

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Herbert Allen Myers at the Fall 2021 commencement.

Details of Mr. Myers' Accomplishments: Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Science degree to Mr. Herbert Allen (Al) Myers, founder and president of Ag Leader. The University wishes to recognize Mr. Myers as an agricultural engineer, inventor, innovator, entrepreneur and global pioneer in precision agriculture.

From a young age growing up on a crop and livestock farm near Watseka, Illinois, Al Myers was interested in the mechanical aspects of agriculture. He completed four years of vocational agriculture in high school with the intention of becoming a farmer, but a teacher convinced him to consider a career path in engineering.

After graduating from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural engineering, Mr. Myers climbed the career ladder at Sundstrand Corp. in the high-pressure hydraulics division, advancing from project engineer to controls group supervisor to systems engineer to applications engineering manager to principle engineer. Among his many accomplishments during his time at Sundstrand include development of a swing control to rotate the upper part of large machines like cranes and excavators. He also designed the first load sensing and power sensing controls for use on open circuit, heavy duty hydraulic pumps.

Mr. Myers' was always interested in inventing and product development, and he dreamed about starting his own company to build and market his ideas. For six years, he developed, tested and refined his first invention, an on-the-go yield monitor for a combine grain harvester, before determining it was ready for commercialization. In 1992, he left Sauer Sundstrand (now known as Danfoss), and began selling the yield monitors out of his home as Ag Leader Technology.

Today, Ag Leader, headquartered in Ames, Iowa, is the largest privately-owned supplier of precision farming technology in the world with products and tools to improve decision-making, efficiency and address agronomic challenges. Mr. Myers holds 16 U.S. patents and two foreign patents. Ag Leader produces more than two-thirds of the grain yield measuring sensors made in the world, and has a catalog of seven product lines of equipment and services. The company is currently working to develop a high-speed (up to 12 mph) planter with Williamsburg, Iowa-based Kinze Manufacturing, Inc. Ag Leader has nearly 300 employees worldwide with offices in The Netherlands, Australia and Brazil; and an expansive domestic and international dealer network.

Faculty members from Iowa State's Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering nominated Mr. Myers for the honorary degree. Their nomination states, "The impact of Al Myers' work is huge in Iowa and over the world. He is clearly the father of yield monitoring and his technology is credited with changing the face of world agriculture."

This nomination is supported by Iowa State's Faculty Senate Honorary Degree Committee and Executive Board; Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert; and President Wendy Wintersteen, who is pleased to present it to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.