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### **Muscatine Bridge Lighting**

Muscatine, IA -- Another significant enhancement will shine brightly on Muscatine thanks to the combined efforts of several generous companies/entities.

Plans began in 2005 when a Leadership Muscatine team, which is a program co-sponsored by Muscatine Community College and Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry, had a new vision for the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge. They wanted to permanently illuminate the bridge, allowing creativity, art, and technology to uniquely showcase the structure that spans the Mississippi River.

Leadership Muscatine implemented the design and with the Muscatine City Council's approval, a grant application was successfully submitted for securing \$100,000 of Regional Enhancement Funds. In addition, the project was very fortunate to receive a major gift of \$250,000 from Musco Lighting, LLC to make this project the first of its kind.

Now Leadership Muscatine's goal of lighting the superstructure of the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge is only hours away from becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of Musco Lighting, LLC, and other significant contributors including Stanley Consultants, Inc., Muscatine Power & Water, Iowa Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard, and the City of Muscatine.

This project will position Muscatine as having the first bridge spanning the Mississippi River with LED lighting. By installing LED (Light Emitting Diode) lighting, the bridge will become a decorative feature on the Muscatine riverfront, making Muscatine unique among river towns on the Mississippi River.

The lighting will span the bridge structure as well as a portion of the deck beams. When illuminated, the lighting on the bridge will appear "soft" and appealing to the eye. Using LED lighting, 16.7 million color options and numerous lighting schemes are available. The Norbert F. Beckey Bridge can be harmonious to the seasons and festivities in the community. Furthermore, lighting the bridge will serve as an example of turning infrastructure into a cultural art that will be appealing to all citizens of Muscatine.

Residents from Muscatine and surrounding areas are invited to see the inaugural lighting of the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m.

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