



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science



2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP:



JOSEPH CASSADY

South Dakota Corn Endowed Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Obtaining a college education has one of the greatest impacts and returns on investment when we look at the career and life opportunities of those entering the job market. The cost of higher education has increased over the years and, in many cases, may be falling outside the reach of many students and their families. One of the pillars of our great land-grant university system, and a major area of focus at SDSU, is to provide access to a premier college education to as many students as possible. The availability of a scholarship to a deserving student may be the deciding factor determining whether a student gains access to the wonderful resources found at SDSU, or if this extremely valuable opportunity to better their lives and society is missed because the cost of education was outside of their reach.

Scholarships play an increasingly important role for our students and we are so fortunate to have generous donors that have made scholarships within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) and the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science possible. In the current school year, 42.4% of CAFES students are recipients of a scholarship with an average of \$1,478 awarded per student. In the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, over half of the students (55.5%) receive scholarships with an average of \$1,412 awarded per student.

The generosity of donors supporting scholarships for our students makes a tremendous impact on their lives and the opportunities they are provided, and ensures that we are preparing the future leaders of the agriculture industry. We are so very thankful for the many generous supporters that open doors, and change the lives of our students.



DAVID WRIGHT

Maynard A. Klingbeil Endowed Head of the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science

Your gift directly supports our students' education. In a single day, the 2022 One Day for State event raised \$10,000 for undergraduate scholarships in agronomy, precision agriculture, and horticulture that made a difference in student lives this year. The Maynard A. Klingbeil endowment, a legacy gift, provided an additional \$160,000 in scholarships. In total, students enrolled in Agronomy, Precision Agriculture, and Horticulture disciplines in the 2022-2023 academic year received more than \$300,000 in scholarships from donors and university programs.

Giving back to support SDSU is critical to the continued success of your alma mater. The collective generosity of SDSU alumni, donors, and friends has a transformational impact on our department. Every gift has the power to impact lives. Past gifts not only supported undergraduate scholarships, but also student research projects and travel for student clubs to attend regional and national competitions. Your support—in whatever amount—demonstrates your vision that every student deserves the chance to be a Jackrabbit! Your support makes SDSU the best experience it can be by reducing the cost of our students' education.

Making gifts to support the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science also demonstrates the pride you have for SDSU and ensures that current students have opportunities like you had when you were a student. If you are a current or past donor, THANK YOU! If you are contemplating making a gift, please do so, your gift matters.

FROM OUR STUDENTS:



"Throughout my time at SDSU, I was extremely fortunate to receive several different scholarships. These scholarships have significantly enhanced my college experience. I had the opportunity to be more involved in clubs and activities relating to my majors, as well as being a member of the Honors College. Scholarships enabled me to devote more of my time to my studies rather than off-campus employment. Being involved on campus gave me many opportunities for networking and gaining experiences in various stages of research that will benefit me in my future career."

- Ellen Fitzpatrick

"My experiences at South Dakota State University are unforgettable. I was able to attend Little I, go on visits to new production barns with the Swine Club, and make a lot of very good friends. The scholarships are very important for me to achieve my goals in school and in the future. They made it possible for me to work fewer hours in my part-time jobs, or not take a job at all in some cases. The scholarships allow me to have more time to attend club meetings, and be an active member in events around the campus. I am very thankful to the donors of the scholarships I received."



- Corbin Fuoss



"This is my third and final year here at SDSU where I will graduate with a degree in Horticulture and two minors -Sustainable Local Foods and Pest Management. I am currently the manager at the Local Foods Education Center (LFEC) on campus where I apply much of what I learned in class to a real project. The scholarships I received at SDSU made it possible for me to continue my education and to improve my skills, not only for the local foods educational center, but also for future career options. I will be attending graduate school for Entomology in 2024 and this is only achievable through the help of donors who believe in students like myself."

- Amelia Jones

"As a student in the Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science Department, I had the privilege to receive several different scholarships during my time at SDSU. The financial support from these scholarships has had a large influence on my academic pursuits by allowing me to attend classes that better prepare me for entering the rapidly changing world of agronomy and precision agriculture. These scholarships also allow me to be able to participate in many activities on campus. These activities range from club trips, such as the Agronomy and Precision Ag Club SASES trip, to industry networking opportunities provided on campus. As a 2022 recipient of the SDSU Klingbeil Scholars Endowment, I am very thankful for Maynard Klingbeil's generosity and am honored to be part of his legacy."



