

## Partnerships Open Doors

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# PARTNERSHIPS OPEN DOORS

The Master of Social Work program is its fourth year of equipping students to bring Christ-centered renewal to the world through the vocation of social work. The program has been an inspiring example to me of how God uses the work of his people to bring the grace of the Gospel to people in need of healing and restoration. As result, I am always encouraged by opportunities that increase access to the programs at Dordt. A couple of recent partnerships are bringing new access to the Master of Social Work program for students interested in a Christ-centered graduate school experience.



Dordt University recently entered into two partnerships that have opened doors for students graduating from other like-minded institutions. Dordt has partnered with Redeemer University (Ancaster, Ontario) and Geneva College (Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania) to provide their graduates with a head start in Dordt's online Master of Social Work program. The partnerships show how working collaboratively with other institutions can result in opportunities for students.

The two partnerships are important because they provide a Christ-centered pathway for students pursuing a Master of Social Work degree. The partnerships recognize the work that students have already completed at Redeemer and Geneva. This reduces the number of courses a graduate of Redeemer and Geneva need to take, which saves the students both time and tuition. Redeemer and Geneva graduates now have a pathway to an MSW that is faster than at secular universities in their area. Also, Dordt's program is 100 percent online, which allows students to access the program from wherever they live. However, the primary benefit is that these partnerships enable students to continue their social work education from the Reformed worldview that Dordt, Geneva, and Redeemer all share. Students in the program learn how to support individuals and groups in challenging situations through the lens of God's word with both grace and truth.

A Master of Social Work allows a social worker to increase their level of service to people in need. Dordt's MSW program allows students to further their career prospects while also developing them as Christian social work practitioners. The program has three specializations for students to choose from: clinical practice, community practice and administration, and advanced generalist.

JOE BAKKER ('07), DEAN FOR ONLINE, GRADUATE, AND PARTNER PROGRAMS

DORDT UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE



A little snow didn't dampen the spirits of Defender Nation at the football game against Briar Cliff University. Dordt trounced the Chargers 49 to zero during that Defender Days game.

## WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT DEFENDER DAYS?

Parks Brawand ('22) drove through icy weather from Aberdeen, South Dakota, to Sioux Center to be at Defender Days, Dordt's alumni and parents' weekend. He works long hours as a region design engineer with the South Dakota Department of Transportation, but he knew that he didn't want to miss an opportunity to be back on Dordt's campus.

"The biggest motivator for me was spending time with friends from Dordt again, all while being physically on campus," he says. "There's nothing quite like returning to where these friendships started, and returning to that sense of campus life, even if it's just for a weekend."

Brawand's friend and former roommate, Sam Landstra ('22), flew in from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to be at Defender Days. He works as a reporter for FOX 17 News in Grand Rapids, where he finds, shoots, writes, and edits five stories a week for the nighttime newscasts. Landstra took time out of his