focus groups with individuals from key participating communities, prepared a written needs assessment based on this research, and presented the results to the Minnesota Project's advisory committee. The needs assessment will help identify barriers to implementation of the MDT community visioning process and will inform the creation of the implementation pilot project.

CURA Program: New Initiative

CURA Programs

Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR)

Located on the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus (UMD), this research center's base funding is provided by CURA. The Center for Community and Regional Research supports cooperative research that links UMD faculty and students with community agencies in northeastern Minnesota. The community agencies are normally expected to pay at least half of the project costs. Projects provide an opportunity for UMD students to become actively involved in their community while learning specific research skills and general principles of planning, participation, and evaluation. Students work closely with faculty members who are ultimately responsible for the success of the project. Major student involvement is required for project funding.

Project proposals are submitted by UMD faculty. A wide range of projects—often addressing matters of considerable local importance—have been facilitated by the partnerships created through CCRR. Since July 1999, the center has supported or published findings from 11 projects that have provided opportunities for 125 students.

For more information about CCRR, contact program director Larry Knopp by phone at (218) 726-6246 or by e-mail at lknopp@d.umn.edu, or visit the CCRR Web site at <http://www.d.umn.edu/ccrr/>.



Photo by Mike Greco



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Communiversiety

The Communiversiety program provides 195 hours of graduate student assistance to help a community-based nonprofit organization or agency with a specific project. Priority is given to groups serving diverse communities. Requests for support must involve a project with unique value; requests for general support for the operations of an organization are not considered. Applications requesting assistance are due in June for fall semester assistantships and November for spring semester assistantships.

Agencies or organizations receiving assistance are responsible for selecting a student to work with from a pool of applicants and supervising the student in completing their work. Student assistants may be asked to undertake an entire project or complete a portion of a larger project.

During the past three years, Communiversiety has supported 48 graduate students and 3 undergraduate students who worked on 47 community-based projects.

For more information, contact program manager Ed Drury at (612) 625-6045 or drury001@umn.edu, or visit <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/communiversiety.html>.

Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

The Community Assistantship Program provides applied research assistance to community-based nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies throughout Greater Minnesota. Student assistantships, which range between 195 and 390 hours of work, are designed to help meet community needs while providing students with career-related experience. Since July 1999, CAP has supported 75 projects involving 68 community organizations and 64 graduate and undergraduate students from all four University of Minnesota campuses and ten University of Minnesota colleges.

The Community Assistantship Program is supported by a grant from the McKnight Foundation and it is a partnership effort of the University of Minnesota's Rural Development Council, the Initiative fund of Southeastern and South Central Minnesota, and CURA, which serves as the fiscal agent for the program.

Applications from eligible community groups for CAP project support are considered three times per year (February 1, July 1, and November 1). Students interested in applying for a position simply identify a job opening for which they are qualified and complete an application form.

For more information about CAP, contact program coordinator Jan Joannides by phone at (612) 251-7304 or by e-mail at joann001@umn.edu, or visit CAP on the Web at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/CAP/cap.html>.



Photo by Robert Friedman



Photos by Steve Schneider

Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs

The Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs is one of four endowed chairs made possible through the generosity and vision of David and Elizabeth Fesler to honor Mr. Fesler's grandfathers, Bert Fesler and Jacob Lampert. The endowment is intended to stimulate interdisciplinary research and teaching through the appointment of distinguished, broadly learned scholars to endowed faculty positions at the University of Minnesota.

The endowment generates approximately \$50,000 to support, for one year, the research activities of a University of Minnesota faculty member for work on a project related to urban and regional affairs in Minnesota. Funds may be used to obtain release time or other support for the project and may be used for either new or current projects. Between 1999 and 2002, the Fesler-Lampert chair has been held by (pictured from top) Professors John Adams, Dennis Ahlburg, and Eugene Borgida.

An announcement regarding the competition for the chair is sent to faculty annually during fall semester, and the deadline for receipt of application materials is generally early winter. For more information about the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs, contact Tom Scott by phone at (612) 625-7340 or by e-mail at scott001@umn.edu, or visit <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/fesler-lampert.html>.

