

Sculpture honors World Food Prize's Quinn

Lynn Hicks, lhicks@dmreg.com

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(Photo: Jim Heemstra/Special to the Register)

Kenneth Quinn is now, officially, a permanent fixture at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates.

Quinn, president of the World Food Prize, was surprised with a marble bust of his likeness at the hall Tuesday night. The sculpture was created by Ben Victor, a South Dakota artist who created the image of Norman Borlaug that now stands at the U.S. Capitol.

Quinn was uncharacteristically speechless after the bust was unveiled. "I didn't know what to say or how to act," he said today. "I never imagined something like this. I'm incredibly touched."

The statute weighs more than 1,000 pounds. World Food Prize officials plan to display the bust in the Hall of Laureates' Iowa Gallery. Other art in the room honors famous Iowans including George Washington Carver, Herbert Hoover and Robert Ray.

The bust marks Quinn's 15 years leading the World Food Prize. The chief plotters behind the gift were John Ruan III, chairman of the World Food Prize Foundation; his wife, Janis; Suku Radia, CEO of Bankers Trust; and Mashal Husain, vice president of the foundation.

They unveiled the statue during a dinner at the Hall of Laureates. Guests included former laureates and members of the council of advisers.

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