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75 Green Bay, Wausau Middle School Students to Take Part in Smithfield Foods' Learners to Leaders™ Leadership Conference

Community educational partnership helps disadvantaged youth learn what it takes to become a leader

GREEN BAY, Wis. (June 19, 2007) – About 75 middle school students from the Green Bay and Wausau School Districts will take part in a leadership conference June 21-22 as part of Learners to Leaders, a community educational partnership sponsored by Smithfield Foods and its local operating company, Smithfield Beef Group.

The conference, which will be held at the Chula Vista Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells, will focus on the types of attributes and skills needed to become a leader. The students attending the conference were selected based on their classroom performance. They include first generation college-bound students as well as low-income and minority students.

The Green Bay and Wausau students participate in the state of Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs, which also helps identify and select qualified students for Learners to Leaders.

Learners to Leaders is a national educational alliance funded by Smithfield Foods and made up of Smithfield's independent operating companies and local educational partners.

In Green Bay, Learners to Leaders is administered by Smithfield Beef Group and Kewaunee-based Destination Education, a nonprofit organization that provides support services to educational institutions and communities to promote the importance of education and its role in cultivating the skills necessary for students to become productive, caring and responsible citizens. The organization serves Northeast Wisconsin.

“The leadership conference is a key element in the overall effort to prepare these students for success at the college level,” said Steve Van Lannen, Senior Vice President for Smithfield Beef Group and local Learners to Leaders liaison. “During the two-day session they will learn about obstacles to success, what kinds of qualities it takes to be a good leader and how to use various resources to be successful.”

According to Tori Nelson, chief executive officer for Destination Education, Learners to Leaders serves a critical need for these students. “While these young people face some social, economic or academic challenges, they also have demonstrated the potential to learn the skills they need to succeed. Learners to Leaders will teach them those skills.”

“We want to make students aware that, with proper preparation, they have a limitless selection of career choices,” said Dennis Treacy, executive director of the Smithfield-Luter Foundation and vice president of environmental and corporate affairs at Smithfield Foods. The Smithfield-Luter Foundation provides funding for Learners to Leaders.

“Smithfield Foods is committed to this program because we believe education is the foundation of any community, and Learners to Leaders is our way of giving back to the communities where our employees live, work and raise their families,” Treacy added.

Through Learners to Leaders, 200 to 350 eligible middle and high school students from the Green Bay School District and Northeast Wisconsin will have the opportunity to participate in leadership conferences, educational workshops, cultural activities and incentive trips.

With sales of \$12 billion, Smithfield is the leading processor and marketer of fresh pork and processed meats in the United States, as well as the largest producer of hogs. For more information, visit www.smithfieldfoods.com.

Smithfield Beef Group is a supplier of high-quality, value-added fresh beef and case-ready beef to the foodservice, retail and international markets. Smithfield's beef business is now the fifth largest in the United States, employing about 5,500 people. The company is headquartered in Green Bay, Wis., and has plants in Green Bay, Souderton, Pa., Tolleson, Ariz. and Plainwell, Mich.

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