Housing Initiative

The CURA Housing Initiative brings together a range of faculty and student research and community-service projects related to housing. Projects may be the result of faculty and student initiatives or may spring from requests by community organizations. In the past, projects have focused on issues such as subsidized housing in Minneapolis, the zoning practices of suburban communities, and the provision of social services in public housing high-rises. Since July 1999, the Housing Initiative has supported nine projects involving 32 students and 5 faculty.

A central element of the Housing Initiative is the CURA Housing Forum (see p. 85), which brings together faculty, students, and community members to discuss housing issues in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

For more information about Housing Initiatives or the CURA Housing Forum, contact Edward Goetz by phone at (612) 624-5003 or by e-mail at egoetz@hhh.umn.edu.



Photo by Edward G. Goetz

State Agency Internship Program

This internship program fosters opportunities for graduate students to work outside the University of Minnesota while providing technical assistance and research skills to state agencies. The program provides a graduate student to work on research, program development, program evaluation, or other short-term projects for a state agency in Minnesota.

Projects are selected on the basis of importance to the state and value of the learning experience for students. Agencies receiving an award are responsible for selecting the best student from among available applicants and supervising their project work. The agency pays half the student's salary and CURA pays the other half.

Three projects are funded through the State Agency Internship Program each year. During the past three years, the program has supported nine graduate students who worked on nine projects with six different agencies.

In odd-numbered years (e.g., 2003), applications are due by May 31 and project awards provide a student assistant at 50-percent time for up to one academic year. In even-numbered years (e.g., 2004), applications are due by April 15 and project awards are for a student assistant at 75-percent time for the summer.

For more information, contact Ed Drury by phone at (612) 625-6045 or by e-mail at drury001@umn.edu, or visit <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/state-interns.html>.



Photo by Steve Schneider

Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR)

The Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR) provides survey research services to University faculty and administration, state and local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations working on issues of public policy in Minnesota. The center also provides consultation in areas such as study and questionnaire design, survey administration, data file construction, and data analysis.

During the past three years, MCSR conducted 61 major survey projects and collected data from more than 42,000 people and companies. In addition, MCSR provided partial support for another 26 surveys. The center served a total of 148 clients (41 from the University and 107 from outside the University).

Each year, MCSR conducts two omnibus telephone surveys—one of 800 households in the metropolitan area and one of 800 households throughout the state. Omnibus surveys keep costs low by allowing government agencies and nonprofit organizations to each ask a few questions as part of a larger survey. During the past three years, 43 clients were served by the Minnesota state survey and 29 by the metropolitan survey.

Although MCSR is self-supporting and charges for its survey research services, it provides a limited amount of free survey research consulting to individuals and organizations. During the last three years, MCSR provided 138 hours of unpaid consulting to 62 individuals and organizations.

For more information, contact MCSR director Rossana Armson at (612) 627-4282 or armso001@umn.edu, or visit <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/mcsr.html>. The Minnesota Center for Survey Research is located at 2331 University Avenue S.E., Suite 141, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

MCSR Omnibus Survey Reports:

"2000 Minnesota State Survey—Part I: Results and Technical Report." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2000. MCSR 01-1. 109 pp. [R2000-1 Part I]

"2000 Minnesota State Survey—Part II: Results and Technical Report." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2000. MCSR 01-3. 115 pp. [R2000-1 Part II]

"2000 Twin Cities Area Survey: Results and Technical Report." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. MCSR 01-6. 120 pp. [R2000-2]

"2001 Minnesota State Survey—Part I: Results and Technical Report." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2001. MCSR 02-1. 111 pp. [R2001-1 Part I]

"2001 Minnesota State Survey—Part II: Results and Technical Report." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2002. MCSR 02-1. 128 pp. [R2001-1 Part 2]

"2001 Twin Cities Area Survey: Results and Technical Report." Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Unpublished survey, 2002. MCSR 02-5. 135 pp. [R2001-2]



Photo by Marc Beitz

CURA Housing Forum

The CURA Housing Forum is a monthly brown-bag discussion of housing issues and research in the Twin Cities. Forums are held during the academic year on the University's West Bank campus and generally take one of three forms: panel discussions, action-oriented dialogues, or presentations of research findings from faculty or student projects.

