

Illinois ag pays tribute to Speaker Hastert

FORMER Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert of Plano will be honored for his 27 years of public service to Illinois agriculture during a tribute dinner scheduled for Saturday, March 29, from 6 to 10 p.m., at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

The event, being hosted by Illinois Farm Bureau, IAA Foundation and the museum, will benefit Illinois Agriculture

in the Classroom programs and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences.

"Speaker Hastert has always been a good friend to agriculture, so it seems quite appropriate that those in agriculture come together to honor him," says Philip Nelson, president of Illinois Farm Bureau.

Besides the dinner and program, attendees will have the opportunity to ex-

perience four of the museum's exhibits, including the newly updated and expanded agricultural exhibit, titled Farm Tech. Other exhibits will include the Great Train Story, Toymaker 3000 and The Coal Mine.

There are several levels of sponsorships from which attendees can select.

■ For \$125, participants can attend the dinner and open reception.

■ Those attending as a \$275 Tribute

VIP will receive one dinner and a VIP Reception reservation, a photo with Speaker Hastert, their name listed in the program booklet, preferred reserved seating, and an autographed copy of the speaker's autobiography.

■ Those attending as a \$500 Tribute VIP will receive two dinners, and the other perks listed above.

■ Tables for 10 are available by calling the IAA Foundation office at 309-557-2230.

Those wishing to attend the event must RSVP by March 13 to the IAA Foundation, or register online at www.iaafoundation.org.

■ For additional information, call the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2230.



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Class builds ag leaders

THE Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program is looking for a few good people to be part of its next class. Applications are being accepted now through April 30 for the Class of 2010.

The program, which combines classroom with hands-on learning and travel experiences, is open to Illinois agricultural professionals between the ages of 25 and 49 (as of the date you submit your application), engaged full time in agricultural production or ag-related businesses.

The format of seven Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program seminars per year allows each participant to continue his/her farming or agribusiness career while completing the two-year program.

The mission of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation, which administers the program, is to develop knowledgeable and effective spokespersons to become policy and decision makers for the agricultural industry.

"The Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program prepares you to think, communicate and network so that you can not only compete in a high-tech business, but also lead a very rapidly changing, dynamic industry," says Ron Warfield, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program Class of 1984 and foundation board member. "The IALP provides advanced education for agricultural leaders in a world where information and education is king in the market-driven global economy."

To date, over 350 men and women throughout Illinois have participated in the first twelve classes.

■ For more information, contact the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation office, P.O. Box 160, Macomb, IL 61455. You can also call 309-837-7711 or download the application forms from the IALF Web site at www.agleadership.org.