

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**April 12, 2018**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Celebrate Grand Opening of The Merrill Hotel and Conference Center**

Muscatine, IA - The newly opened Merrill Hotel and Conference Center will mark its official Grand Opening on April 12, 2018 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an invitation-only reception in the Grand Ballroom.

Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg will be among the 130 invitees attending the Ribbon Cutting ceremony in front of the hotel. After the ceremony, guests will be welcomed to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks in the beautifully appointed Grand Ballroom, situated on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Stan Howe Conference Center.

Named in honor of Stanley Merrill Howe, a Muscatine native who served as president, chairman and chief executive officer of Hon Industries, Inc. and who is a major benefactor of the city of Muscatine, the \$42 million project is located at 119 West Mississippi Drive, next to the former Hotel Muscatine and in the heart of the historic downtown Muscatine riverfront area.

“The Merrill is just one example of the successes the citizens of Muscatine achieve every single day in this great city” commented Jim Howe, son of Stan Howe. “Its purpose is to create a sustainable economic foundation within the downtown area that will allow for further growth and development in small businesses within the community. We are honored and excited to bring this project to fruition to Muscatine.”

The hotel opening is a culmination of 2 years construction and development. This project translates into 100 jobs and an estimated \$81 million impression on Iowa's economy through use of Iowa companies such as Merit Construction Company (Cedar Rapids, IA) amongst others and featuring Muscatine artists and businesses throughout the hotel.

Designed for business and leisure travelers alike, the Merrill Hotel and Conference Center offers 122 uniquely styled guest rooms, with areas for both productivity and relaxation. Guests will enjoy favorite amenities during their stay, such as the 24-hour Fitness Center, 24-hour Business Center and 24-hour heated Salt Water Lap Pool, along with an on-site full-service restaurant and lounge called Maxwell's. The outdoor green space (currently under construction) will feature an outdoor fire table and water fall, brick pathway and bench seating, as well as several locally commissions sculptures.

The Merrill Hotel & Conference Center is a proud member of the International Association of Conference Centers and the only IACC certified meeting venue in the state of Iowa. With over 12,000 square feet of meeting space and more than 16 flexible meeting rooms, the hotel is poised to offer area businesses and those looking for special occasion venues the very best in meeting facilities.

Located at 119 West Mississippi Drive near the newly renovated Riverside Park, The Merrill Hotel & Conference Center is just steps away from the Mississippi River. Perfectly situated near an abundance of cultural, historical, educational, and recreational activities, The Merrill Hotel is proud to be a part of the Muscatine community and is looking forward to becoming a destination hotel for those visiting the area on business or pleasure and in serving the local residents.

For more information on The Merrill Hotel & Conference Center, call Lori Denney at (563) 263-2600, ext. 7935 or cell (763) 242-1448. You may visit our website at

[www.themerrill.com](http://www.themerrill.com). The Merrill Hotel & Conference Center is operated by Riley Hotel Group and owned by Riverview Hotel Development.