FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minneapolis State Mankato Senior Awarded Teaching Assistant Program in France

Senior Kristi Paulsen was recently awarded a position with the Teaching Assistant Program in France. Paulsen has been placed at the secondary school level in the Académie (school district) de Rennes, a northwestern region of France. She will assist middle and high school students in mastering conversational English. Paulsen will defer graduate school for one year while teaching in France. “It aligns with the career choice I want to pursue,” Paulsen said. “I want to become a cultural psychologist and work with international businesses in creating cultural competency in the workplace.” Paulsen also hopes to become fluent in French by the end of the program.

The Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) provides the opportunity to teach English in French elementary or secondary schools for seven months. It is a joint initiative of the French Ministry of Education, the Centre international d’études pédagogiques (CIEP) and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. The intent of the program is to strengthen English-language instruction in French schools by establishing a native speaker presence, while also providing Americans with excellent teaching experience and first-hand knowledge of French language and culture.

Paulsen is a Psychology and French double major and a student in the Honors Program. She works on campus as the Student Activities Director in the Minnesota State Mankato Honors Program. She also works at REM Heartland, a social services organization that provides services for adults with developmental disabilities. In her time at MSU, Paulsen has presented research at five conferences, and her team research project “A Bibliometric Analysis of School Psychology International” was published in the Journal of Undergraduate Research. She has also been the recipient of numerous scholarships, including the Women in Psychology Scholarship.

Paulsen utilized resources in the Office of University Fellowships and the College of Arts and Humanities in pursuit of this award.

For more information on the Office of University Fellowships at Minnesota State Mankato, see www.mnsu.edu/fellowships.

For more information on the College of Arts and Humanities, see http://www.mnsu.edu/carts/.

For more information on the Teaching Assistant Program in France, see http://highereducation.frenchculture.org/teach-in-france.