### THE HARKIN INSTITUTE

2019 Annual Report



The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement exists to inform citizens, inspire creative cooperation, and catalyze change on issues of social justice, fairness, and opportunity.

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**



### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Connecting people with policy. It is a concise tag line that tells a lot about the work we do here at The Harkin Institute. I've thought about those connections a lot while reflecting on our past year, from students and the public to jobseekers, business owners and policymakers, we constantly seek out opportunities to serve as a catalyst. This annual report highlights several of the many connections we've made over the past year.

We kicked off the year connecting with our largest audiences ever with three events carried on C-SPAN in September and October, including Senator Tom Harkin's (retired) Constitution Day Lecture at the Robert C. Byrd Center in Shepherdstown, WV; Drawn Out: How Iowa got Redistricting Right, an event put on by the Institute at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.; and our fall Sussman Lecture at Drake, featuring NASA Chief Historian Bill Barry, who highlighted 60 years of space exploration.

In August, we welcomed Amy Bentley as the Institute's first policy director, and she immediately began making connections with experts and the public on our issue areas of labor and employment, people with disabilities, retirement security and wellness and nutrition. Amy and Lyndi Buckingham-Schutt, associate director of wellness and nutrition, have created a robust portfolio of ongoing research, events and publications.

Our fiscal year ended as strongly as it began, with the announcement and ceremonial groundbreaking for a new home for The Harkin Institute on the Drake University campus. As you've likely heard by now, this state-of-the-art accessible building will provide many more opportunities for all people to connect with the Institute and our work. It will also serve as a model of universal design and raise the bar for what it means to create an inclusive workspace and gathering place.

I am proud of all that has been accomplished at The Harkin Institute and am excited to carry this momentum into the coming year and years to come as we continue to work tirelessly to connect, engage, and catalyze individuals around issues of social justice.

Joseph Jones
Executive Director



# **Table of Contents**

Leadership	5
2018-19 Institute Events	6
Public Policy	8
People with Disabilities	10
Wellness and Nutrition	12
Archives	14
Student Program	16
D.C. Experience Scholarship	17
Outreach	18
Thank You to Our Supporters	19

### LEADERSHIP

# **National Advisory Council**

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Associate Director of Wellness and Nutrition Policy

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### STEPHANIE SINOVIC

Senior Advancement Officer, Drake University Advancement

#### **HOPE BIBENS**

Political Papers Archivist Assistant Professor, Drake University

### **MEG JOHNSON**



### **2018-19 INSTITUTE EVENTS**

### **September 17, 2018**

Constitution Day Lecture ft. Senator Tom Harkin (retired) Robert C. Byrd Center Shepherdstown, WV

### October 9, 2018

D.C. Experience Scholarship Open House The Harkin Institute

### **November 1, 2018**

Sussman Lecture ft. Dr. Bill Barry, NASA Chief Historian Drake University



NASA Chief Historian Bill Barry delivers the fall Sussman Lecture to a sold-out audience in Sussman Theater.

November 29, 2018
An Evening with Charlie Cook
Drake University

### **September 18, 2018**

Drawn Out: How Iowa got Redistricting Right Washington, D.C.

October 17, 2018
Handicap THIS!
Drake University

### **October 18, 2018**

Senior Lecture ft. Aditi Mukherji, Bourlaug Field Award Recipient Drake University

November 15-16, 2018
Harkin International Disability
Employment Summit

Washington, D.C.

The Harkin Institute

November 28, 2018
Student Lunch with Tiffany Tauscheck



### February 12, 2019

A Conversation with Eric Holder
Drake University

### February 26, 2019

Student Lunch with Drake
University President Marty Martin
The Harkin Institute

### March 12, 2019

Student Lunch with Drake University Provost Sue Mattison The Harkin Institute

### March 26, 2019

Policy on Tap Des Moines, IA

### **April 8-9, 2019**

Harkin International Disability Employment Summit Paris, France





### March 12, 2019

Shifting the Balance of Power Drake University

### **April 3, 2019**

Harkin on Wellness Symposium
Drake University

### May 1, 2019

Sussman Lecture feat. Guadalupe Sánchez Salazar, Consul of Mexico in Omaha and Ariel Delouya, Consul General a.i. at the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis Drake University

### May 17, 2019

Ceremonial Groundbreaking Drake University

### June 12, 2019

Harkin on Wellness Report Release Washington, D.C.

