



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MICC Partners with Vitals™ to Foster Independence for Young Adults with Autism**

RICHFIELD, MN. Jan. 17, 2019 -- Minnesota Independence College & Community (MICC) and Vitals™ Aware Services have formed a partnership designed to foster more peace of mind and independence for young adults living with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental conditions.

MICC, formerly known as the Minnesota Life College, provides life skills and vocational training to over 120 young adults who live and work in the Twin Cities. Participants living on the MICC campus are taught life skills that will allow them to live more independently throughout their lives. By forming this partnership, MICC will become the first life skills training college in the nation to offer Vitals™ to its participants and staff.

MICC plans to launch this new partnership at its annual Winterfest Family Weekend scheduled for Feb. 8-9<sup>th</sup> at the Richfield campus. The Vitals™ team will be on-hand during Saturday's festivities to explain the game-changing technology to participants and their families, staff and other MICC stakeholders in attendance.

The Vitals™ App will be offered to participants living on and off campus as well as young adults who participate in the summer internship program.

"We believe Vitals™ is the perfect resource for our participants. It's great that the technology will help keep them safe while on campus, at work or at social events," said Amy Gudmestad, MICC's executive director. "We believe the Vitals™ App aligns with our work to help successfully transition young adults into independent living and the working world."

Minnesota is considered a leading state in creating and investing in innovative programs that foster more independent living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MICC has gained statewide and regional attention for its successful transitional programs. For example, 99 percent of eligible MICC job seekers obtain employment, 82 percent of graduates engage in two to three social activities per month and 90 percent of participants are employed and living in their own apartments.

"We are very excited about our new partnership with MICC. Our team believes that Vitals™ can be a tremendous asset to the MICC administration and its participants. It can



also give families more peace of mind that their loved ones are safe as they interact with others at work and elsewhere,” said Stan Alleyne, chief of communications Vitals™.

“With the Vitals™ App, the MICC staff will have access to critical information about each individual participant in real-time. We believe this will help them interact more effectively with their participants, build stronger relationships, and give them another tool to keep their residents safe.”

### **About Minnesota Independence College & Community**

Since their founding in 1996, MICC, formerly known as the Minnesota Life College, has served and dedicated their resources to helping young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders. They have created a college-like program allowing participants to experience on-campus living, learn and develop essential life and social skills and real-world readiness. The three-year MICC College Program encourages the personal growth of each participant through a unique and individualized process. MICC also offers a summer program focusing on teaching and measuring key standardized competencies that address growth in three core categories. To learn more about Minnesota Independence College & Community, visit [www.miccommunity.org](http://www.miccommunity.org).

### **About Vitals™ Aware Services**

Vitals™ works by equipping first responders with information voluntarily provided by Vitals™ enrollees. Law enforcement and other first responders download the Vitals™ First Responder app on their cellphones. The service allows a vulnerable person to register online, then wear a beacon that takes the form of a keychain, necklace, debit card or bracelet. An Android phone can also serve as the beacon. When a Vitals™ user comes within 80 feet of an officer or first responder equipped with the service, the officer will get a notification about the person’s diagnosis and how they may best interact with them. To learn more about Vitals™ Aware Services, visit [www.thevitalsapp.com](http://www.thevitalsapp.com).

To learn more about this partnership, please contact:

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