

IOWA HUNGER LUNCHEON
Speaker: Governor Kim Reynolds
October 16, 2016 - 12:00 p.m.

Kim Reynolds

Governor, State of Iowa

Well, thank you so much, Ambassador Quinn. I just want to say thank you, not only for your service to our state but to our country and for your role as President of the World Food Prize and continuing to fight the good fight and keeping Dr. Borlaug's memory and really his life's work in the forefront for all of us.

It is great to be here at the Iowa Hunger Summit. As you indicated, I have been at almost, I think every one of the World Food Prize Hunger Summits and events over the past six years. And this is the first time as the governor of the great state of Iowa, and it is a tremendous honor to serve as the governor of this great state and to really continue to honor the tradition that the previous governors have put in place in supporting the Hunger Summit.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to Craig Hill and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation as well as the Farm Bureau Financial Services for serving again as the presenting sponsor for the Hunger Summit, and to Ambassador Quinn and his staff, as we all know, who are the ones that really make things happen and do all the work and make sure that everything runs smoothly and really puts together a tremendous program.

It's so appropriate that this event is taking place on October 16th, which is the World Food Day around the globe, as well as Dr. Norman Borlaug World Food Prize Day here in Iowa. I love seeing all the students that are here. I am passionate about STEM. I got to say hi to most of you, but I know that that was Dr. Borlaug's mission also, to make sure that we continue to inspire the next generation. And so there's even a group from Clear Creek Amana, I think fifth graders, who are here. I believe they're the youngest group, and so they were asking all kinds of questions. And their goal is to have zero hunger, and they're really doing what they can in their community. So thanks to all the students for being here and doing what you're doing.

Confronting hunger is one of those key topics that has consensus among Iowans regardless of the political leaning. And certainly this was demonstrated by the previous honorary co-chairs of the first Iowa Hunger Summit 11 years ago. We had Republican governors, Governor Ray and Governor Branstad, Democratic governors, Governor Vilsack and Governor Culver. And so as I indicated, I'm proud to continue in that spirit. It's marvelous that we have a bipartisan turnout again today with members of the legislature that are present.

In Iowa, we are proud of our agricultural heritage. We have been blessed with great gifts in terms of land and water and plants and animals. And throughout our state's history, it's those valuable resources that have allowed us to really do what we do, and that's feed the hungry

and enhance nutrition far, far beyond our borders. Fighting hunger and feeding the world are our two great Iowa legacies, and we've done this due to the research that's been conducted by our prestigious universities and the innovation of our agribusiness companies and because of the productivity of our farmers.

Our state's heritage is filled with the names of individuals who have been at the forefront of these efforts, from George Washington Carver and Jessie Field Shambaugh, the mother of 4-H, to President Herbert Hoover and Vice President Henry Wallace, and of course Dr. Norman Borlaug, the founder of the World Food Prize.

Today we are awarding another great hero, and that's Bishop Pates, the Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award. Throughout your work with refugees and sending help and hope to people around the world affected by hunger and natural disasters, you are truly emulating the work by Governor Ray and thousands of Iowans in sending food and medicine to starving Cambodians in 1979. And Dr. Borlaug often quoted a saying – *Peace cannot be built on empty stomachs*. And, Bishop Pates, I commend you for your efforts to initiate dialogues around the world by highlighting humanitarian issues.

I understand that you have made trips to Israel and the Palestinian Territory in an effort to promote greater understanding and peace. And I myself just returned from leading a trade mission to Israel where I actually had the opportunity to meet again with the 2012 World Food Prize Laureate, Dr. Hillel. And Dr. Hillel received the World Food Prize in the Iowa State Capitol, presented to him by the Secretary General of the U.N. after he had been nominated by three scientists from Arab and Muslim countries. So it truly was a moment that showed what might be possible in the Middle East, and it happened right here in Iowa.

So whenever I walk into the Iowa Gallery at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, I am so impressed by the artwork that tells the story of Iowa's agricultural heritage. And this history should motivate all of us today to be inspired by Norman Borlaug's legacy and continue our efforts to ensure adequate and nutritious food for all.

And with that, I think I am going to sign a proclamation – right? This is the point where former Governor Branstad would take off his glasses and where I would take my glasses and put them on. But I think we're just going to sign it, so let me sign the Proclamation that proclaims today Dr. Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Day.