- Charles Tesch



LONGTIME DONORS BUILD A LEGACY BY SUPPORTING SDSU STUDENTS

care in providing scholarships for students pursuing careers in those same fields.

“Jim thought about our legacy for a while, and he just felt that he’d like to sponsor some ag scholarships,” said Melody. “We felt like SDSU was the perfect place to do that because it’s kind of what they’re known for – and they do it right.”

Prior to retiring from farming in 2020, the Mielkes funded their scholarships by gifting grain they raised – this program benefitted them while still contributing toward SDSU students’ tuition expenses.

“Rewarding” is a common word used by the Mielkes when speaking about the relationships that they have built with their scholarship recipients over the last 10 years. One unique quality the Mielkes possess is that they truly want to know their recipients personally and be able to support them on more than a financial level. This can be attested to as they’ve been invited to some of their recipients’ weddings, are some of the first to hear about recipients’ children being born and have even entrusted a past scholarship recipient and his brothers to rent a portion of their farmland.

Regarding their endowment, Jim and Melody never thought they would have the opportunity to see it come to fruition in their lifetimes. However, with the timing of their retirement following the 2020 crop year and the halted supply chain for new and used equipment due to COVID-19, it was the perfect opportunity for Jim and his brother to sell their fully depreciated equipment. This allowed Jim and Melody to fund the endowment with the earnings made on their equipment, rather than through their estate plan as they originally expected.

“We encourage those who have thought about giving to go through with a gift and provide support to the next generation,” they said.

“There are many different levels and ways of giving, so it doesn’t have to be anything more than what someone feels comfortable with,” said Jim.

Those interested in making their own gift can contact the SDSU Foundation at (605) 697-7475.

Jim and Melody Mielke of Hartford, South Dakota, stand out among most South Dakota State University scholarship donors as non-alumni contributors. The Mielkes specifically chose SDSU because of its well-known agricultural programs, without having any prior ties to the school.

The Mielkes began giving to SDSU in 2012, funding five scholarships each year, totaling 50 scholarships to date. To reflect both of their backgrounds and lifelong careers, they have supported students pursuing degrees in a variety of areas including agronomy, precision agriculture, agricultural and biosystems engineering and nursing, as well as those in graduate nursing programs. Going forward, they will fund approximately 11 scholarships each year through their newly completed endowment managed by the SDSU Foundation.

When asked, Jim described agriculture and farming as the root of his family, ultimately defining who he is as a person. On the other hand, Melody has a passion for caring for others and has worked as a nurse at Avera McKennan Hospital and the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls since she graduated from Augustana College in 1980. It seems fitting that they share their love for agriculture and patient

By Samantha Anderson



ELLEN FITZPATRICK

Agronomy & Horticulture

Q. What has been your favorite part about your program?

A. My favorite part about the agronomy and horticulture programs is that I am able to get a lot of hands-on experience. I enjoy working in the greenhouse and out in the fields doing research and learning about how plants work.

Q. What/who inspired you to pursue your career path?

A. My high school FFA advisor first got me interested in plant science, and he encouraged me to join the Floriculture team. We went on to win first place at State FFA my senior year, in 2020, and I knew at the time that I wanted to pursue a career in plant science. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after graduating, but later that summer I was inspired by the research and exploration of NASA scientists growing plants in space and decided that's what I want to do.

Q. What clubs/organizations/community service have you been involved with on campus?

A. I play the violin in the SDSU Civic Orchestra, and I am currently involved with the Agronomy Club, as well as with the Honors College. I am also engaged in a Bible study, along with various other church activities at the Newman Center on campus.

Q. How has the Klingbeil scholarship impacted your education?

A. The Klingbeil scholarship has significantly benefitted my education; this scholarship has considerably reduced the amount of money I need to pay for school this year, and because of that, I am able to focus more of my time and energy on my studies. I am also able to work jobs that give me good experience in my chosen field, rather than having to choose a job based solely on the pay.

Q. What advice do you have for incoming students as they begin their journey to pursue a degree?

A. Don't ever be afraid to apply for scholarships! No matter the amount, they help so much, and even if you turn in the application on the very last day, it might be totally worth it. Also, don't let yourself become resentful. College is hard sometimes, but just remember why you're here, and never lose your sense of curiosity and wonder.

