

For immediate release

The Minnesota Way of Doing Business Symposium

Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership Hosts Symposium to Examine 150 Years of Responsible, Visionary and Community-Minded Leadership Among Minnesota Businesses

October 4, 2008 (St. Paul) – More than one-hundred and twenty business leaders and public officials were in attendance of the “The Minnesota Way of Doing Business” on October 2, 2008, a symposium presented by the Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership and the Office of the Secretary of State. The event celebrated and examined how leading Minnesota companies do business, both locally and around the world.

“We know that people nationally and globally like doing business with Minnesotans. We have a reputation for honesty, generosity, and a sense of community that promotes strong and enduring relationships,” said Dr. Charles A. Weinstein, Director of the Hill Center. “Our businesses have grown and profited from this tradition of enlightened leadership. The towns and cities where these companies do business reflect their commitment to community building.”

As Minnesota is celebrating its sesquicentennial, the symposium invited the state’s business leaders to explore reflect upon the history, the current state, and the future of Minnesota’s prosperity and promote the ways to advance the Minnesota tradition of responsible, visionary and community-minded business leadership.

Among the symposium speakers were: Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State, Minnesota (also Symposium co-chair); Beth Cieslik, Target Corporation; Chris B. Berghoff, Control Products; Dr. Christopher P. Puto, University of St. Thomas; Jayne Clairmont and Cathy Clairmont, English Rose Suites; and Dr. Charles A. Weinstein, Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership.

“The symposium participants had the opportunity to hear from speakers that come from businesses of all sizes,” said Weinstein. “They shared their experiences and ethical practices that drive commercial success, through strong relationships with customers, communities, vendors, partners, investors, and employees.” The symposium also discussed how ethical values and commercial strategies are integrated into the education of future business leaders.

“Hearing CEOs of small businesses talk about how they run their companies in accordance with their values really helped me think about how I can run my organization,” remarked a symposium attendee.

The symposium was held at the downtown St. Paul headquarters of Travelers, followed by cocktail reception and conversation in the historic the James J. Hill Reference Library on Rice Park.

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“The Minnesota Way of Doing Business” was presented by the Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership and the Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State, and sponsored by Travelers and the SAIP Institute of the Opus College of Business, University of Saint Thomas.

To view presentations from the symposium, please visit www.jjhill.org/symposium.

The new Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership is Hill Library’s latest initiative to help businesses prosper through a strategic commitment to ethics and social responsibility. Learn more about the Hill Center at www.jjhill.org/ethics.

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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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