### **PUBLIC POLICY**

# **Connecting Research with Policy**

The Harkin Institute continues Senator Tom Harkin's (retired) commitment to advancing opportunities for people with disabilities, wellness and nutrition, retirement security, and labor and employment. Our initiatives in these policy areas provide high-quality, nonpartisan,

data-driven research and analysis for decisionmakers and the public. Each focus area has an advisory committee comprised of experts in their key policy areas. These diverse groups help define the Institute's research agendas.

### **Labor and Employment Advisory Committee**

**Jared Bernstein,** Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Heidi Shierholz, Senior Economist and Director of Policy, Economic Policy Institute

David Weil, Dean and Professor, Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University

### **Retirement Security Advisory Committee**

Michael Kreps, Principal, Groom Law Group Donna Mueller, CEO, Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS)

Alicia H. Munnell, Director, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

Larry Zimpleman, Retired Board Chairman, Principal



On March 12, 2019, The Harkin Institute partnered with the University of Iowa Labor Center, Iowa Federation of Labor and the Iowa Chapter of the American Constitution Society to host the event, Shifting the Balance of Power, exploring the value unions provide to communities and how organizing efforts are reshaping workplaces in Iowa and across the U.S.

### **Meet new Policy Director Amy Bentley**



Amy Bentley joined The Harkin Institute as Policy Director in August 2018. Bentley oversees all public policy in which the Institute engages. This includes management of all research areas, the policy team, policy-related events, and research fellows. She leads the Institute in engaging in our four primary research areas, labor and

employment, people with disabilities, retirement security, and wellness and nutrition.

Prior to joining The Harkin Institute, Bentley worked as an executive officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources focusing on water quality issues. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa and a Bachelor's in law, politics, and society from Drake University.

"Having worked in government, nonprofit, and more traditional academia, I am excited by the unique position the Institute is in to overcome some of the natural limitations to policy work conducted in these sectors," Bentley said. "I look forward to being a part of policy research and analysis that is useful to both decision-makers and the general public in understanding and moving forward complex social issues."



### Meet our newest fellows



Julie Christensen

Research Focus Area: People with Disabilities

Dr. Julie Christensen has spent her 20year career working to improve quality of life outcomes for at-risk youth, including youth with intellectual and development disabilities, through promoting employment and access to leisure and recreation opportunities in inclusive settings.

Research: Dr. Christensen will conduct research and programming around federal disability policy in areas such as employment, quality of life, and education.



**Shannon Myers** 

Research
Focus Areas:
People with
Disabilities
Wellness and
Nutrition

Shannon Myers is a certified rehabilitation counselor, integrative health coach and small business owner. Myers recently completed a contract with West Des Moines-based genomics company Rx-Precision, where she created and oversaw clinical case management.

Research: Myers is studying the barriers that pregnant women with disabilities face when accessing health care.

### **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

# **Connecting People with Employment**

The Harkin Institute and several partner organizations hosted two Harkin International Disability Employment Summits in fiscal year 2019, including the first Harkin Summit overseas in Paris, France, in April.

The 2019 Harkin Summit in Paris added global momentum to the issues of access and employment for people with disabilities. The event drew 180 people from 27 countries – many of whom were able to attend for the first time.

"Hosting the Harkin Summit in countries around the globe helps us to connect with more people in truly meaningful ways, helping to spread momentum, not just to new individuals but new countries and communities as well," said Harkin Institute Executive Director Joseph Jones.

