CURA Work Study Program Receives $25,000 Grant

The Community Development Work Study Program (CDWSP), a joint effort of CURA and the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, has received a $25,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota. The award was made December 7 by Mary S. (Muffie) Gabler, Wells Fargo vice president of community development and community development manager. Gabler said that “Wells Fargo knows how important it is to nurture the next generation of community leaders who will work in the communities in which we do business,” and praised the CDWSP for “giving students time to reflect on and work in communities that need their expertise to flourish.” The funds from the award will be used to help provide internship stipends for students participating in the program. The CDWSP is a joint effort of the University of Minnesota and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides financial support to educational institutions to recruit and support economically disadvantaged students of color committed to community development. Students accepted into the program are provided tuition to pursue a graduate degree in urban and regional planning or public policy. During their degree program, they also gain practical experience through internships with nonprofit organizations or public community development agencies in the Twin Cities. As a result of the program, a new generation of community planners, policy analysts, and specialists will become trained to serve culturally and racially diverse, low-income communities and solve some of the most pressing issues facing our inner cities. The program at the University of Minnesota is jointly administered and funded through CURA and the Humphrey Institute, with additional support from HUD Community Work Study grants (through 2007), foundations, and the organizations in which students are placed. The program contributes to CURA’s mission to engage University of Minnesota students and faculty to assist communities in Minnesota. For more information about the Community Development Work Study Program, visit www.cura.umn.edu/CDWSP.php.