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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **James J. Hill Center Hosts 1 Million Cups**

### **Program to Educate and Connect Local Entrepreneurs**

**SAINT PAUL, Minn. – (June 26, 2014)** – James J. Hill Center will host 1 Million Cups, a free program to engage, educate and connect local entrepreneurs with the goal to build a strong startup community over a cup of coffee and a conversation. The program is set to launch on July 16, 2014 and will run from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and continue every Wednesday at the James J. Hill Center (80 4th Street West, St Paul).

1 Million cups, developed by the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, was created to expand our nation's entrepreneurial network. The rationale is if entrepreneurs share 1 million cups of coffee, magical business outcomes will occur in that community. 1 Million Cups began 18 months ago and is currently in 45 cities around the country and averages more than 25-250 weekly attendees per city. For more information, visit [1millioncups.com](http://1millioncups.com).

The program will utilize key leaders in Saint Paul – Greg Fouks, President of the James J. Hill Center; Lee George, Marketing Manager of the James J. Hill Center; Sarah Weimar, President of Agency NORD. These three entrepreneurs will use the 1 Million Cups model to ramp up business and entrepreneurialism in the Twin Cities community.

“James J. Hill Center is centered on business, leadership and entrepreneurship, so when we were given the opportunity to add 1 Million Cups to our Business at the Hill seminar series, it was just too good to pass up,” stated Greg Fouks, James J. Hill Center President.

The program's model is consistent in each location across the country. Every Wednesday morning, two early-stage startups present their companies through a six-minute presentation to an audience of mentors, advisors, venture capitalists and other entrepreneurs. Once their presentation is finished, they will get the opportunity to field questions from the audience for another 20 minutes.

Additional seminars and workshops will be offered on a monthly basis through the Business at the Hill program. Applications are now being accepted for entrepreneurs and business speakers who are looking to share their expertise with budding or startup business owners. For more information for either of these programs as speakers or guests, visit [www.jjhill.org](http://www.jjhill.org). To sign up for 1 Million Cups at the James J. Hill Center, visit [stpaul.sites.1millioncups.com](http://stpaul.sites.1millioncups.com).

## **ABOUT JAMES J. HILL CENTER**

The Center is committed to being an iconic place to learn, convene and connect in – the community, business, the arts, technology, innovation and celebration. Our goal is to provide relevance to the community and to build sustainable and lasting relationships that enable entrepreneurial activities and economic prosperity by encouraging the exchange of ideas and the pursuit of solutions. The Center has been offering the community access to data and research for over 90 years. It was the goal of James J. Hill that anyone should have access to research and data to help them succeed. The James J. Hill Center has found success in entertainment programs as well – The Real Phonic Radio Hour takes place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. The Real Phonic house band fills the Reading Room with great music with local and national guest artists.

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