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**Applications Open Jan. 15 for 2018 ARC Summer Internship Program
– Internship Valued at \$5,000 –**

NEW PRAGUE, MINNESOTA (Jan. 15, 2018) – The Agricultural Relations Council (ARC) will accept student applications for the 2018 Summer Internship Program for the next six weeks, beginning Jan. 15. Applications are due Feb. 28. Students interested in a career in agricultural public relations and communications are encouraged to apply. The intern will receive \$4,000 and a \$1,000 expense stipend to attend the annual ARC meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in June.

In this second year of the internship program since its rebirth in 2017, the 2018 Internship will be hosted by National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). The selected student will spend 10-12 weeks in Denver, Colorado working under the guidance of Daren Williams, long-time ARC member and past president. As the senior executive director, issues management and media relations, Williams will guide the student in working on projects for the beef checkoff issues management and media relations team. The student will participate in daily issues monitoring and will assist in responding on behalf of the beef industry.

In addition, the student will assist in planning and coordinating the 2018 ARC professional development meeting -- and will then attend the meeting to be held June 20-21 in Louisville.

Applicants must be an undergraduate sophomore, junior or senior. The student selected for the internship will be notified within two weeks after the submission deadline of Feb. 28.

The internship is unique in agricultural communications in that it is a collaboration of ARC and the host company, this year, NCBA. The ARC portion of the funding comes from a grant from Gardner & Gardner Communications to the ARC Foundation.

The 2017 Internship was awarded to Hannah Oates, University of Kentucky. Oates interned with ARC members at Alltech in Nicholasville, Kentucky. After completing the internship, Oates had glowing praise for her opportunity.

"I have learned more than I ever expected, gained more professional skills than any previous job, and have a newfound respect for agriculture and all that goes into delivering food to consumers," Oates said. "I am beyond grateful for this experience and so excited to see how it shapes and leads my future endeavors. This is a summer to remember."

For more information, go to www.agrelationscouncil.org. Click on the Contest and Awards Section at the top of the home page. Or email/call Amy Keith McDonald at the ARC office for more information – amymcdonald@gandgcomm.com or 254/396-3535.

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