strategizing around context-specific culture and policy change, community organizing, and research/evaluation. By studying both the process and preliminary impacts of this supported team-based model at the two pilot sites, MNCASA hopes to provide evidence that this model can make a difference in communities statewide. Susan Lange, a Master of Public Affairs student at the Humphrey School, is studying the impact of training/technical assistance on the pilot teams’ capacity, as well as developing evaluation tools. The results of this research will be used to inform the structure of future primary-prevention efforts in the pilot communities and statewide, develop tools to assist communities statewide in initiating their own primary-prevention efforts, improve MNCASA’s training and technical support activities, and advocate for primary-prevention support with state policy makers and potential funders.

Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

■ Mapping the Root River Watershed for Increased Implementation of Stormwater Management Strategies. The mission of the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote natural-resource stewardship by providing educational, technical, and financial assistance. Effective stormwater management in the district requires a complete understanding of stormwater drainage in the area. Mary Hammes, a Master of Natural Resource Science and Management student at the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, is aggregating existing data and developing a series of maps showing stormwater drainage areas in cities in the Root River watershed. The Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and the cities in the Root River watershed will use the results of this work to develop education and outreach materials for watershed residents to better understand water issues. Interpretive sites can also use the results to show where stormwater is coming from and how the land use in the area affects water quality and quantity.

Program: Community Assistantship Program (CAP)

Project Assistance Available from CURA

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs supports research and technical assistance through a number of individual programs, each with their own deadlines and application procedures.

■ The Community Assistantship Program (CAP) matches community-based nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies in Greater Minnesota with students who can provide research assistance. Eligible organizations define a research project, submit an application, and, if accepted, are matched with a qualified student to carry out the research. The application deadline for fall semester 2013 assistantships (September through early January 2014) is June 30, 2013. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with applications, contact CAP coordinator Will Craig at 612-625-3321 or wcraig@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cap.

■ The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests can be made by phone, e-mail, or online at z.umn.edu/cgis/help, and generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

■ The Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program (the Nelson Program) provides student research assistance to community and neighborhood-based organizations and suburban government agencies in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. Priority is given to groups serving diverse communities. Projects may include any issue relevant to a neighborhood or community’s needs and interests, including planning, program development, or program evaluation. Applications from organizations collaborating on a project are encouraged. The application deadline for fall semester 2013 assistantships (September through early January 2014) is June 30, 2013. For more information, contact CURA community programs assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or curacbr@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/nelson-program.

■ The Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing (MCNO) trains people to work effectively in organizing and staffing neighborhood organizations. It trains new organizers and increases the skills of existing neighborhood staff, leaders, and volunteers through internships, workshops, and other programs. For more information about MCNO and the training opportunities available, contact Jay Clark at 612-625-2513 or clark037@umn.edu, or Ned Moore at 612-625-5805 or nedmoore@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/mcno.