

Candidate: 45533 | General

Daberkow, Jessica

Page: Basic Information
Nominator Information Please provide your information as the nominator of this partnership.
Your Name Daberkow, Jessica
Email Address jessica.daberkow@staff.isd330.org
Title Agriculture Education Instructor/MnACTE President
Employer Heron Lake Okabena Schools
Phone Number 16513565543
Your Relationship to the Partnership? Nominator of the partnership through the Minnesota ACTE and the Minnesota Association of Agriculture Educators
The Partners: Business & Industry Please provide basic information on the business and industry organizations involved in the partnership.
Business/Industry Partner 1
Business/Organization Name Hormel Foundation
Address 329 North Main Street Suite 102L Austin Minnesota 55912 US

Website

www.thehormelfoundation.com (<http://www.thehormelfoundation.com>)

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Health Science, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, Manufacturing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics, Other

Point of Contact

Jeffrey M. Ettinger

Title

Chair, Foundation Board of Directors

Email

jmettinger18@gmail.com

Business/Industry Partner 2 (if applicable)**Business/Organization Name****Address****Website****Main Career Clusters within Industry****Point of Contact****Title****Email****Business/Industry Partner 3 (if applicable)****Business/Organization Name**

Address**Website****Main Career Clusters within Industry****Point of Contact****Title****Email**

Provide information on any other additional business & industry partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these businesses in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The Hormel Foundation is a separate entity from Hormel Foods Corp. and 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, MN area. The Hormel Foundation supports the community through organizations that provide food, shelter, and clothing, advance quality healthcare, education and research, and enhance the quality of life.

The Hormel Foundation has three major focuses: Education, Agriculture, and Health. The support of the Riverland Community College Agricultural and Food Science Technology programs, the Farm Business Management program, and support to engage in research with collaborative partners has been powerful. It has enabled Riverland to create the educational opportunities to train a skilled workforce for the future, and to prepare students to pursue bachelor degrees and advanced degrees. These individuals will contribute to the future of agriculture and food science to benefit not only Minnesota, but impact the U.S. and the world.

The Partners: Educational Institutions & Programs

Please provide basic information on the educational institutions and/or programs involved in the partnership.

Education Partner 1**Educational Institution/Program Name**

Riverland Community College

Address

1900 8th Ave. NW
Austin Minnesota 55912 US

Website

www.riverland.edu (<http://www.riverland.edu>)

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Community or Technical College

Point of Contact

Janelle Koepke

Title

Dean of Institutional Advancement

Email

janelle.koepke@riverland.edu

Education Partner 2 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Education Partner 3 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other education partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these educational institutions/programs in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

Before THF (The Hormel Foundation) support was received, there were no on-campus Ag or Food Science programs at Riverland other than the FBM program, despite Ag being one of the largest industries in the region and across the state with more than 500,000 people working in ag or food science. Students wanting to major in Ag or Food Science had no options at Riverland and would have to travel to distant colleges to pursue a degree. With early support and encouragement from The Hormel Foundation, Riverland created new degrees in Agricultural and Food Science Technology and received approval from the State of Minnesota to again offer majors in Ag and Food Science. The first courses were launched in 2016 with just a few students. Enrollment in the Ag and Food Science programs has grown to 51 students in fall 2020 and another 450+ students in the Farm Business Management program which covers all of southeast Minnesota to the Mississippi River. The Hormel Foundation has provided more than \$2.5 million dollars to the college to create the world-class agriculture academic center at the Austin West Building which includes labs, classrooms, and collaborative working and learning spaces, and to support further exploration of creating a research center. THF funded a John Deere combine simulator for skills training and helped host visits from Governor Tim Walz and Amy Klobuchar. Currently, THF has provided tuition-free scholarship funding for graduates of Austin High or Pacelli who enroll at Riverland.

THF has supported the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District with grant funding for innovative research in soil health, conservation practices, and water quality. This research is done in collaboration with Riverland Community College and allows our students to engage in undergraduate research. THF funding also supports the Sustainable Answer Acre research site near Lansing, MN. Sustainable practices to improve soil health and water quality take place in collaboration with local farmers, Northern Country Co-op, the University of MN CFANS, and Riverland students. THF was a major funder of Riverland's Ag Summit for multiple years pre-COVID which brings farmers, industry partners content experts, high school and college students, and Ag educators together for a day of learning and networking. Each year more than 175 people attended the Summit. In addition, in 2020 THF dedicated \$20,000 in scholarship funds to support some of the 450+ Farm Business Management students who are in their first few years of the program. THF has been one of the college's top donors and has supported other initiatives besides Ag at Riverland. We are so grateful for their support in transforming the lives of our students and serving our communities by creating the workforce of tomorrow. The Hormel Foundation's investment in Ag Education will impact generations of students and will help ensure our local employers will have a highly skilled and capable workforce.

1. What problem was this partnership developed to solve?

The partnership between The Hormel Foundation and Riverland aims to provide 2-years of free community college for students who graduate from high schools in the community of Austin. Austin is a diverse community with more than 50% of K-12 students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship program was developed to provide low-income, first generation, and diverse students an opportunity to enroll in any program at Riverland. The Hormel Foundation believes that providing educational opportunities and career pathways for Austin students will have a positive impact on the community, families, business, and industry, and the workforce pipeline.

2. What steps were taken to get the partnership started?

The Hormel Foundation has supported educational programs at Riverland for several years and began their scholarship support through the Cycles for Success Scholarship program that impacted fewer students. However, The Hormel Foundation had a vision for how they could make a greater impact for a greater population of students in Austin and announced The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship program in 2018 and it began at Riverland in 2019.

