

# Armen and Connie Hanson Program Endowment

Connie, a tall beautiful blonde, and Armen, a handsome young farmer and teacher, met on a blind date in the fall of 1986 and were married in April of 1987. Their daughter, Callie, was a Lake Region State College student and a Royals basketball player, playing on the team that went to Nationals in 2008. Callie continued her education at UND and is a physical therapist with Sanford in Mayville, North Dakota.

Armen was born and attended school in Devils Lake. Growing up on the family farm, he was active in 4-H and FFA. As a freshman at Lake Region "Junior" College in 1966, he was in the first class located in the current building. The building was so new it didn't have clocks, doors, or even paint! He graduated from LRSC and continued his education at North Dakota State University. Armen began his teaching career at Kenmare, North Dakota. After teaching for three years, he returned to NDSU to earn his degree in Animal Science and Education. Upon completion of this degree, Armen returned to the Lake Region and taught vocational agriculture at the Lake Area Vocational Technical Center in Devils Lake for several years. In 1982, he started his current position with Farmers Union Insurance. Always active in the family farming operation, Armen farmed with his parents, Walter and Helen Hanson, until they retired in 1989, bought his own farm in 1974, and has now retired from actively tilling the land.

Connie grew up and attended school in Buffalo, North Dakota. Being raised in a family of pilots, it was natural that she would take to the air. Her grandfather started flying in 1940, and her father, at the age of eighty-six, is still an excellent pilot. Connie soloed at the age of seventeen. Graduating from the National College of Business in Rapid City, South Dakota,

Connie has been employed in several diverse opportunities—Concordia College, Windfield Manor School of Horsemanship, and Rocky Mountain Veterinary Supply Company. She has worked hand-in-hand with Armen in the farming operation and has also been a field staff member with North Dakota Farmers Union.



Community involvement is important to Armen and Connie. They are active with the Fort Totten State Historic Site Foundation and enjoy working as innkeepers at the Totten Trail Inn and helping with Fort Totten Little Theatre. Local 4-H, Firebird, and Lake Region Royal booster clubs, and Saint Olaf Lutheran Church are also lucky recipients of their hard work and support. Connie has been a director on the North Dakota State Fair board of directors since 1992. Armen has also served on the Community College Foundation board of directors for several terms and the North Dakota State Historical Society board as well as numerous other boards through the years.

Armen and Connie now enjoy spending their winters in sunny Arizona.

With their love for the community and Lake Region State College, Armen and Connie established this endowment to ensure the success of technical programs in the college with priority given to agriculture, automotive, and health care programs. ■