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MEDIA RELEASE

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HORMEL FOUNDATION SHINES LIGHT INTO FUTURE FOR AUSTIN STUDENTS

Innovative program provides two years tuition free college/technical training

July 13, 2018 (Austin, MN) - The Hormel Foundation's new Austin Assurance Scholarship program has the potential to positively change the future for many Austin High School and Pacelli graduates. It also has the potential to develop home grown leaders who will strengthen our community into the future.

Gary Ray, chair of The Hormel Foundation, stated the foundation will cover tuition and associated expenses so all students - from an early age - understand they are able to obtain a two-year college degree or enter a technical program at Riverland Community College. The scholarships cover the cost of tuition and will begin in the fall of 2019 in collaboration with Riverland Community College, Austin Public Schools and Pacelli Catholic Schools.

"This is by far one of the biggest initiatives in the history of The Hormel Foundation," said Ray. "The program reflects our mission which is to benefit people in the community. Providing this opportunity so all students know they can pursue education and careers that interest them - without the burden of financing the education and training - will give more students a strong start in their lives. We believe it will strengthen our community as well."

Ray emphasized qualified students will be eligible for the scholarship and can

enter any program or major of their interest, whether preparation for a bachelor's degree or higher as well as any of the trades.

Tuition will be provided for classes in an accredited program through Riverland Community College.

"Higher education, post secondary education is a very big piece of a stable community, a community that grows economically and that attracts good talent," said Dr. Adenuga Atewologun, president of Riverland Community College.

"This is definitely is a game changer. Students will benefit and families will derive benefits for many, many years to come."

About The Hormel Foundation

A separate entity from Hormel Foods Corp., The Hormel Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1941 by Hormel Foods Corporation founder George A. Hormel and his son, Jay C. Hormel. Contributions from The Hormel Foundation directly benefit the Austin, Minn., area. The Hormel Foundation was reorganized in 1980 as a supporting organization under I.R.C. Section 509(a)(3). As a supporting organization, it is organized and operated for the benefit of those charitable or educational organizations represented on its board.

Downloadable files of Gary Ray's photo and The Hormel Foundation's logo are available online at:

http://www.hi.umn.edu/images/section_leaders/Gary_Ray.zip

The Hormel Foundation

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