Through the process of working with The Hormel Foundation to implement this scholarship it has been important to really listen and understand their goals for the scholarship and what they are hoping to accomplish to ensure that the high schools, Riverland, and other community partners are able to communicate those goals to students.

3. Describe how the partnership was designed to support high-quality CTE.

The Hormel Foundation and Riverland Community College partnership on The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship is a representation of how partnerships support, enhance and advance Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Minnesota. Starting in 2019 graduating students at Austin Public Schools and Pacelli Catholic Schools have the opportunity through this scholarship program to obtain a two-year college degree from Riverland Community College, tuition-free. The reasons for offering The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship are stated by the foundation as:

- Education is an important key to financial well-being and societal contribution
- To reinvest and strengthen the Austin community
- To plant the seed of post-secondary education and training at an early age

This scholarship will make postsecondary education available to many students who would not have this option otherwise. These students will be empowered to focus on their education without having to drop out of school because of lack of tuition funds and they will not have the added worry of accruing student debt for their first two years of college. This program has increased enrollment in CTE programs at the college in areas where there are regional workforce shortages. This scholarship program will change students' lives in a positive way, but it will also greatly improve quality of life in the community and region.

4. What were the results of the partnership? What was innovative about the partnership or its output? How did it benefit students and the community?

Through Fall 2021, 459 students have been awarded The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship for at least one semester. The enrollment of the high school graduating class at Riverland during the year immediately following graduation has increased by 41% compared to prior to the scholarship. The rates of retention and completion for Austin Assurance Scholars have been higher than our overall student population. Fall to Fall retention for Assurance Scholarships is 78% compared with 72% of overall Riverland students. In the first 2 years of the program 113 students graduated.

The innovation of The Hormel Foundation in providing a scholarship that enables an entire community of students to access post-secondary education at Riverland for 5 years after they graduate is the most significant aspect of this scholarship and the benefit and impact it has on the entire community. In addition, the approach to serving students and walking with them through the transition from high school to college is innovative. Initially, The Hormel Foundation provided funding for an academic advisor to focus on these scholarship students. In the years since the scholarship began, Riverland has hired a second advisor. These advisors collaborate closely with high school staff and students to help students apply for the scholarship, apply at Riverland, complete the FAFSA, get registered for courses, and support the students during their time at Riverland to increase retention. This supportive approach connected to scholarship program is not a common approach but one that has worked well in serving this first-generation college student cohort.

Another aspect of this scholarship that benefits the community is the volunteer service requirement. Each student must complete fifty volunteer hours. The 2020 graduating class completed over 9,000 service hours. This makes a significant impact on the community and the engagement of these young adults in giving back.

5. What were the lessons learned during the process of building the partnership? What would you have done differently?

Through the implementation and building of this partnership with The Hormel Foundation, the high schools, and community partners we have learned to identify roles and responsibilities and work in our respective areas. Without having clearly defined roles it would have been easy for Riverland staff or high school staff to overstep in areas of determining eligibility, approving volunteer hours, etc. The Hormel Foundation set clear expectations about the criteria for the scholarship but gave Riverland and the high school partners the opportunity to work out the details together. Early in the implementation we recognized that we would need to create an appeals process to make decisions about unforeseen scenarios. Again, with a clear process with occasional feedback from The Hormel Foundation the implementation has gone well with students benefiting significantly from the generosity of The Hormel Foundation.

6. Is this partnership sustainable? How do you anticipate it will change in the coming year(s)?

The Hormel Foundation is committed to this partnership, and we have set up annual evaluations to measure progress through five key performance indicators. Each year we identify things that are working well and if necessary, ask The Hormel Foundation to consider changing scholarship criteria or eligibility. We at Riverland anticipate that the partnership with The Hormel Foundation will remain strong and is sustainable. As one of their supported organizations we are encouraged by the support they provide for various programs that strengthen Riverland's mission. The scholarship itself may change course, especially as there continue to be legislative considerations for free community college. However, for now we are grateful for the many students who are given access and opportunity because of this scholarship program.

7. How long did it take to create this partnership?

More than 2 years

8. How large of an investment did the businesses and other partner(s) involved make in this partnership (time and money)?

Each year, The Hormel Foundation makes a significant investment in this scholarship program for Austin students who enroll at Riverland. On average they are providing gap scholarships for 225+ students each semester (Fall and Spring). The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship is a gap scholarship that meets the remaining need after state, federal, and other scholarships are applied to a student's tuition and fees balance. Therefore, scholarships range from the minimum of \$500 to a full semester of tuition (\$3,000-\$4,000) for students who are not eligible for state or federal financial aid. Since the scholarship began in 2019 through the Fall 2021 semester, 439 students have received the scholarship for at least one semester.

The Hormel Foundation has asked that we promote the number of students served and impact of this scholarship on their educational journey rather than the investment of The Hormel Foundation in dollars.

9. Would you or an associate be willing to present a session at an ACTE event about this partnership?

Maybe

Page: Anti-Discrimination Policy Agreement

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AGREEMENT

The following policies have been set forth to notify applicants of ACTE's anti-discrimination policy. Please read the following policies before submitting your application and acknowledge that you have read and understood this policy:

ACTE does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, veteran status, citizenship status, genetic information or any other attribute or characteristic protected by law. Our association is dedicated to ensuring the fulfillment of this policy with respect to the selection process.

Any violation of this policy will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. If an applicant believes someone has violated this policy or otherwise has questions regarding this policy, the applicant may bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Director. The association will promptly investigate the facts and circumstances of any claim this policy has been violated and take appropriate corrective measures.

No applicant will be subject to, and ACTE prohibits, any form of discipline or retaliation for reporting perceived violations of this policy, pursuing any such claim, or cooperating in any way in the investigation of such claims.

Agreement

I have read and understand the anti-discrimination policies