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ARDC 10th Anniversary/Building Renaming

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~~Robert DeWitt~~

ARDC 10th Anniversary/Building Renaming
Friday, June 3, 2005
11:00 a.m.
ARDC Center near Mead
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

Thank you for being with us today as we celebrate both the 10th anniversary of this great building and its new name, ~~which we will reveal~~

shortly.

It's such an honor and a pleasure to rename this building for a true-
friend of the university, ^{of} the Institute of Agriculture and Natural
Resources, and our Agricultural Research and Development Center. This
building has allowed us to bring the Saunders County Extension Office
into the Center, and to grow our educational programs offered here so
tremendously and so effectively. At one time, our educational programs ~~here~~
drew 600 people to the ARDC each year - now they draw approximately
10,000 yearly.

This building has enabled technological improvements that allow us
to have satellite uplinks and downlinks on site. Soon this facility will become
the hub of a fiber optic network linking all major areas of the Agricultural

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Research and Development Center.

Hub is a good word to describe this building - it's the hub for interaction with crop and livestock producers, as well as with urban and rural audiences interested in turf, gardens, trees, and natural environments. I hope each of you had a chance to look at our lovely courtyard when you arrived, or will have some time to visit the courtyard while you are here today. Whoever said "beauty is its own reward" must have had access to a joyous garden!

One of the things I like best about this building is the way it's designed to take advantage of the earth's natural insulation, as well as the sun's warmth and light to help us heat, cool, and illuminate the facility. We have heat-pumps that use the earth for heating in winter and cooling in summer. This building was built with materials to minimize impacts on the environment.

We are so fortunate here at the Agricultural Research and Development Center to be located in the midst of so many diverse environments - forests, wetlands, a stream, sub-irrigated meadows, as well as agricultural research and production areas. All help contribute to

the research and extension education opportunities this building allows the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to offer.

Cate Neal + Lee Harlan

The building's auditorium, with its multimedia capabilities, allows us to seat up to 150 people for each program. The conference rooms work especially well for smaller meetings, and the exhibition hall can comfortably hold approximately 250 adults with tables and chairs for large gatherings. We've had over 300 children in there, also, for various educational programs! An overhead door and a separate ventilation system allow us to bring in large equipment, such as combines, tractors, and sprayers for educational programs and demonstrations.

Yes, this is a great building, and today we are renaming it for a great friend of the university. In doing so, we celebrate the vision of this man, and the gift he is giving all Nebraskans through his generosity to Nebraska's land-grant university.

I read once that it is people of real vision who plant saplings so that future generations will have shade. The man we honor here today truly is, through his vision and his gift to our university, planting for future generations.

As we prepare to unveil our plaque and officially rename our building, I'd like to ask University of Nebraska Regent Chair Howard Hawks to come forward to help me with this task of ^upure pleasure.^l

Would you help me welcome Regent Hawks?

(APPLAUSE.) — DAN DUNCAN —

Regent Hawks, if you'll go ahead and do the honors of the unveiling, I'll read the inscription on the plaque which is on our donor's wall for everyone to see. We have inscribed the very same wording on this particular plaque which we are going to present ^upersonally^l today to a very special person. It indeed is ^ua joy^l to me to be the first to say this is the "August N. Christenson Research and Education Building."

And the plaque says: "The Research and Education Building is named in honor of August N. Christenson for his outstanding loyalty and commitment to the students, faculty, and programs of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"August 'Augie' Christenson grew up on his family's farm near Colon, Nebraska, in Saunders County. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business Administration in 1945 and was a

member of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

“He dedicated his career to the Standard Chemical Manufacturing Company, a livestock feed and supply firm in Omaha, and retired as the Senior Vice President and Treasurer.

“A member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor’s Club with Distinction and the University of Nebraska President’s Club, Augie is a loyal supporter of the university who has given [“]annually[”] since the 1950s.

“On August 25, 2004, he committed a substantial planned-gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation to provide perpetual-support for the College of Business Administration, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Agricultural Research and Development Center in Mead.

“The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is forever grateful to Augie Christenson and his vision for outstanding education, research, and outreach.”

Augie, we are [“]delighted[”] to present you with this plaque with an inscription [“]mirroring[”] the plaque on our donor wall, and I assure you we →

are forever grateful for your generosity. It is my very great pleasure to be part of this celebration renaming our building today. It also is my great pleasure to again introduce Howard Hawks, Chair of the University of Nebraska Regents and the regent who represents this district. Please help me welcome Regent Hawks.

(APPLAUSE.)