During the past three years, CURA has sponsored 19 forums on such issues as the impact of housing mobility on children, building affordable housing in the suburbs, racial bias in mortgage lending, the use of middle-income housing subsidies, chronic problem properties in St. Paul, predatory lending practices, homelessness, applying smart growth principles, creating community land trusts, the affordable housing policies of the Metropolitan Council, and the implementation of the *Hollman v. Cisneros* consent decree.

The CURA Housing Forum is free and open to the public. Information about the next forum is available by sending an e-mail inquiry to curahf@tc.umn.edu or by visiting <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/forum.html>. For more information about the CURA Housing Forum series, contact Ed Goetz by phone at (612) 624-5003 or by e-mail at egoetz@hhh.umn.edu.

Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR)

Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR) provides research assistance to Minneapolis and St. Paul neighborhood organizations and community development corporations involved in neighborhood-based revitalization. NPCR supports student research assistants—and occasionally faculty researchers—to carry out neighborhood-initiated and neighborhood-guided projects. Since July 1999, NPCR has supported 58 graduate students and 38 undergraduate students who have worked on more than 75 community-based projects.

The program involves nine colleges and universities within the Twin Cities area, and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Outreach Partnerships Centers Program, the St. Paul Companies, the St. Paul Foundation, the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), the McKnight Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation, and CURA.

Besides focusing on the needs of individual neighborhoods, NPCR uses workshops and conferences to share information more broadly across neighborhoods. Workshops have led to continued cooperative efforts among many Twin Cities neighborhoods. In addition, NPCR launched the University-Neighborhood Network in 1997 (see description on p. 89).

Applications for student research assistance are accepted three times a year. Applications are due March 7 (for summer assistance), July 10 (for fall assistance), and November 7 (for spring assistance). Occasional faculty research projects on issues of topical or multineighborhood significance are supported. Proposals for such projects are considered as they are submitted.

For more information, contact Kris Nelson by phone at (612) 625-1020 or by e-mail at nels193@umn.edu, or visit NPCR's Web site at <http://www.npcr.org>.



Photo by Marc Beitz

Reports about NPCR:

Building Community: The First Five Years of Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Minneapolis: Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 1999. CURA 99-4. 28 pp. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/publications/NPCR-5yr/report.html>. [C1025]

Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization: Building Community-University Partnerships. Minneapolis: Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization, 2000. Eight-page brochure. [NPCR 2000-Brochure]



Photo by Edward G. Coetz

New Initiatives

CURA is always looking for a good new idea and supports many new projects outside our existing program areas. Project proposals can come from faculty, community organizations, government agencies, or students. The best approach is to call CURA and discuss the idea; if it looks worthwhile, we will encourage you to write a brief proposal.

For projects supporting government agencies, we usually seek matching funding. Maximum project size is generally a half-time graduate student assistant for one academic year; support for one semester is more typical.

Since July 1999, CURA has supported more than 60 new initiatives from faculty, students, and community organizations.

For more information, contact Will Craig by phone at (612) 625-3321 or by e-mail at wcraig@umn.edu.

East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

The East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) combines federal funds and local partners in a new community development strategy. Since 1998, the East Side COPC has linked the resources of three institutions of higher education (Macalester College, Metropolitan State University, and the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs) with the needs of community groups and residents on St. Paul's East Side. In the last three years, the East Side COPC program has supported 2 faculty, 52 graduate students, and 33 undergraduate students who have worked on more than 75 community-based projects.

