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AUGUSTANA REGENT RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD FOR WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE

SAINT PAUL – (Feb 13, 2019) – Augustana Regent in Burnsville recently received a Stars Among Us Star Workplace Award from LeadingAge Minnesota for innovative partnership with Apple Valley High School E3STEM program that is helping address the growing workforce challenges in aging services.

“The Innovation Award honors programs that transform and enhance the experience of aging,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “Augustana Regent is proactively addressing its workforce challenges through an innovative partnership that will expose and recruit high school students to the rewarding, valued careers in aging services”

Recognizing a need to connect with you and share real-life experience on the rewarding careers that exist within the field of aging services, Augustana Regent explored a new opportunity with the Apply Valley High School E3STEM program. The program is designed to connect students with a variety of experiences in the science, technology, engineering and math fields to help prepare them for post-secondary education and careers in the STEM field.

To help attract students to participate in the program, Apple Valley High School has an agreement with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College for students to receive credit for college courses while attending high school. The E3STEM program covers the cost of the six-week CNA course and the CNA exam.

Over the past three years, Augustana Regent has hosted six open houses with more than 50 students. During the open house, the students meet with the Augustan Regent management team, learn about career opportunities in the aging services field, and interact with residents and staff. Augustana Regent also serves as a site for CNA students to complete their clinicals.

Since the first open house, Augustana Regent has had 56 students take the CNA training course and hired 11 of the students. Augustana Regent has deepened its relationship with the program by participating in the E3STEM Career Fair that features more than 200 businesses and is attended by 2,000 students and parents. They have also joined the E3STEM team in making presentations to local Rotary Clubs and Workforce Development Boards regarding the partnership.

Based on the success of the E3STEM program, Augustana Regent created a mentor/mentee program where residents at the setting go to Apple Valley High School to mentor students struggling with English as a second language and assist them with math and other course studies.

“Aging services providers have to take the lead in resolving their workforce challenges, and they will not be able to do that without partnerships. Through our partnership with Apple Valley High School, we are opening doors to students who are exploring the next step in their lives when high school ends and strengthening relationships to ensure aging services careers are included in the core curriculum for STEM programs,” said Vicki Tobroxen, Director of Housing, Augustana Regent. “This program also created new purpose and opportunities for our residents, who are now experiencing intergenerational learning and relationships through a mentorship program.”

Augustana Regent is now exploring additional opportunities with other local high schools to replicate the program and plans to utilize the Home and Community-Based Services Scholarship Program through the State of Minnesota to help fund the CNA program for interested students.

About LeadingAge Minnesota

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota works alongside its members, caregivers, advocates and consumers to collectively shape the future of aging services and ensure older adults in every community live with dignity, meaning and purpose. Together with more than 60,000 caregivers, LeadingAge Minnesota members provide quality services and supports to nearly 70,000 older adults every day in independent senior housing, assisted living communities, adult day, in-home care and skilled nursing facilities.

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