



Smith Partners Sustainability Fellowship
at the
University of Minnesota Water Resources Center

Water Resources Center

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

2016-17 Fellow Katherine McClellan

Katherine McClellan received a B.A. degree with distinction in Geology from Carleton College, where her senior thesis, “Timing of the fluvial response to the Paleocene – Eocene Thermal Maximum of the Bighorn Basin” became a presentation to the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Vancouver, British Columbia. Ms. McClellan has worked as a volunteer on the water monitoring team of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, as a Minnesota GreenCorps member for the Washington Conservation District, and as a research intern at the St. Anthony Falls Lab at the University of Minnesota.

Ms. McClellan is pursuing her M.S. degree in Water Resources Science at the University of Minnesota. Her research interest is investigating the sources of nitrate to shallow groundwater in riparian zones of the Cottonwood River in southwestern Minnesota. She seeks to determine the relative amounts of nitrate from various water sources such as tile drainage, deep groundwater, and precipitation. The ability to calculate the amount of nitrate that is taken up in the riparian zone before it reaches the stream will help to determine which sources of nitrate are most in need of BMPs or alternative management practices.

About the Sustainability Fellowship

Smith Partners PLLP is a law firm dedicated to water resources law and sustainable development whose professionals have all studied at the University of Minnesota. The Smith Partners Sustainability Fellowship supports interdisciplinary study for Water Resources Science graduate students to pursue the connections between sustainable water resources management, economics, and public policy. The

Fellowship affirms the University's commitment to sustainability initiatives through cultivation of interdisciplinary problem-solving, collaborative leadership, and public private partnerships. Smith Partners also seeks to support and encourage more racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in the field of water resources management.

Recipients of the award shall be full-time, first year graduate students enrolled in Water Resources Science working toward a graduate degree and committed to a minor in one of the following: Carlson School of Business Administration, science, technology, public policy, urban and regional planning, environmental health, applied economics, geography, landscape architecture, or others deemed appropriate; be in good academic standing; and demonstrate leadership and community involvement.