The COPC initiative is a national program of the Office of University Partnerships of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The overall purpose of COPC is to involve colleges and universities in locally driven community development. The primary strategy used by COPC is to provide funds to pay higher education students, faculty, and staff for work on community-designed development projects. In September 1999, the East Side COPC educational partners were awarded a \$400,000 grant (the maximum possible) to initiate the program in St. Paul. The program was awarded a HUD New Directions Grant in 2001 to support work through September 2003. All of the original East Side COPC partners will continue to cooperate in the New Directions effort, which will be called the New East Side Partnership.

For more information about the East Side COPC program or the New East Side Partnership, contact program director Kris Nelson by phone at (612) 625-1020 or by e-mail at nelso193@umn.edu.

Reports about East Side COPC:

"Community-University Engagement: The East Side Community Outreach Partnership Center." Thomas M. Scott, George Latimer, and Thomas O'Connell. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 1–2. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article1.pdf>.

"Growing Partnerships: An Overview of St. Paul's East Side COPC." John Poupart and Frederick W. Smith. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 3–9. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article2.pdf>.

"Genuine Partnership in a Racially Transitioning Community." Sam Grant and Vanessa Steele. *CURA Reporter* 32 (Winter 2001–2002): 19–23. Available online at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/reporter/02-Wint/article5.pdf>.



Photo by Nancy Conroy

Faculty Interactive Research Program

Since the summer of 1984, CURA has sponsored a competitive program that supports interactive research between University of Minnesota faculty and the community. The purpose of this program is to encourage University faculty to carry out research projects that involve significant issues of public policy for the state and that include interaction with community groups, agencies, or organizations in Minnesota. Projects must have an applied orientation, as well as serve the research interests of the faculty member.

The program provides summer support for faculty on nine-month appointments and graduate student research assistance for one year. Three projects are funded per year. The results of these research projects are published in the *CURA Reporter*. Since July 1999, CURA has funded or published results from 22 interactive research projects involving 30 faculty and 26 graduate students.

An announcement regarding the interactive research grant competition is sent to faculty annually in early winter and the deadline for application is generally early spring. For more information, contact CURA director Tom Scott by phone at (612) 625-7340 or by e-mail at scott001@umn.edu, or visit <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/IRG.html>.

Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS) is a collaborative capacity-building effort intended to meet the needs of community-based organizations by providing access to property data that can inform community revitalization efforts, as well as housing intervention and investment strategies. Partners in this project include the City of Minneapolis, select Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, and CURA.

Initiated in 1999, MNIS was originally conceived as an early-warning system that could predict and prevent housing abandonment by tracking indicators such as unpaid taxes, housing code violations, or delinquent utility bills, allowing neighborhood organizations time to intervene before families lost their homes. Although the early warning system concept is still part of MNIS, since late 2000 the program has shifted focus to the broader applications of geographic information systems (GIS) for community revitalization. Participating neighborhood groups receive training, project assistance, GIS expertise, and access to property information, as well as opportunities to share ideas about GIS projects and housing strategies with other neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations are instrumental to the design, development, and implementation of all MNIS projects.

During the last three years, MNIS has worked with 12 Minneapolis neighborhood organizations representing 21 individual neighborhoods and has completed approximately

25 individual projects. In addition, participating neighborhoods use on a weekly basis the data and software that MNIS provides.

For more information about MNIS, contact program director Jeff Matson at (612) 822-8146 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit MNIS on the Web at <http://www.npcr.org/GIS.html>.



Photo by Steve Schneider

Training Program for Community Organizers (TPCO)

Neighborhood organizations need skilled organizers, and to meet this challenge, CURA has been training neighborhood organizers since 1994 through the Training Program for Community Organizers (TPCO). This program trains people to work effectively in organizing and staffing neighborhood organizations. It trains new organizers through an internship program and increases the skills of existing neighborhood staff through workshops and other programs. Among the fruits of TPCO's work are the ideas, support, and alliances that have emerged. Since 1999, TPCO has supported projects involving more than 125 students.

For more information about the program and the training opportunities available, contact program coordinator Jay Clark at (612) 625-2513 or clark037@umn.edu.



