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For immediate release

Twin Cities Companies Receive Jefferson Awards at Hill Library

December 8, 2008 (St. Paul, MN) – The Wilmington, Del.-based *Jefferson Awards* and the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* honored the first local recipients of the Jefferson Awards at the historic James J. Hill Reference Library on December 4, 2008. One hundred and fifty Twin Cities business community leaders attended the event.

The Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Sen. Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard, founder and chairman of the National Development Council, to honor public and community service. The Jefferson Awards are led by a board of selectors who choose national winners.

Sam Beard, one of the co-founders of the Jefferson Awards and grandson of James J. Hill, presented this year's ten winners with the awards. Among the winners were: Ameriprise Financial, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, CSM Corporation, Cub Foods, Cummins Power Generation, Mortenson Construction, OLSON, Target, U.S. Bancorp, and UnitedHealth Group. Of the 10 honored companies, one will be selected by the Jefferson Awards to receive a national award at the National Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., in June 2009.

“For the first time, we’ve teamed with the Wilmington, Del.-based *Jefferson Awards* to bring more attention to Twin Cities’ companies’ efforts,” said Jenny Woods, Associate Editor of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*. “The honorees of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*’s annual Corporate Philanthropy project deserve plenty of recognition for their good works, even if they don’t seek it. And this year, one of them will see their community spirit feted on the national level.”

“We’re happy to partner with the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* and *Jefferson Awards* to host the award ceremony in the Great Reading Room of the Hill Library, where business owners and people conduct research every day, looking for information essential to growing their businesses,” said Jim Poole, Hill Library’s Membership Development Manager. “Going forward, the *Business Journal* will name one new winner a month, with an annual celebration held each November at the Hill Library.”

To learn more about this prestigious national recognition system honoring community and public service in America, please visit www.jeffersonawards.org. To submit a nomination for the Jefferson Awards, please contact Jenny Woods, Associate Editor of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*, at jwoods@bizjournals.com or 612-288-2104.

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The James J. Hill Reference Library is a private, non-profit library located in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Library houses a world-class collection of resources and is considered the most comprehensive publicly accessible practical business library in America. The mission of the Hill Library is to provide access to and assistance in finding the practical business information clients need to succeed. The Hill Library was founded in 1921 by one of the nation's true business pioneers, James J. Hill.

More information at www.jjhill.org.

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