

NDSCS: Nearly 95 acres of family farmland acquired for college's use as a 'land lab'

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According to Gilbertson, most of NDSCS' welding faculty will be involved in putting the grant to use. His key team includes associate professors Joel Johnson, Lee Larson and Vance Harshen, plus instructors Mitch Van Vleet and Chance Pausch.

"There is a budget lined up for three years. It's basically the full amount divided by three. But there is flexibility within the grant, for things like if I need more equipment," Gilbertson explained.

With class registrations still occurring, Gilbertson is unsure how many students will take NDSCS' welding program this fall. Currently, there is the potential for 100 students (60 first-year students, 40 second-year students) between the Fargo and Wahpeton campuses.

According to Gilbertson's grant proposal, the following five goals will be accomplished:

- Developing a welding curriculum at NDSCS in alignment with the curriculum developed in career and technical education courses in secondary schools across North Dakota and the adoption of the American Welding Society's (AWS) "Schools Excelling through National Skill Standards Education (SENSE) program
- Conducting outreach activities targeting female and minority students to increase enrollments in secondary



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The North Dakota State College of Science Agriculture Department is the recipient of nearly 95 acres of farmland located northwest of Wahpeton to use during the next three years. The land will benefit agriculture students as they collaborate with ag faculty to create a 'land lab.' The NDSCS Alumni Foundation staff worked with the Kosel/Patterson families on the arrangement. The land is owned by Linda Patterson and her mother, Mary Kosel. Above are Vice President for Academic Affairs Harvey Link, Linda Patterson, NDSCS President John Richman, Mary Kosel, NDSCS ag chair Craig Zimprich, Alumni Foundation Executive Director Kim Nelson and ag student Kendra Klosterman.

career and technical education courses

- Recruiting and training education instructors through professional development activities

- Facilitating the certification and testing of welders using national standards by NDSCS becoming an AWS-accredited test facility

- Developing latticed curricula to establish new degree tracts in advanced skills for welding and manufacturing students at NDSCS while increasing the number of NDSCS graduates that participate in "2 Plus 2" programs with Minnesota State University-Moorhead and Valley City State University

"We're going to train

all the high school welding instructors across the state of North Dakota to our standards," Gilbertson continued. "We're going to provide them with equipment and materials to help get their programs up to speed."

By 2020, Gilbertson continued, it will hopefully be possible for NDSCS to see further gains with its long-range goal of helping incoming students be well-prepared and on the fast track for successful completion of its welding program.

"These efforts have the potential to transform the regional and state landscape of welding technician education in North Dakota," he wrote.

The welding program isn't the only NDSCS department with an optimistic future in sight.

In May, NDSCS acquired the use of nearly 95 acres of farmland north of Wahpeton from the Kosel and Patterson families.

Owners Linda Patterson and her mother, Mary Kosel, worked with NDSCS' Alumni Foundation to arrange the land usage. The women and NDSCS signed a contract on Thursday, May 11.

During the next three years, NDSCS' agriculture department will collaborate with agriculture students to create a "land lab" on the parcel.

More information about the land lab is expected later this year.