To date, 603 individuals from more than 50 countries have attended at least one Harkin Summit, including representatives from business, government, disability advocacy, education, foundations, and NGOs. (Continued on next page)



### **The Harkin Challenge**



"I believe that the world is at a tipping point on this issue of competitive, integrated employment for hundreds of millions of people with disabilities,"

Senator Tom Harkin (retired),
2019 Harkin Summit, France

In his 40 years in Congress, Senator Harkin played a leadership role in enacting a legislative agenda that advanced the civil and human rights of children and adults with disabilities.

Over that time, he became increasingly focused on one area – helping people with all types of disabilities participate fully in their communities by working in a competitive labor market. Yet, three decades after the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) went into effect, 60 percent of Americans with disabilities are unemployed. In some developing countries, that number increases to 80-90 percent.

That is why Senator Harkin issued a bold challenge at the 2017 Harkin Summit to double the labor force participation rate of people with disabilities in the United States and around the world in 10 years.

Tackling this problem will require collaboration and partnership across sectors with a common goal of generating new approaches that bring sectors together to re-imagine what is possible.

Learn more about the Harkin Challenge and how to get involved at *harkinsummit.org*.



The 2019 Harkin Summit was put on in close partnership with Humanity & Inclusion, a France-based non-profit organization that works alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations in situations of poverty, exclusion, conflict and disaster.

The Summit addressed how to mobilize participants to accelerate global change in the disability employment space and encourage a mobilized audience to connect and build partnerships with other stakeholders.

Attendees also discussed how to navigate global disability employment policies, best practices for businesses, building a disability-inclusive talent pipeline and how to implement disability employment initiatives in small- and medium-sized companies.

"It is my hope and the intent of The Harkin Institute that this work continues to evolve and grow," Senator Tom Harkin (retired) told Summit attendees in Paris. "We need to move this work forward so that we can achieve that goal of doubling the labor force participation rate among people with disabilities globally, and then we can set a new goal, to have even more people with disabilities not only working, but serving in senior roles and leading their own organizations."

### **Disability Policy Advisory Committee**

Kelly Buckland, Executive Director, National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

Candace Cable, Nine-time Paralympian and leader in the adaptive sports movement

Caroline Casey, Founder of Binc, social entrepreneur and speaker

Michael Gamel-McCormick, Disability Policy Director, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging

Claudia Gordon, Director of Government and Compliance, Sprint Accessibility

**Bob Kafka**, Disability activist and organizer for ADAPT

Leah Katz-Hernandez, Communications Manager, CEO Office, Microsoft

**David Mitchell**, Administrator, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Charlotte McClain-Nhalpo, Global Disability Advisor in the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience (GP SURR) Global Practice of the World Bank

**Bobby Silverstein,** Government relations and disability rights expert and attorney, former Harkin legislative staffer

**Susan Sygall,** CEO and co-founder, Mobility International USA

**Terry Wilding,** Superintendent, Minnesota State Academies

Alex Watters, City Council, Sioux City, IA; Advisor, Morningside College

# **Connecting Resources with Initiative**

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network supplies food to 14 neighborhood pantries in the Des Moines Metro Area.

Its innovative Food Pantry 2.0 initiative earned DMARC a 2019 Harkin on Wellness (HOW) designation and then-Executive Director Sarai Rice presented about the program and its success at the 2019 Harkin on Wellness Symposium.

The HOW Report was established to highlight programs and organizations that have had success advancing wellness and nutrition on a community level. The report is meant to share best practices and offer resources with individuals who are looking to make an impact in their communities but don't know where to start.

DMARC was one of 10 programs recognized in the 2019 HOW Report for their work strategically connecting food systems with health and wellness.

"Creating a more sustainable approach to our food system helps to ensure better health outcomes for individuals and reduces the growing chronic

Individual Property of the Pro

Food at DMARC pantries carry points and clients who select healthier choices are able to expand and extend their monthly food supply.

disease burden, minimizes the impact on the environment and distributes healthy, nutritious food in an equitable manner to communities across the nation," said Lyndi Buckingham-Schutt, The Harkin Institute's associate director of wellness and nutrition policy and author of the Harkin on Wellness Report.



