



SE MN
GLOBAL CENTER
FOR AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SCIENCE
INNOVATION



Creating A New History
for Agriculture and Food
Science Technology



2015
RIVERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Southeastern Minnesota Center for Agriculture and Food Science Innovation

Over a century ago, George A. Hormel envisioned that through entrepreneurial acumen and investment, Austin and Southeastern Minnesota would be a global leader in food and agriculture. Years later, Hormel's vision is advanced not only by Hormel Foods, but by The Hormel Institute, a world-class cancer research destination, and by the STEAM focused (Science, Technology, Engineering, Fine Arts and Mathematics) I.J. Holton Intermediate School.

Riverland Community College proposes the next step in advancing George Hormel's vision: a partnership with The Hormel Foundation to build the SE MN Center for Agriculture and Food Science Innovation – a best-in-class center of excellence that incorporates leading-edge information technology and agricultural science into the practices of farming, food production, and bioenergy. The Austin-based global center will be a destination for students, professionals, practitioners, and communities, enabling them to leverage their collaborative efforts to develop and advance solutions to global agricultural challenges.



With expectations of worldwide food needs to double by 2050, Southeastern Minnesota is poised to be a key resource.

The Vision

- Create a global center of excellence for agriculture and technology in Austin, Minnesota that benefits Southeastern Minnesota and the world.
- Focus on innovative virtual simulation, leading edge technologies (e.g. drones, robotics, wind/solar, global information systems) and innovative applied research in agriculture and food science.
- Address challenges facing the next generation of producers, leaders and entrepreneurs.
- Showcase the history of agriculture in Minnesota and create a legacy for the future.

Southeastern Minnesota Center for Agriculture and Food Science Innovation

- A global center attracting people worldwide for learning and innovation.
- A global center reflecting the history of agriculture in Minnesota.
- A global center supporting synergy between agriculture and food science and research conducted by The Hormel Institute.
- A global center leading to innovations in the farm-to-fork movement, alternative energies (biofuels, wind/solar), skin care products, and pharmaceuticals



The Strategy

- Demonstration and educational farm
- Educational classrooms and labs
- Historical wing
- Computer and global instruction systems
- Entrepreneurial enterprise and innovative applied research that inspires change for future generations

The 3-Year Plan

PHASE I: (July 2015 – December 2016) Enhance academic programming and program development, build community awareness, and develop broad-based support. (\$500,000)

PHASE II: (January 2016 – July 2017) Create the center, including the learning environment. (\$4 Million)

PHASE III: (July 2017 – July 2018) Secure demonstration farmland, acquire advanced equipment, build endowment for faculty and scholarships for students. (\$3.5 Million)

PHASE IV: (Ongoing) Connect the SE MN Center for Agriculture and Food Science Innovation with local businesses, attracting and developing new entrepreneurs and fostering startups in the communities we serve.

The Riverland Advantage

- A rich history and commitment to agricultural education and innovation
- Agriculture is a college priority, identified in the 2013 strategic plan
- Location: situated between two land-grant universities
- Location: proximity to the The Hormel Institute
- Location: proximity to Hormel Foods Corporation
- Established partnerships with The Hormel Foundation on community projects

Build Upon Riverland Community College's Historic Commitment to Serving Agriculture Throughout Southern Minnesota

- Riverland's Farm Business Management Program is one of the college's top enrolling programs.
- Riverland's 2013 strategic plan, "The Blueprint for Excellence" identifies agriculture as a top priority over the years ahead and identifies the Austin campus as the anchor site for the programs that will serve students across the region.
- As part of the college's strategic plan, Riverland will open five new programs in fall 2015
 - Agricultural Sciences
 - Food Science Technology
 - Biotechnology
 - Precision Agriculture
 - Agribusiness



- Riverland has established baccalaureate degree pathways with Minnesota State University, Mankato for the agriculture and food science technology programs. A pathway for agronomy has been established with Southwest Minnesota State University; a pathway in Agriculture Teacher Education is under development.
- Riverland has established a strong tradition of partnerships with K-12, the National Science Foundation, The U.S. Department of Labor, MnSCU's Centers of Excellence, and with local and regional business and industry. Partnerships are being pursued with the NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) centers.

Riverland Farm Business Management

This personalized program is designed to help working farmers improve business operations. Learning more about agriculture and applying it directly to the farm is the best way to maintain a competitive edge. Riverland's highly-qualified, licensed instructors provide practical training in; accounting, budgeting, finance, tax management, business analysis, and marketing plus helping chart business trends. Instructors work directly on farms across Southeastern Minnesota with all members of the family who participate in business operations. This is a very effective method for problem solving and helping clientele meet business and personal goals.

