



For immediate release

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## MRHD online Spring Grant application process to open Feb. 15

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (Feb. 1, 2018) - Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD) will open the online application process for its 27<sup>th</sup> Spring Grants on Feb. 15.

Woodbury County-based, non-profit groups and government entities are invited to apply. The maximum individual Spring Grant is \$15,000.

Grant application forms may be requested at [www.mrhdiowa.org](http://www.mrhdiowa.org) Feb. 15 through March 15. Telephone and postal service requests will not be accepted. Completed grant application forms are due April 1. Grants will be awarded by MRHD at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 16 at the Betty Strong Encounter Center

Requests for grant application forms require a copy of the non-profit's "Certificate of Good Standing" issued by the Secretary of State Office, Corporate Division, Des Moines, Iowa. Government entities must submit a letter from their chief operating officer, indicating the entity has board approval to request grant applications and to receive grants.

2017 MRHD Grant recipients *cannot* apply for another grant until 2019. Recipient organizations that have not completed a project funded by a MRHD Grant also are ineligible. MRHD 2017 Holiday Gift recipient organizations may apply for a Spring Grant. However, they may not receive a Holiday Grant two years in a row.

MRHD's Spring Grants program was conceived, is conducted and administered by MRHD exclusively under present policy guidelines as voted by the MRHD Board of Directors. Present

policy calls for grants to be awarded once a year in May to Woodbury County-based non-profits. A panel collects and reviews grant applications. The Grant Committee then presents recommendations to the full MRHD Board for final approval.

A non-profit organization, MRHD has the license to conduct gaming in Woodbury County. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City has the license to operate gaming in Woodbury County.

Since 1994, MRHD has awarded 814 Spring Grants totaling more than \$5 million. Grants have helped fund programs and services throughout Woodbury County in the areas of economic development, tourism, health and human services, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, historical, religious, community improvements, culture, leisure and education.

Total MRHD distributions since 1994 have added up to more than \$31 million. Major MRHD contributions have gone to dozens of non-profit organizations and government entities, including: Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Siouxland; Sky Ranch Behavioral Services, a program of Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP); the Restoration Center; the Warming Shelter; Welcome Home; the Sioux City Public Museum; American Red Cross; Council on Sexual and Domestic Violence; Mary Treglia Community House; Area Agency on Aging; Siouxland Food Bank; Sanford Community Center; Habitat for Humanity; the AID Center; Sioux City Art Center; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center; IBP Ice Center; Tyson Event Center; and the Loren Callendar Clock Tower at Sioux City's City Hall.

MRHD built the Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in 2002 at a cost of \$4 million. MRHD also built the adjoining Betty Strong Encounter Center in 2007 at a cost of \$3.6 million. Since 2002, MRHD's funding for the Center's operation has totaled more than \$6 million.

MRHD was formed in 1989 when Woodbury County voters approved a referendum that sanctioned riverboat gaming. A second referendum passed by 75 percent in 2002. The third referendum passed by 77 percent in 2010.



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## MRHD awards scholarship funds to Woodbury County colleges

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (Feb. 1, 2018) – Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD) awarded a total of \$250,000 in scholarship funds to four Woodbury County colleges Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Betty Strong Encounter Center.

“College expenses can place significant strain on students and their families. MRHD is pleased to provide some relief for those students,” said Dakin Schultz, President of MRHD.

MRHD awarded \$65,000 each to Briar Cliff University; Morningside College; and Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC); and \$55,000 to St. Luke’s College of Nursing.

MRHD scholarships encourage students to study, work and live in Woodbury County. However, remaining in the county after graduation is not a scholarship requirement. The colleges will administer the scholarships.

Students who attended Woodbury County high schools are eligible for the scholarships which will be awarded in amounts up to \$2,500 a semester for a total of \$5,000 for one year. Students must have less than a 3.0 grade point average.

MRHD awarded \$250,000 in scholarship funding to the four colleges in 2017; \$150,000 in 2016; and \$100,000 in 2015. This year’s college scholarships bring MRHD’s total contributions to Woodbury County non-profit organizations and projects to more than \$31 million since 1994.

Education is one of five key areas in the MRHD Grants Program. Others are: Human Services and Health Services; Civic, Public, Patriotic, Charitable and Religious; Economic Development, Community Improvement and Tourism; and Leisure, Cultural and Historical.