"DMARC is a perfect example of how one organization can act as a change maker at multiple points in the traditional food supply chain."

- Lyndi Buckingham-Schutt
Associate Director of Wellness
and Nutrition Policy

Food Pantry 2.0 is DMARC's effort to combat the increasing rate of diet-related chronic conditions reported by its clients. The program provides low-income individuals with fresh produce and healthier choices through a signature point system. It is the only known food pantry in the State of Iowa that has successfully and significantly resulted in increased fruit and vegetable consumption among low-income individuals.

The foundation of Food Pantry 2.0 is a custom point system that assigns values to food items based on nutritional content. The healthier the food, the lower the assigned point value. Clients who select healthier choices are able to expand and extend their monthly food supply.

"DMARC is a perfect example of how one organization can act as a change maker at multiple points in the traditional food supply chain," Buckingham-Schutt said. "The success of Food Pantry 2.0 has increased demand for healthy food, working back along the food supply chain to increase procurement of nutritious food."

A survey of pantry clients at a pilot location found that nearly all clients reported an appreciation for increased access to healthier foods like fruits and vegetables that are otherwise inaccessible and unaffordable.

During the first year of the pilot, selection of fruits and vegetables in monthly food allotments increased by about 20 percent, and the total number of overall points that clients are using has decreased even while selection of fruits and vegetables has increased.

What started as a pilot project in one food pantry has now expanded to two additional pantries in the DMARC network, and the organization plans to incorporate additional elements into the Food Pantry 2.0 design, including medical tracking, health coaching, nutrition education, physical recreation opportunities and more.

### **Wellness and Nutrition Advisory Committee**

**Bill Dietz,** Director, Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University

Risa Lavisso-Mourey, Former President and CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**Dean Ornish,** Founder and President, Preventative Medicine Research Institute, Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of San Francisco

Michael T. Roberts, Founding Executive Director, Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law

Andrew Weil, Founder and Program Director, University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine



### 2019 Harkin on Wellness Report Release -



The Harkin Institute celebrated the HOW Report in an event at the National Press Club in June 2019.

HOW Designees Stephen Ritz, founder of the Green Bronx Machine, and Alex Moore, Chief

Development Officer at DC Central Kitchen both spoke at the event, along with Senator Tom Harkin (retired) and Bill Dietz, Director of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at the Milken Institute of Public Health at George Washington University.

### 2019 Harkin on Wellness Designees

- Boulder Valley School District School Food Project
- Colorado Children's Hospital
- DC Central Kitchen
- Detroit Food Academy
- DMARC
- The Farm at St. Joe's, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System
- Food Commons
- · Green Bronx Machine
- Main Street Project: Sharing Our Roots Program
- New Haven Farms

Read the full 2019 Harkin on Wellness Report on our website, harkininstitute.org.

# **Connecting People with the Past**

The Drake University Archives and Special Collections and the School of Occupational Therapy (OT) are teaming up to provide job training for students in transition from high school to the workforce.

Political Papers Archivist Hope Bibens, occupational therapy doctoral candidate Carrie Behrends and transition student Hannah Corkrean collaborated in the Archives to help Corkrean gain job skills.

The formal partnership between the OT school and the Archives began in the fall of 2018 when a first-year OT class did an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility assessment on the Archives and Cowles Library.

Rachel Allen-McHugh, professor and occupational therapy learning facilitator, hosting said Senator Harkin (retired) Tom in the occupational therapy inspired the building collaboration. Senator

Harkin was the principal author of the ADA and established The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement at Drake in 2013. The Institute continues to do work in the area of disability policy, particularly as it relates to competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.

Allen-McHugh said Senator Harkin's work with the ADA aligns with OT's mission of helping people live purposeful, engaging, meaningful lives. "When the person whose papers you have in your collection did so much for people with disabilities, you want to make sure they can come in and use the materials too," Bibens said. "That was really important to us from the very beginning, that the Archives be accessible."