Largest Enrollment Programs

1. Liberal Arts & Pre-Program
2. Farm Business Management
3. Nursing/Practical Nursing
4. Computer Technology
5. Business and Office Careers
6. Business
7. Human Services
8. Accounting
9. Law Enforcement
10. Supervisory Management

Top Ten Cities Where Riverland Students Originate

Austin	802	Waseca	55
Albert Lea	503	Blooming Prairie	55
Owatonna	421	Alden	50
Rochester	69	Faribault	50
Spring Valley	63	Medford	44

Students

2013-2014 Total:	4,332	25 and Over:	68%
Part-Time:	60%	24 and Under:	32%
Full-Time:	40%		

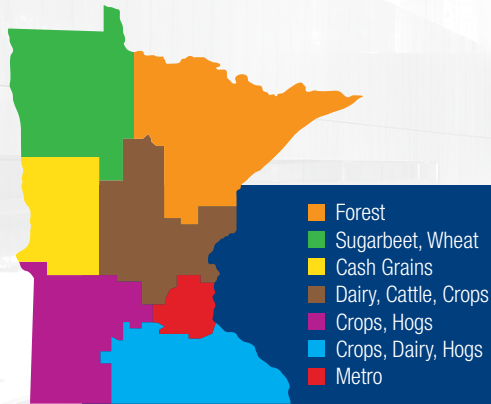
Student Diversity

2014	17%	Hispanic/Latino:	9%
2013	16%	Black/African American:	4%
2012	15.1%	Two or More Races:	2%
2011	15.5%	Asian:	1%
2010	14.9%		



The Challenge

- Create a destination in Austin, Minnesota for the convergence of agriculture and technology that impacts our world.
- Develop an International Center that focuses on virtual simulation, cutting edge technology, and innovative applied research in agriculture and food science.
- Build a self-sustaining center of excellence that meets "Best in Class" standards as proposed in Riverland's Strategic Blueprint and MnSCU's strategic framework.
- Showcase the history of agriculture in Minnesota and create a legacy for the future.



Riverland's Mission, Vision, and Heart

Vision: Achieve "Best in Class" status in programs through excellence in teaching, scholarship and service.

Mission: Riverland Community College inspires personal success through education.

Heart of Riverland: Riverland Community College is dedicated to our students, our mission, and our communities.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Strategic Framework

- Ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans
- Be the partner of choice to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs
- Deliver to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the highest value most affordable option

\$8.2 BILLION
AGRICULTURAL EXPORT REVENUE

RANKED 4TH
FOR LARGEST AGRICULTURAL EXPORTING STATE

Minnesota's agriculture sector provides more than **340,000** state jobs and creates **\$75 billion** in economic activity.



The Hormel Foundation's Strong Partnership with Riverland Community College

The Hormel Foundation's vision for excellence in postsecondary education has been truly transformative. The Foundation continues to be an extraordinary partner that supports Riverland Community College's students and programs. The Foundation's focus has been on student access and on providing the margin of excellence needed for the college's educational programs to provide students the best possible learning experience.

Riverland completed a 17,000 sq. ft. early childhood education center in a private-public partnership with The Hormel Foundation and the Hormel Foods Corporation. The facility, valued at more than \$3 million, was gifted to Riverland. This state-of-the-art childcare center serves over 300 children of community residents, Riverland students and staff, and provides a "learning laboratory" for Riverland students pursuing careers in education, nursing, law enforcement, and human services.

Since 2010, The Hormel Foundation has provided \$1 million to fund the Cycles for Success scholarship program at Riverland. Cycles for Success supports high school graduates who typically would not pursue postsecondary education because of

financial barriers. The program helps to increase high school graduation rates, college-readiness levels, and participation rates in postsecondary education. Each year more than 85 students benefit from this scholarship program.

In 2007, The Hormel Foundation began supporting Riverland's "Be Your Best Summer Prep Academy," a summer bridge program that helps students improve their academic skills in preparation for college. Focusing on minority and other traditionally underrepresented students, the Foundation's \$40,000 annual investment has advanced this program into an award-winning best practice that has successfully served more than 150 students.

In 2013, The Hormel Foundation provided \$5,000 to help the Riverland Foundation purchase a new scholarship software program and annually supports the project with \$3,000, increasing the opportunity for students to apply for scholarships.

Finally, The Hormel Foundation has sponsored and hosted two Agriculture Summits with Riverland Community College.

“ This center of excellence for agriculture and food science innovation in Austin is well suited to train people for middle-skills positions through a collaboration with The Hormel Foundation and Riverland Community College. It illustrates how private and public partnerships build curriculum to advance career opportunities and assists the community for workforce development. ”

– Gary J. Ray, The Hormel Foundation Board of Directors Chair

