

Ag Stewardship Center Gets New Digs

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Recommended Citation

Van Voorst, Bethany (2019) "Ag Stewardship Center Gets New Digs," *The Voice*: Vol. 64: Iss. 2, Article 9.
Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol64/iss2/9>

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AG STEWARDSHIP CENTER GETS NEW DIGS

Dordt's new Agriculture Stewardship Center (ASC), a 25,000 square-foot facility located three miles north of Sioux Center, opened this fall. It offers more space for the 160 students in Dordt's agriculture and Pro-Tech programs to learn and grow.

"Agriculture is one of our largest programs, and it desperately needed new facilities," says Howard Wilson, vice president and chief administrative officer. "We also needed to accommodate students in our farm operations and manufacturing technology programs."

The new building has room to accommodate both agriculture and Pro-Tech students; it features a meeting area, a high-bay area for storing and fixing agriculture equipment, and a manufacturing and welding lab.

"I'm most excited by what students will do and who they will impact using the tools and equipment in this space," says Dr. Joel Sikkema, director of the Pro-Tech program.

As part of their coursework, agriculture students will use the high-bay area to maintain and repair equipment for local farmers. All Pro-Tech students will use the welding room for building and repairing parts, and the manufacturing students will learn to use computer numerical control (CNC) machines to create parts.

"I was excited when I first saw the welding lab out at the Ag Stewardship Center," says Bryce Hiemstra, a second-



OLIVIA HELMUS (21)

At the new facility, Pro-Tech and agriculture majors get to work on a variety of machines to practice what they learn in the classroom.

year Pro-Tech student. "We now have the tools to learn everything we need to know about welding before we go out into the industry."

The new building, which also includes three classrooms, a conference room, locker rooms, and a kitchen, is only the first phase planned for the building. In the future, college officials expect to add a beef mono-slope facility, an animal processing lab, and an animal science building.

"Dordt students get a great foundation in all areas of agriculture," says Gary De Vries, an agriculture professor. "The opportunities the Ag Stewardship Center offers will help our students build the skills they need to honor God through lives of service and leadership in agriculture and manufacturing."

BETHANY VAN VOORST

Campus Kudos

At the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) VI conference in Denver, Dordt won more awards than any other college or university in Iowa, including Iowa State University and University of Iowa.

Communication Professor **Dr. Tom Prinsen** led a team of student researchers in determining the average value of a toy



donated to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation this Christmas season. This is Dr. Prinsen's third year hiring Dordt students to work on the project.

Katie Kooiman, a senior education major, presented at the Frankenstein Bicentennial Undergraduate Conference at University of South Dakota in October. Her presentation was titled "From Prometheus to Zombies: The Cultural Phenomenon of the Living Dead."

A 1647 Statenbijbel has been added to the Hulst Library's collection. The Dutch Bible was gifted to Dordt at the opening celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort.

In November, **Rachel Jensen**, a senior Spanish and social work major, gave a presentation at the Midwest Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Titled "The Time Aberration of Languages: Divergent Thoughts on Everyday Life," her presentation compared linguistic and cultural references to time in American English, Ugandan Swahili, and Hopi Indian languages.



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