Q. What do you feel is the biggest challenge we have in modern-day agriculture and how do you think we can evolve and work together as an industry to conquer that challenge?

A. I think the biggest challenge we have in modern-day agriculture is coming up with more sustainable and environmentally conscious farming practices, and not only coming up with them, but also putting them into practice. I think one of the hardest things to do is to change old ways of thinking, but in order to evolve and keep up with our world we need to be willing to work together, both within and beyond the agricultural industry.

Q. What has been your favorite class and why?

A. My favorite class so far has been either soils or plant pathology. I really enjoy learning about the chemistry and microorganisms of the soil, and I also like learning about different plant pathogens and plants' defenses against pathogens. I am very interested in learning about microbiology relating to soils and plants.

Q. What originally interested you in your major?

A. I have always been interested in plants; I've been gardening with my dad for as long as I can remember. The first time I became interested in plant science as a career was during my sophomore year of high school when I joined the FFA Floriculture team. I hadn't realized before then that I could take my love of plants and make a career out of it. I started looking into it and decided to double major in agronomy and horticulture at SDSU.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



BRYCE ADRIAN
Precision Agriculture

Raymond Benson Scholarship



NICOLE BAUMANN
Agronomy

Dr. Clatus M. Nagel Memorial
Scholarship in Plant Science

George Semeniuk Scholarship
in Plant Science



JADEN ANDERSON
Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Alfred and Joan Miron Endowed
Scholarship



MASON BEBENSEE
Precision Agriculture

Ag, Food and Environmental
Sciences General Scholarship



GARRETT ARENDS
Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Alan C. and Carole L. Johnson
Scholarship in Precision Agriculture



RYAN BLOMGREN
Agronomy

Eldor P. and Dorothy E. Mueller
Memorial Scholarship





MARTIN BOETEL

Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Dwayne and Carolyn (Ogren) Kettering Endowed Scholarship

Fred and Wilma Westin Scholarship in Plant Science



HALEY BORMAN

Agronomy

Farm Credit Services of America Scholarship

Leonard L. Ladd Memorial Scholarship in Plant Science

Richard L. Elliot Scholarship in Plant Science



KYLIE BOTERMAN

Agronomy

South Dakota Crop Improvement Association Scholarship



LANDIN BRINK

Agronomy

Dean's Scholarship in CAFES



NOAH CHRISTENSEN

Agronomy

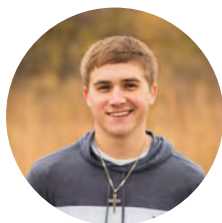
Burton L. Brage Scholarship

Ralph and Wanda Hansmeier Scholarship in Plant Science

Ray F. Lund Memorial Scholarship



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



BRADY CHRISTIANSEN
Precision Agriculture

William and Byrne Griffith
Scholarship Fund



RHETT DYKSTRA
Agronomy

Maurice and Delores Nold
Memorial Scholarship



MCKENZIE CHRISTOPHER
Horticulture

AHPS-ABE Ice Cream
Scholarship Winner



KELLEN ERDAHL
Agronomy

Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial
Scholarship in Agronomy



ELIZABETH DEBOER
Horticulture

AHPS General Scholarship

James and John Low
Scholarship in Horticulture

Medary Acres Greenhouse, Inc.
Scholarship



JACK FARQUHAR
Agronomy

Rusty and Sherry Antonen
Endowed Scholarship



JOLIE FEMRITE

Horticulture

AHPS General Scholarship

Dr. Paul Prashar Memorial
Scholarship in Horticulture

James and Carleton Randall
Scholarship in Horticulture

South Dakota State Horticultural
Society Scholarship



CONNOR FIEDLER

Agronomy

SD Wheat Commission
Scholarship



BROOKLYN FISCUS

Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



ELLEN FITZPATRICK

Agronomy & Horticulture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



TREVOR FROST

Agronomy

Leon and Joyce Wrage Family
Scholarship in Plant Science

SD Wheat Commission
Scholarship



CORBIN FUOSS

Agronomy

Mel Kloster Memorial
Scholarship

Richard and Norman and Ellen
Kuecker Scholarship

SD Wheat Commission
Scholarship

Soil Scientist Memorial
Scholarship



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CLAIRE GALVIN

Horticulture

Shirley Peebler Luther Freshman Scholarship in Horticulture



ANNALIESE GOEHRING

Agronomy

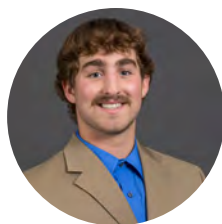
Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