Allen-McHugh said their goal is to go beyond the general requirements of the ADA and be an example for other schools and organizations to go the extra mile in accessibility. In the Archives, Corkrean works on skills such as typing and

data entry, which she will need when she joins the workforce, Behrends said.

"Carrie helps Hannah adapt her workspace so she can make sure the desk and the computer and everything are working for her," Bibens said.

On their first day, Behrends and Corkrean took a tour of the Archives and had the opportunity to look at

the ADA. Then, they worked on data entry and typing.

"We work through our challenges together and we work through the potential barriers she may face when she lives independently," Behrends said. "It's really exciting for us that we were able to be the first ones here to hopefully open the door for many more students to come."

One of the most memorable moments of working with Corkrean was when she was able to access



"When the person whose papers you have in your collection did so much for people with disabilities, you want to make sure they can come in and use the materials, too."

- Hope Bibens
Political Papers Archivist

the large moving shelving units in the Archives, Bibens said.

They initially were worried the shelving units would not be accessible, and were excited when Corkrean had no problem using them. Working on problem-solving situations like those create a unique experience for Corkrean tailored to her specific needs, Allen-McHugh added.

Corkrean said of her experiences at the Archives, "It has been awesome, and Carrie was so helpful and so fun to work with. I'm going to miss her so much."

One of Senator Harkin's goals is to increase the employment of people with disabilities, and this program is another step in the right direction, Bibens said.

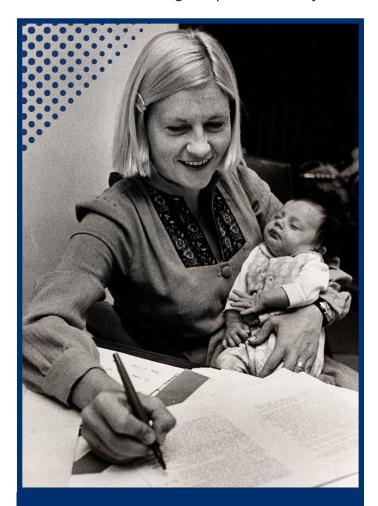
"We love working with The Harkin Institute and with the Archives here," Allen-McHugh said. "It has been really positive and I feel that hopefully it is a win-win that we can really use our skills as occupational therapists in the space and just really bring the essence and the passion behind the ADA to life."

The program has also allowed other visitors to the Archives to see people of all abilities who are living the ADA mission and empowering people to envision themselves doing the job or occupation they want to do, Allen-McHugh said.

Corkrean graduated from high school in 2018 and is currently involved in Project Search, a program that connects her to internship opportunities. Bibens said this collaboration aims to bridge the gap between high school and the workforce, providing students in transition with the skills they need to work in an office setting.

The next steps are to keep working to solve problems and fill the need for work for students in transition, Bibens said.

Bibens said there is still room to grow, and she hopes to work with more transition students who are looking for a place to practice their skills.



# Ruth Harkin donates papers to the Drake Archives

In 2018, Ruth Harkin donated her papers to the Drake Archives and Special Collections, including photographs, clippings, awards, and other memorabilia from her career.

Ruth Harkin was the first woman elected Story County Attorney in 1972. She was appointed President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation by President Bill Clinton in 1993, becoming the first female to lead the organization. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in August 2018.

In addition to materials from Senator Tom Harkin (retired) and Ruth Harkin, the Drake Archives is home to collections from Governor Robert Ray, Congressman Neal Smith and Wayne Ford, among others.

### **STUDENT PROGRAM**

# **Connecting Students with Experience**



key components of Jordan's landmark disability legislation at the 2018 Harkin Summit.

Drake University students play an integral role in The Harkin Institute's work. During the 2018-19 school year, The Harkin Institute employed 18

undergraduates and one law student who helped conduct research, coordinate events and manage the organization's communications.

In 2017, the government of Jordan passed landmark disability legislation modeled after the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act. Harkin Institute Executive Director Joseph Jones knew representatives from Jordan planned to attend the 2018 Harkin Summit, and

wanted to do something to commemorate their monumental achievement.

