



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Three Local Corporations Honored for Investment in Education**

*Cargill, Travelers, and Ecolab recognized for supporting college readiness in Twin Cities*

Minneapolis, MN (June 9, 2016): [AVID](#) (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a nationally-recognized nonprofit and college-readiness system, will honor [Cargill](#), [Travelers](#), and [Ecolab](#) at a special community luncheon on Wednesday, June 15, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. These companies have funded AVID's work with Minneapolis and Saint Paul's Schools for a decade, helping to close the achievement gap and ensure all students have the opportunity to be college and career ready.

"Preparing students for college and career success has a far-reaching impact. We commend Cargill, Travelers, and Ecolab for their dedication to their community and the work they've done to create positive change for generations to come in Minneapolis and Saint Paul," said AVID's CEO, Dr. Sandy Husk, who will be at the luncheon to personally thank these companies.

Cargill has donated nearly \$4 million to support AVID in Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) with a focus on closing the achievement gap for historically underrepresented populations and potential first-generation college students in Minneapolis.

"Cargill is investing in next-generation leaders and building the talent pipeline and economic landscape in our local community," said Tolá Oyewole, a Director of Cargill's Foundation and Corporate Giving. "We know long-term investment is required to improve student outcomes and AVID has demonstrated meaningful results."

In Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), Travelers has given nearly \$6 million in funding for AVID, as part of their corporate strategy to create a college pipeline for students, particularly those who are disenfranchised and underrepresented in higher education. "Supporting organizations and programs, like AVID, that improve academic and career success is a major focus for Travelers," said Marlene Ibsen, President and CEO of the Travelers Foundation. "Today's students are tomorrow's workforce and ensuring that they have the opportunities needed to prepare for college and careers is vital to the success of the community."

Ecolab has contributed more than \$430,000 to SPPS's AVID work as well, fully funding the AVID program at Humboldt High School. Kris Taylor, Ecolab's Vice President of Community Relations, praised AVID's work, "Ecolab seeks to provide students with the extra support they may need to succeed in college and life. AVID teaches students organization, reading and writing, collaborative problem

solving, and critical thinking which are the skills needed to learn and improve academically, and take them forward into successful futures.”

Each of these corporations has donated more than money to the AVID programs at MPS and SPPS, by providing job shadowing, guest speakers, field trips, and special graduation celebrations for local AVID students. Their support for AVID has changed countless lives through education.

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### **ABOUT AVID**

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a nonprofit, proven college-readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in over 5,600 schools in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 other countries/territories and impacts almost 1.3 million students nationwide in grades K–12, as well as in 43 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school’s academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education. For more information, visit [www.AVID.org](http://www.AVID.org).

### **ABOUT CARGILL**

Cargill provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services to the world. Together with farmers, customers, governments and communities, the company helps people thrive by applying its insights and [150 years](#) of experience. Cargill has 149,000 employees in 70 countries who are committed to feeding the world in a responsible way, reducing environmental impact and improving the communities where they live and work. For more information, visit [Cargill.com](http://Cargill.com) and the company’s [News Center](#).

### **ABOUT TRAVELERS**

The Travelers Companies, Inc. (NYSE: [TRV](#)) is a leading provider of property casualty insurance for [auto](#), [home](#) and [business](#). A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Travelers has approximately 30,000 employees and generated revenues of approximately \$27 billion in 2015. For more information, visit [www.travelers.com](http://www.travelers.com).

### **ABOUT ECOLAB**

A trusted partner at more than one million customer locations, Ecolab is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services that protect people and vital resources. With 2015 sales of \$13.5 billion and 47,000 associates, Ecolab delivers comprehensive solutions and on-site service to promote safe food, maintain clean environments, optimize water and energy use and improve operational efficiencies for customers in the food, healthcare, energy, hospitality and industrial markets in more than 170 countries around the world. For more Ecolab news and information, visit [www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com).

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