Dordt to Host Annual Engineering Conference

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In July Dordt will host the 2019 Christian Engineering Conference. Nearly 25 years ago, Charles Adams, founder of Dordt’s engineering program, helped plan the first conference because he and others wanted to create a place where Christian engineering educators might learn from one another. Now, the conference has grown into an annual event where engineering educators, industry leaders, and practicing engineers gather to consider what it means to view engineering and technology from a biblical perspective.

“We continue to look at what it means to do engineering Christianly, to develop technology biblically, and to use God’s Word as our guide as engineers,” says Dr. Justin Vander Werff, an engineering professor in charge of this year’s conference. “We won’t find final answers this side of eternity, but it’s important that we keep wrestling with them.”

Vander Werff says that this year’s conference, which will draw more than 50 attendees, will focus primarily on what it means to be a Christian engineer in industry.

“How do you walk as a disciple of Christ in day-to-day work as an engineer? How can an engineering company be a Christian company—and is that even a good question to ask?” says Vander Werff.

Dr. Ethan Brue, professor of engineering, is looking forward to renewing ties with other engineers in teaching and industry at the conference.

“As far as we know, this is the only conference in the world that is specifically established to engage the topic of engineering work as Christ-followers,” Brue says.

And, 25 years after Charles Adams helped found the conference, his son, Mike Adams, will serve as keynote speaker. Adams is CEO of Adams Thermal System in Canton, South Dakota.

Organizers hope that a conference like this can be an inspiring space for engineers and other industry leaders to think about how their daily work is making a difference for God’s kingdom.

“This conference helps us recognize that the keyboard-pounding we do in the office cubicle, the products we create on the manufacturing floor, and the structures we build on the construction site can be integrally Christian enterprises,” says Vander Werff. “In fact, it helps us take joy in this recognition and to be more discerning in how God is using us each and every day.”

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