

THE HORMEL FOUNDATION TO GRANT \$2.8 MILLION TO FURTHER SCIENCE, MATH AND LITERACY PROGRAMS AT AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUSTIN, Minn. (Sept. 7, 2007)—The Hormel Foundation wishes to announce two significant grants totaling \$2.8 million for science lab renovations and professional development programs for Austin Public Schools.

The Hormel Foundation has agreed to provide \$1.5 million in funding to the Austin Public Schools Programs of Excellence for the purpose of science laboratory renovation at the Austin Public High School. The monies will be utilized by the school district for remodeling and expanding all of the school's science labs, resulting in separate labs for physics, advanced placement biology, general science and chemistry.

In conjunction with the science laboratory renovation grant, the Foundation Board also approved a grant of \$1.3 million to the Austin Public Schools for the purpose of funding fellowships for professional development and advanced coursework certificates and degrees in the areas of math, science and literacy. The program is a partnership with the University of Minnesota.

The Fellowship Program is a cutting-edge teacher development program focused on increasing the content of knowledge and the instructional practices of the Austin Public Schools teaching staff, which will result in increased student achievement and increased learning opportunities for students and staff. The local schools will partner with the University of Minnesota in order to attain advanced coursework and/or degrees in education for its staff with an emphasis in mathematics, science and literacy. The program will be coordinated and monitored by the University of Minnesota, College of Education with plans to provide educational opportunities in Austin to ensure maximum participation by Austin educators.

"This is an exciting time for the Foundation, Austin Public Schools and the Austin community," said Foundation Board Chair Richard L. Knowlton. "The Foundation hopes to provide Austin's educators with the necessary education, tools and support to make sure that every Austin student has the opportunity to obtain a high quality education with rigorous curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities that will allow our students to excel to the next level."

The school district will begin the process of remodeling the third floor of the high school to accommodate the new science laboratories in the summer of 2008. The planning and development of the teacher Fellowship Program has already begun and implementation could begin as early as spring of 2008.

"The support of the Foundation through this grant provides a model of school/business/University partnership that could change the learning environment for students, the teaching environment for educators and can be replicated throughout the state and nation in future years," said Dr. Candace Raskin, superintendent, Austin Public Schools.

About The Hormel Foundation

The Hormel Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was 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.