BRADEN GREIBROK

Agronomy

Wilmer L. and Adele Davis Scholarship in Plant Science



AUSTIN HAND

Agronomy

James and Joan Likness Scholarship in Agronomy

South Dakota Crop Improvement Association Scholarship



JACOB HEIGEL

Agronomy

Raymond C. and Maxine Kinch Scholarship in Plant Science

South Dakota Crop Improvement Association Scholarship





REGAN HEINE
Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



JOEL JAMES
Agronomy

Merl Krier Scholarship in
Agronomy



BROOKE HOFFBECK
Agronomy

Eldon F. Herring Scholarship



AMELEA JONES
Horticulture

AHPS General Scholarship

F. David and Claus Johnson
Scholarship in Horticulture

James and Barbara Jessen
Scholarship in Plant Science

SD Master Naturalist
Scholarship

South Dakota State Horticultural
Society Scholarship



ASHILYN HULSTEIN
Agronomy

Don Moore Award for
Undergraduate Research in
Plant Science

Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey)
Bonnemann Scholarship in
Plant Science

Richard L. Elliott Scholarship in
Plant Science

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ANNA KARELS

Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



ANNE KNOFCZYNSKI

Horticulture & Psychology

Minnehaha Master Gardeners
Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Graper

MNLA Foundation Scholarship



DUSTIN KOHN

Horticulture & Agricultural Leadership

Gottlieb Scholl, Sr. and Gottlieb Scholl,
Jr. Scholarship



BENSEN KUECKER

Agronomy

AHPS General Scholarship

Hilbert D. Bogue Family Scholarship

James D. Curry Memorial Scholarship

Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial
Scholarship in Agronomy



JAKE LARSEN

Agronomy

James and Melody Mielke Endowed
Scholarship in Agronomy



ZACHARY LOOMIS

Precision Agriculture

Ervin and Lucille Boyd Family
Scholarship

Leon Wood Scholarship

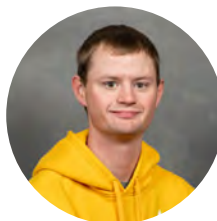
Raymond A. Moore Scholarship in Plant
Science





ROSALYN MADSEN
Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



CLAY POPHAM
Agronomy

AHPS-ABE Ice Cream
Scholarship Winner

Dick Clarin Memorial
Scholarship



AUSTEN MARUDAS
Horticulture

Cecil and Grace Sanderson
Family Scholarship in
Horticulture



WYATT ROBERTS
Agronomy

Mel Krier Scholarship



CALEB MCGREGOR
Agronomy

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



EMMA ROBINSON
Agronomy

Raymond C. and Maxine Kinch
Scholarship in Plant Science

William and Mabel Peterson
Endowment in Plant Science



LACEY MOCKLER
Horticulture

Keith and Beverly Keltgen
Scholarship in Plant Science



CONNOR RUEN
Agronomy

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



LUCAS MORRISON
Precision Agriculture

Norman A. and Jean C. Evans
Scholarship Endowment



JARED SIMONS
Agronomy

Arthur H. Davis Scholarship



JONAH OLSON
Precision Agriculture

CHS Foundation Scholarship



ZOEY STEFANICH
Horticulture

Donald H. and Carol E. Tollefson
Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



