

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Norman Borlaug

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug is being recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Washington State University for his contributions to the security of the world's food supplies.

Borlaug is known as “the father of the Green Revolution” for his work that helped many developing countries become self sufficient in cereal grain production in the 1960s. He is one of the world's most decorated and honored individuals, with the Nobel prize in 1970, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977, the Presidential World Without Hunger Award in 1985, and countless honorary degrees, citations and international awards.

Born in Iowa in 1914 and educated at the University of Minnesota, he is currently Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture at Texas A&M University. The world has been his laboratory. For more than 50 years, he has conducted research and served as a consultant under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and governments in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.



Borlaug often has given substantial credit for his success to the late Orville Vogel, WSU professor and researcher, who shared genetic material from his breeding program with Borlaug and other scientists throughout the world.

Vogel's new semi-dwarf wheat varieties introduced in the early 1960s boosted farm production by 25 percent, resulting in an estimated \$50 million of increased value of the state's annual wheat crop.

Although his career has been devoted to science, Borlaug also has been praised as a diplomat and educator. He has said of the time he spent advising Indian government officials in 1968, that it “was the most productive hour of my career, for it apparently contributed to changing government policies on several fronts that subsequently influenced agriculture production.” The changes resulted in an additional five million tons of Indian-grown wheat to the world market.

Borlaug is only the third person to receive an honorary doctorate from WSU in recent years. Others have gone to poets Howard Nemerov in 1989 and Carolyn Kizer in 1991.