Photo by Jay Clark

Visiting Scholar Program

For more than a decade, CURA has served as a temporary home for incipient projects and visiting scholars. Typically they receive outside funding and work on projects concerning public policy in Minnesota. Generally CURA provides office space and an environment that supports their project, and CURA often publishes the results of their research.

Previous visiting scholars have included land-use consultant George Orning, who led the Sustainable Lakes Project (see p. 70); Jim Solem (pictured at right), former regional administrator for the Metropolitan Council, who currently leads the City Innovation Project on affordable housing (see p. 45); William Johnson, a political scientist at Bethel College who wrote a book about the Metropolitan Council's experience with growth management, which CURA published; Phil Wichern, a political scientist who studied metropolitan government in the Twin Cities; Oliver Byrum, who wrote a book about planning strategies for mid-sized cities; Ron Kroese, who researched how agriculture became an industry following World War II; Charlie Warner, who developed data on the vanishing stock of low-income housing in Minnesota and helped create the Minnesota Housing Partnership; and Howard Mielke, who created the Lead Toxicity Project, which produced an analysis and maps of the lead content in Twin Cities soils.

For more information about visiting scholar opportunities, contact Tom Scott at (612) 625-7340 or scott001@umn.edu.

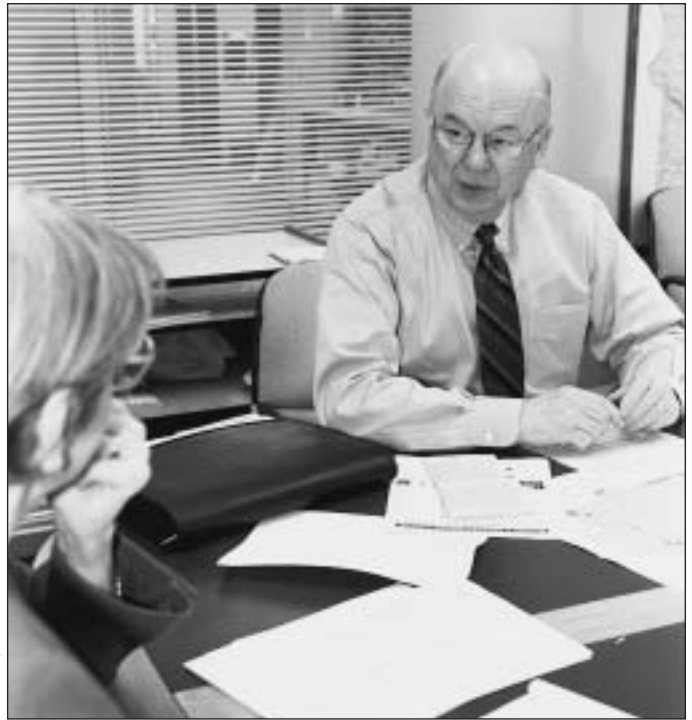


Photo by Steve Schneider

University-Neighborhood Network (UNN)

The University-Neighborhood Network (UNN) is a program of Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR). Through UNN, neighborhood-based revitalization organizations have the opportunity to lead student projects as part of a university course. The projects fulfill a self-defined need of the organization and provide an applied learning experience for students.

Neighborhoods that participate in the program identify projects with which they need assistance. Then UNN locates faculty who teach courses that meet the organization's needs and students who have an interest in the proposed project. Participation in UNN is coordinated through UNN's Web database at <http://www.unn.umn.edu>. Using the database, faculty can post information about their courses, neighborhoods can post proposed projects, and students can choose a specific project that matches their interests and fulfills their course requirements.

Since July 1999, UNN has linked 90 neighborhood organizations with more than 35 academic classes and approximately 350 graduate and undergraduate students.

All projects are completed during the course of one semester—either January through May or September through December. For more information, contact the UNN coordinator by e-mail at unn@umn.edu or visit UNN's Web site at <http://www.unn.umn.edu>.



Photo by Steve Schneider

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