NICHOLAS STOLE

Agronomy

South Dakota Crop Improvement
Association Scholarship

Dr. E. Brent and Susan Turnipseed
Scholarship



CHARLES TESCH

Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



TREVOR THUE

Precision Agriculture

William and Byrne Griffith
Scholarship Fund

AHPS-ABE Ice Cream Scholarship

JOSEPH TILSTRA

Horticulture

Adams Homestead Ladies
Gardening Scholarship in
Horticulture

AHPS General Scholarship

Dean and Dorthy Martin Family
Scholarship in Horticulture

Dr. Paul Prashar Memorial
Scholarship in Horticulture

James and Barbara Jessen
Scholarship in Plant Science

Rodney N. Richardson Endowed
Scholarship in Plant Science

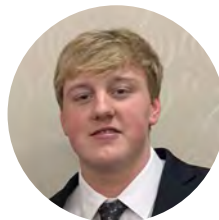


JAKE VEENSTRA

Precision Agriculture

Marvin E. Larson Memorial
Scholarship





COLTON VOVOS
Precision Agriculture

Dennis L. and Hazel J. Moe
Scholarship in Ag Engineering



JACOB WEBER
Precision Agriculture

Michael and Nancy Roberts
Scholarship



MATTHEW WEYL
Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



DANIEL WILLIAMSON
Agronomy

Leonard Freiwald Family
Scholarship in Plant Science

Rodney N. Richardson Endowed
Scholarship in Plant Science



LEAH WYNIA
Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS NOT PICTURED

**BRADY AHLNESS**

Agronomy

Errol EerNisse Scholarship

ANNE BARTZ

Horticulture

Paul Collins/Paul Bunyan Scholarship

ALANDRA EISENMENGER

Horticulture

Horticulture Practicum & Travel Studies

CAYDEN EISMANN

Agronomy

Marilyn and Quentin Schultz Plant Science Scholarship

CHANCE ELNESS

Precision Agriculture

Roger and Doris Lageson Scholarship Endowment

CODY FERGUSON

Horticulture

Wintrode Incentive Award Fund for Non-Traditional Students

MASON GODE

Precision Agriculture

Ag, Food and Environmental Sciences General Scholarship

EMILY GUGGISBERG

Horticulture

Jim and Elaine Waples Scholarship

REGAN JACOBY

Horticulture

David and Selina Hume Scholarship in Agriculture

ELISABETH KELM

Agronomy

Donald and Francisca Kluckman Scholarship in Agriculture

SIERRA KLEIN

Horticulture

Horticulture Practicum & Travel Studies

CLAYTON KOPPATSCHEK

Agronomy

Rogen-Trooien Scholarship in Agriculture

JACOBI KROUSE

Precision Agriculture

Tom and Michele Olsen Scholarship

SPENCER KUIPER

Agronomy

AHPS General Scholarship

D. Boyd Shank Scholarship in Plant Science

Vernon Brose and Marilyn Dahl Brose Scholarship in Agriculture

KADIN LABRIE

Agronomy

Frank & Lela Christensen Scholarship

DREW LEENDERTS

Agronomy

CAFES Dean's Excellence Scholarship

ZACHARY MAAG*Agronomy*

Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann
Scholarship in Plant Science

NATHAN MOBERG*Agronomy*

Lawrence O. Fine Scholarship in Agronomy

DELLANA MUCK*Agronomy*

Gale and Marie Erickson Scholarship

TYLER OGLE*Agronomy*

Joseph F. Nelson Undergraduate Scholarship

ALEXANDER OTTO*Agronomy*

Jerome Norgren Soil Conservation Scholarhsip

ZACHARY POST*Precision Agriculture*

Stanley and Ella Skorr Scholarship

JESSE POTTS*Agronomy*

CHS Foundation Freshman Scholarship

KYLE RESSE*Agronomy*

Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial Scholarship in
Agronomy

DERREK RUSSENBERGER*Precision Agriculture*

Dennis L. and Hazel J. Moe Scholarship in
Agricultural Engineering

COLE SANOW*Agronomy*

Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann
Scholarship in Plant Science

KELLEN SCHMIDT*Agronomy*

Paul and Evelyn Carson Scholarship in Plant
Science

**ASHTYN SCHULTZ***Horticulture*

Harry B. Domke Memorial Scholarship in
Horticulture

Myron E. and Bernadine L. Enevoldsen Scholarship

ALEC SERNETT*Agronomy*

David and Selina Hume Scholarship in Agriculture

DAVID STEINHAGEN*Precision Agriculture*

James and Melody Mielke Endowed Scholarship in
Precision Agriculture

CADEN VANDRONGELEN*Precision Agriculture*

CAFES Dean's Excellence Scholarship

INAUGURAL CLASS OF KLINGBEIL SCHOLARS NAMED THIS FALL

Sixteen students in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science were awarded the Klingbeil Scholarship this fall.

Klingbeil scholars were awarded \$10,000 each that can be renewed for four years. Moving forward, four incoming freshmen will be selected to be Klingbeil Scholars each year.

Students are selected by a committee made up of faculty and staff in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science. Students selected for the scholarship must plan to major in Precision Agriculture, Agronomy, or Agricultural Systems Technology. These students are expected to have strong academics, leadership involvement in high school activities, must be making a positive impact in their communities and show potential for success at SDSU. Most importantly, these students must exemplify the type of student that should be representing the Klingbeil Legacy by having a strong commitment to agriculture and its professions.

