

WELCOME

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

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Stephen Lauer

Program Coordinator - World Food Prize Foundation

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the 2015 Iowa Hunger Summit. It's a real privilege to have everybody here. My name is Stephen Lauer, and I'm a program coordinator here at the World Food Prize, and I've helped put his event together, along with my great team. I just want to welcome everybody here.

And now it's my great pleasure to introduce our President of the World Food Prize Foundation, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, raised in Dubuque, Iowa. He started the Iowa SHARES Program under Governor Ray, was an ambassador to Cambodia, and a great friend of Dr. Borlaug's, and so he's recently been awarded last year with the Iowa Award for outstanding civilian service. So, everybody, please welcome Ambassador Quinn.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

Wow! Terrific to see such a wonderful crowd. We're going to have to open the back doors, and some more people are showing up.

I want to say a couple of words, though, about Stephen. He's been with the World Food Prize now close to ten years. As he would tell you, only two of them have been as a paid member of the staff. But he came up through our youth program. He started at the Global Youth Institute, then he was a Borlaug-Ruan intern in Egypt, then he was a Wallace Carver fellow with USDA, and came back and has showed his commitment to the issues of hunger. And so he's now in charge of this, all the Iowa hunger initiatives, the Hunger Directory – he developed all of this. So thank you, Stephen, for what you're doing.

So I know, Senator Dvorsky, thank you for coming today. Russ Melby is in the back of the house – there's Russ, all right. He's getting the Iowa Shares Award at noon.

I just want to say a couple of things. First of all, I hope you all saw *The Des Moines Register*, terrific front-page article on "Hunger Today." If you haven't seen it, get a copy, read about the things that are going on and what Polk County and John Mauro are going to do very shortly. I know that subject will be discussed here today.

But I want to share two things with you, first of all about Norman Borlaug, because Norman Borlaug is the inspiration for the Hunger Summit. And Norman Borlaug learned about hunger,

not overseas, not in Mexico, not in Africa, not in India – he learned about it in Minnesota, in Minneapolis and St. Paul at the University of Minnesota. Whenever I meet somebody from Minnesota – I know there’s some Minnesota grads here – and I always say to them, “Well, you stole Norman Borlaug from us, like you stole Brett Favre from the Green Bay Packers.” And I still get the laugh – I’m glad.

But here’s the thing. Probably if he’d gone to Northern Iowa or Iowa State, he wouldn’t have seen what he saw. Because as we rode through the streets of Oslo on the hundredth anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize, he told me about how it affected him to see people sleeping on the streets in Minneapolis during the Depression and how that stayed with him all his life and led to his commitment that of course then took him with his degree to Mexico and the world. And so this was really in Norman Borlaug’s heart.

Secondly, the first time and the genesis of the Hunger Summit came in 2003 when we did our first panel with Bread for the World. With David Beckmann, our 2010 laureate who’s here and going to be here in the program, with MAZON - A Jewish Response to Hunger, and the late Bob Forney, who was leading what was then called America’s Second Harvest and now is Feeding America. And we did a panel about “Hunger in America.” And M.S. Swaminathan, who was our very first laureate, is the dean of the laureates, chair of our Selection Committee for our World Food Prize laureates and I think the most revered agricultural scientist on the face of the earth, turned to me and he said, “I didn’t know there was hunger in America.”

And it’s easy, if you live in certain places, not to see the hungry, and people didn’t realize it. And so we thought there needed to be this forum to be the place where we could bring attention to these issues – *Fighting Hunger at Home and Abroad*. That’s what the Hunger Summit is about. That’s why we want every organization to come, why we have the Hunger Directory. We want to encourage you to sign up. We now have 480 organizations in it, so that people see what Iowans are doing to fight hunger; and that will inspire them to do even more.

And I want to be sure I thank our sponsors, Farm Bureau, FBL. My mom told me, “You can’t say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ enough,” So thank you, Craig Hill, Farm Bureau, FBL for being the sponsor. We couldn’t be doing this without them.