FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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# St. Louis Mosaic Project Announces its 40<sup>th</sup> Ambassador Company

St. Louis Mosaic Project is pleased to announce Ariel Premium Supply as the 40<sup>th</sup> Mosaic Ambassador Company. Mosaic Ambassador Companies promote diversity and inclusion in the work place and place value in creating a more internationally welcoming work environment.

Ariel Premium Supply is a growing company in St. Louis that supplies promotional products to a wide range of industries. Ariel Premium Supply was founded in 1993 by Dr. Tai Lin, who came from Taiwan to complete his studies at Washington University in St. Louis. The company has a diverse workforce; total of 400 employees, of which 200 are in St. Louis and the others are in Shanghai, India, Taiwan and Tijuana. Their products are sold throughout the United States as well as Canada.

Most recently, Ariel Premium Supply's largest sales are in the product categories of face masks, gel containers and tools that help people stay safe and healthy from the threat of Covid-19. Being able to quickly pivot their production to Covid-related items allowed them to keep almost all workers at Ariel employed despite the pandemic. Furthermore, the emphasis on the health products carries over to their health and wellness conscious policies demonstrated at the warehouse, which is located near Page and Highway 170.

To continue their effort in making a positive impact for the community, Ariel has partnered with volunteer orchestra members from the St. Louis Symphony and others to put on neighborhood concerts that are socially distanced, and gave away free masks made by Ariel. They also provided sound system for the concerts that allowed musicians to play harmoniously without getting hindered by the distance. Ariel will resume their effort in creating a welcoming and safe environment for communities to come together.

Ariel Premium Supply associates will promote Mosaic programs and share the mission to drive regional economic prosperity through immigration and innovation.

## **About the St. Louis Mosaic Project**

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report, outlining St. Louis to be lagging in immigrant growth as well as highlighting the economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project is a regional initiative that is professionally managed by St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center St. Louis and a 32-member committee. Its goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing major metropolitan area for immigration by 2025, to add 25,000 more foreign born to the region from 2016-2025 and to promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. More: stlmosaicproject.org

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# Global AgTech Hub, The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Becomes 41<sup>st</sup> Mosaic Ambassador Company

Mosaic is pleased to announce The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center as the 41<sup>st</sup> Mosaic Ambassador Company at the Gold Level. Mosaic Ambassador Companies engage in action items that promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace. At the Gold Level, companies agree to spread awareness of the St. Louis Mosaic Project, encourage associates to become Mosaic Ambassadors, and participate in volunteer opportunities that support international communities. Additionally, Gold Companies sponsor at least one employee toward an H1-B visa or similar visa sponsorship.

The Danforth Center has been actively involved in the Mosaic's International Spouse Program and the International Mentoring Program, as well as the Professional Connector Program. Furthermore, Danforth Center Executive Director of Innovation Partnerships, Stephanie Regagnon, will serve on the Mosaic Steering Committee.

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center ("Danforth Center") is an independent 501©3 nonprofit founded in 1998 with a mission to improve the human condition through plant science. Community members at the Danforth Center and within the BRDG Park represent more than 29 countries. Based in Creve Coeur, Missouri, Center scientists conduct fundamental research and develop new technologies to develop healthier, more sustainable crops and bring those products to market.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are core values of the Danforth Center, and an internal Advisory Council and Assembly ensure that the Center maintains an environment in which everybody feels comfortable and excels. This includes amplifying the achievements of its international talent throughout the organization by highlighting successful grants and research programs developed by international associates; hiring international students in STEM fields for internships and offering OPT/OPT-STEM programs for international students with F-1 visas; and hiring international scholars with J-1 visas through the University of Missouri, and sponsors work visas. They also hold many internal community member celebrations and a daily tea time to provide opportunity for community members to come together, connect, collaborate and celebrate the diverse cultures and individuals who make up the Center.

As the St. Louis region plays a role of a global hub of AgTech, Danforth Center brings in investors, farmers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders from around the world to tackle questions of national and global importance including food production, soil health, innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, food waste, and food security for its annual AgTech NEXT Summit.

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## **About The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center**

Founded in 1998, the <u>Donald Danforth Plant Science Center</u> is a not-for-profit research institute with a mission to improve the human condition through plant science. Research, education and outreach aim to have impact at the nexus of food security and the environment, and position the St. Louis region as a world center for plant science. The Center's work is funded through competitive grants from many sources, including the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Follow us on Twitter at <u>@DanforthCenter</u>.

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