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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Selected for National Effort to Build Financial Inclusion for Families

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Dubuque is among a diverse group of eight cities competitively selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) to participate in its Financial Inclusion Systems and City Leadership (FISCL) project.

Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol will join colleagues from the seven other selected cities for a Mayors' Institute on Financial Inclusion in April. The Mayors' Institute will give the mayors and their associates an opportunity to engage with national experts and peers to develop practical solutions to local challenges and take advantage of new and existing opportunities to help residents gain a solid financial foothold.

The Mayors' Institute is part of FISCL, a two-year project supported by MetLife Foundation and designed to help cities build sustainable city-wide systems that improve residents' financial health and stability. By participating in FISCL, mayors and other city leaders will increase their capacity to develop initiatives that help families expand access to safe and affordable financial services and financial education, accumulate savings, reduce debt and build assets.

"We are very pleased Dubuque was selected for this competitive program," said Buol. "Economic prosperity is one of the three pillars of our approach to sustainability and the FISCL project will enhance our existing efforts to assist residents in being more financially secure."

The City will work with Project HOPE and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to convene key stakeholders who provide financial services and education in order to set community-wide goals that improve access to our financial system in Dubuque. Project HOPE supports cross-sector partnerships in Dubuque to create more equitable financial services through programs like Bank On Dubuque and matched savings initiatives. Inclusion in the FISCL project will allow the Dubuque partnership to learn from and with other communities to strengthen our efforts.

"While many cities across the country are experiencing economic recovery and growth, this prosperity has not reached residents across all rungs of the economic ladder," said NLC President Melodee Colbert-Kean, councilmember and former mayor, Joplin, Mo. "This project will give mayors a unique opportunity to implement and strengthen innovative strategies to address the financial challenges many residents face on a daily basis."

In addition to the Mayors' Institute, NLC's FISCL initiative will support efforts in Dubuque to improve the financial stability of families through ongoing technical assistance, opportunities to apply for grant funds to support local financial inclusion efforts and numerous opportunities for peer learning and exchange. Dubuque will also have an opportunity to showcase their local strategies at NLC's National Summit on Financial Inclusion, a convening of cities across the country that will take place in early 2017.

This project builds upon NLC's successful partnership with MetLife Foundation. In 2014, with MetLife Foundation's support, NLC conducted in-depth research on financial inclusion programs in cities across the U.S., which informed the design of the project and which culminated in the comprehensive report, "[City Financial Inclusion Efforts: A National Overview](#)." This report highlights the growing commitment of city leaders to address their residents' financial inclusion challenges.

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About the National League of Cities

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. For more information, visit www.nlc.org.

About Project HOPE

Since 2008, the City of Dubuque and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque have partnered to support Project HOPE. Together with a strong set of partners, Project HOPE seeks to increase access to opportunity for all community members by supporting provider networks for change, expanding pathways to education and employment and helping families build economic security. For more information, visit www.dbqfoundation.org/projecthope.

About the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque strengthens communities and inspires giving by serving donors, supporting nonprofits and leading collaborative initiatives to address community needs. For more information, visit www.dbqfoundation.org.