"The Klingbeil scholarship will attract talent to the precision ag sector that will serve as the backbone of the industry in future years. Individuals who graduate from our program will drive the change of tomorrow, helping to make farms more efficient, advance production practices, and help maintain a healthy environment for generations to come," said Nic Uilk, Instructor and member of the Klingbeil Scholarship Selection Committee.

The Klingbeil Scholarships were made possible through a gift to the South Dakota State University Foundation by Maynard Klingbeil. After his death in 2020, Klingbeil gifted all 2,683 acres of his farm east of Onida, South Dakota to the University.

The land was sold for almost \$17 million at an auction hosted by the South Dakota State University Foundation.

"Getting the opportunity to go to this auction and see the impact that Maynard has made is one of my top experiences in college, this is something I will remember for the rest of my life," said Anna Karels, precision agriculture major from Norwood Young America, Minnesota and Klingbeil Scholar. "Seeing the amount



of money raised and knowing that it would go to help students further their education, as it did mine, was a surreal experience."

2022-2023 Klingbeil Scholars:

- Caden Bottum, Agricultural Systems Technology major from Tulare, South Dakota
- Colby Crabtree, Agricultural Systems Technology major from Luverne, Minnesota
- Brooklynn Fiscus, Precision Agriculture major from Crofton, Nebraska
- Ellen Fitzpatrick, Agronomy and Horticulture major from Brookings, South Dakota
- Annaliese Goehring, Agronomy major from Mound City, South Dakota
- Regan Heine, Precision Agriculture major from Vermillion, South Dakota
- Anna Karels, Precision Agriculture major from Norwood Young America, Minnesota
- Rosalyn Madsen, Precision Agriculture major from Franklin, Minnesota
- Caleb McGregor, Agronomy major from Webster, South Dakota
- Cutler Michalski, Agricultural Systems Technology major from Willow Lake, South Dakota
- Connor Ruen, Agronomy major from Lanesboro, Minnesota
- Colten Scheldorf, Agricultural Systems Technology major from Chokio, Minnesota
- Charles Tesch, Agronomy and Precision Agriculture major from Henderson, Minnesota
- Chase Thiessen, Agricultural Systems Technology major from Larchwood, Iowa
- Matthew Weyl, Agronomy and Precision Agriculture major from Henderson, Minnesota
- Leah Wynia, Precision Agriculture major from Luverne, Minnesota

"Hearing the story of Maynard Klingbeil and learning about what he did for SDSU will leave a lifelong impression on me," said Karels. "Maynard was a good steward of his land, always paid it forward, and helped others no matter what. These are three things that I want to do not only during my time at SDSU, but after graduation as well."

By: Nicole Hudson

A MESSAGE FROM THE SDSU FOUNDATION



MARK SANDAGER
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The South Dakota State University Football Team won the FCS National Championship in January 2023! Could you imagine that just 20 years ago? In 2004 there was a bold and controversial decision to move South Dakota State University athletics from a Division Two program to Division One program. The decision by former South Dakota State University President Peggy Gordon-Miller and SDSU leadership came with a lot of emotion and controversy. Most considered the dream to be out of reach for a state like South Dakota.

On the drive home from Frisco, Texas, where I watched the game and felt the emotion in person, I had the opportunity to reflect on what it took for SDSU to grow a National Championship program. I settled on; success does not happen by accident, and it does not happen overnight. For decades the SDSU football team has had a singular goal: to be a National Champion.

To achieve this goal there were several strategic investments made to give the football team the resources needed to compete at the highest level. The first and most important investment was finding and building the leadership to guide the team. The second most important investment was building a fan base that was emotionally connected to the success of the program. Lastly the football team needed the capital investments to perform at the highest level. Those investments include a new football stadium, strength and conditioning areas, and indoor practice facilities.

Once we attained the necessary framework, success was inevitable.

Success does not happen by accident, and it does not happen overnight. The Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science made a similar bold decision when they, along with the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, decided to create the world's first four-year degree in Precision Agriculture. This set the college on a trajectory to become the premier land grant university in production agriculture.

Since the decision to become a premier land grant university we, the stakeholders, have been strategically investing in people through scholarships and faculty endowments. We invested emotionally with our time and research, and we invested in a world class Raven Precision Agriculture Center.

What's your next dream?

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**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Department of Agronomy,
Horticulture & Plant Science*