

January 13, 2016

Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce AgriBusiness Committee announces new scholarship in honour of Red Williams

SASKATOON - The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce AgriBusiness Committee is pleased to announce the establishment of a new post-graduate scholarship honouring the work of retired professor and agriculture advocate C.M. (Red) Williams.

"The AgriBusiness committee of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce is extremely proud to honour one of their greatest supporters and members, Red Williams," said committee co-chair Bert Sutherland. "Red has spent his life in the purpose of agriculture and we're extremely proud to say he is one of ours. "

The University of Saskatchewan is now accepting contributions to the scholarship. One graduate student will be given the award annually, with the possibility for renewal based on the success of the contribution campaign.

Preference will be given to a graduate student doing research in crops, animal production and/or agricultural policy, with a focus on improving water sustainability in the province's agricultural sector.

The focus of the scholarship speaks to Red's deep interest in drought-proofing agriculture in Saskatchewan. Water management is a challenge that Red sought to address for most of his life, and this interest continues in his retirement.

"Red Williams is a legendary force for good in Canadian agriculture," said Mary Buhr, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the U of S. "His passion for supporting young people in learning how to innovate, and to become, themselves, advocates for evidence-based decision making, has created legions of thoughtful leaders in our communities."

Red was a long-time professor at the U of S, also serving as the Department Head of Animal Science for eight years. Although he officially retired in 1997, he continued to teach for many years as professor emeritus, ultimately logging a total of 60 years at the university.

Red is a fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and a Member of the Order of Canada. He is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour, and has been inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, among many other awards.

For more information about the C.W. (Red) Williams Post-Graduate Scholarship, please contact:

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306.664.0700
Backgrounder attached

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About Red Williams

Red Williams was born in Richardson, Sask. After moving to Alberta and completing his early school years, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy, serving on a destroyer in the North Atlantic. He was on the beach at Normandy during the invasion of France during the Second World War.

Returning from the war, he was educated at the University of British Columbia (Master's) and Oregon State University (PhD). Red was subsequently hired as a professor at the U of S, also serving as the Department Head of Animal Science for eight years. Although he officially retired in 1997, he continued to teach for many years as professor emeritus, ultimately logging a total of 60 years at the university.

While he has a particular interest in water management, Red is a livestock specialist. He introduced cross breeding of beef cattle to Western Canada, researched the dwarf gene in Herefords and bull fertility, and co-authored three papers on low temperature effects on dairy cattle.

Over the years, he produced over 300 newspaper columns and 4,000 radio editorials, and delivered more than 1,500 rural and agriculture-related speeches. In addition, he assisted First Nations and Metis people in developing farm enterprises. Red was involved in over 30 international development projects as consultant and advisor, including serving as the chair of CUSO, the international development agency.

He was also politically involved, as president of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan for eight years and vice-president of the Canadian Liberal Party for three years. He ran for federal office three times.

Contributions

Contributions to the scholarship can be made by cheque or online at give.usask.ca/online/agbio.php. All contributions are tax deductible, and can be made as a one-time donation or over a period of years.

Cheques can be mailed to:

Development Office, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Drive Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8

For more information contact:

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