Students translated the legislation from Arabic to English and identified key sections. They translated the summary back to Arabic and turned it into a compelling infographic.

"It was an interesting experience to not only learn about the Jordanian law but also design a document I knew would be used to help

educate individuals about the importance of the legislation," said Student Communications Manager Kayla Garrigan.

Fall 2018 Graduate Alex Hassel

Spring 2019 Graduates
Catherine Anderson
Allyson Miller
Maiya Mindoro
Peter Larson (Drake
Law School)

Garrigan and Student Research Manager Alex Hassel hand-delivered the infographic to His Royal Highness Prince Mired bin Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, president of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan, and his advisors at the 2018 Harkin Summit.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet HRH Prince Mired and provide him with the infographic," Garrigan said. "Attending the Harkin Summit and learning about the true impact it will have for people in Jordan is something I'll never forget."

### D.C. EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

# **Connecting Talent with Opportunity**



Julie Uram joined The Harkin Institute's student staff in 2018 eager to work on food policy issues.

Uram got to continue her federal nutrition policy research over the summer as an intern in Washington, D.C., at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), a leading consumer advocacy organization focused on food safety and nutrition access.

"I am drawn to the complexities of food system work, and my time at the Institute and CSPI have provided me real-world experiences that have opened my eyes to the career possibilities within food and nutrition public policy."

The CSPI internship was unpaid, but Uram received a D.C. Experience Scholarship

### **D.C. Experience Scholarship Committee**

Zach Nunn, Iowa State Senator

Paula Dierenfeld, Mayor of Johnston, IA

Ray Walton, Former Harkin Staffer

Denise Stowman, Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Drake University

Senator Tom Harkin (Retired)

from The Harkin Institute, which helps Drake undergraduate students with financial need cover housing and travel costs for summer internships in Washington.

At CSPI, Uram contributed to several ongoing projects, including conducting interviews with key informants of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Iowa, gathering field data about sugary drink placement and price promotion in grocery stores, and attending meetings of the D.C. sugar-sweetened beverage tax coalition.

"My internship at CSPI was extremely helpful in terms of preparing me for future work in the food and nutrition policy sector," Uram said. "I gained skills in qualitative analysis, interviewing, literature review, survey assessment, and data organization, and learned about public nutrition issues I previously knew nothing about."

The Harkin Institute is working directly with CSPI on the SNAP project, and Uram has been able to continue her work on the project in the fall.



Meet our 2019 D.C. Experience Scholarship Recipients

### **Ivy Beckenholdt**

Congresswoman Cindy Axne's Office

### **Rachel Fritz**

Bread for the World

### **Sloan Nickel**

National Women's Law Center

### **Julie Uram**

Center for Science in the Public Interest

### **OUTREACH**

# **Connecting Campus with Our Work**



Zach Mecham has become a common figure on the Drake University campus, first as a student and then, for the past two years, as the outreach coordinator for The Harkin Institute.

"I was excited to have the opportunity to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to the legacy of Senator Harkin," Mecham said. "Being involved in disability advocacy, I knew how his work on the ADA promoted inclusion for people with disabilities. To do equity and inclusion work for an organization that bears his name was a true honor."

Mecham worked at the Institute as a member of AmeriCorps VISTA, a national service program designed to help alleviate poverty.

Mecham has spent the last two years helping

to establish and oversee a robust student outreach program at The Harkin Institute. He has helped to raise the Institute's profile on campus through class visits, meetings with Drake student organizations, faculty and staff, and coordinating Institute participation at various Drake events. Mecham has helped to grow the student staff into a diverse group of dedicated employees and increase applications for the D.C. Experience Scholarship.

"I couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity to work and grow at The Harkin Institute," he said. "As I move on to new opportunities and adventures, I will take with me many new skills and fond memories."

Mecham's VISTA term at The Harkin Institute concludes in February 2020. ■

# Thank You to Our Supporters

Our friends of The Harkin Institute make what we do here possible. We thank them for their generous support of our mission. This is an honor roll of donors who have made a gift in fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019.)

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