



Kent Dold

Garden Plain High School 1980

Supervisor of Custom Harvester
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What do you enjoy the most about your chosen profession?

Raised on a family farm myself, I especially enjoy working with farmers, meeting their families, and seeing their operations. It is fulfilling to be in the fields alongside them, helping to support their livelihood.

What degree(s) have you received since your graduation from Renwick and what schools did you attend?

Bachelors in Business Administration with a dual major in Agribusiness from Friends University

Was there a teacher who made a positive impact on you or helped direct your path when you were a Renwick student? How did they inspire you?

Jerry Gerber, Garden Plain High School. With his coaching and teaching duties combined, he kept me on my toes! He got to know each student and helped us discover our talents, and then he pushed us hard to do better and repeat it until we got it right. He supported me even after graduating from high school. When I was enrolled at Friends University, I happened to see him and asked if he could help me with several Chemistry questions about the course material. He volunteered to tutor me the entire semester in his home. Without him, I wouldn't have done as well. He not only inspired me through high school, but also remained determined that I would continue to do well in college. I was inspired by his investment of time and belief in me. Mr. Gerber taught me to work smart and that hard work definitely has rewards, but most importantly he taught me to push beyond what I thought my limits were.

What advice do you have for current Renwick students preparing for college?

Seek advice. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask questions.

Networking is key. Get to know as many people as possible. Everybody knows something you do not and can help one way or another. Starting in high school, get to know your teachers because they really do want to help you and see you do well. They can help steer you through high school and even well after that. Talk to your parents and learn about their experiences. Discuss your dreams and ambitions with anybody who will listen. In listening to people's stories and sharing yours, you'll soon find out more things that you never thought you'd be interested in and new directions your future could take. Ask for advice and listen to everybody, but then listen to your gut to make the decisions that are right for you.

The following advice my Dad gave me about attending school was invaluable: he said, "Sit in the front row, and write down everything the teacher writes down. Stay after class and discuss the subject. Get to know your teachers and professors and give them the opportunity to know you. They will take care of you." Throughout my educational career and beyond, his advice proved sound time and time again.

What kind of a difference did your time as a student at Renwick make for you?

In the Renwick District, I was afforded great teachers and surrounded by great families. Both teachers and families cared and showed up for you. We learned teamwork, how to work together, and ways of supporting each other. We learned the ins and outs of competition, the length of time and amount of energy it takes to work toward a goal, and how to deal with both victory and defeat. We were encouraged to always try our best and give our all. We learned to maintain a higher standard in academics, sports, and respect, and to take pride in how we represented our school and community. I've had to call on these lessons time and again in my life. And they've helped me along the way in my job positions and entrepreneurial risk-taking, in raising my seven kids, and even in securing my lovely wife's hand in marriage. I feel blessed by the foundation I received as a Renwick student.