A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence 2018
Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in College and University Awards Program

A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence
2018 has been an outstanding year for American agriculture and the academic institutions that are part of the Association of Public and Land-Grant University system, including the family of land-grant universities, non-land grant agriculture, and resource-related universities.

Being new to NIFA, I can tell you that our Education and Multicultural Alliances portfolio was one of the impressive discoveries for me as I learned about the agency. Last year, these programs trained 1,100 undergraduate, 950 graduate, and 400 postdoctoral researchers, but these numbers touch only a fraction of the nearly 60,000 high-skilled job openings expected each year through 2020. Your students will be the ones who will produce the knowledge in our laboratories, translate it into useful information, and serve as the high tech agricultural workers needed in the future.

Our partnership plays an important role in rural prosperity. Together we advance the innovations that play a key role in our nation’s economic development. Consumers in this country and around the world are enjoying superior American-grown-and-produced products because of the progress made possible by biotechnology, nanotechnology, and other areas of science. These products, produced more efficiently through precision agriculture, robotics, and the use of big data, are expanding farm and ranch profitability. Our resulting technologically superior food and agriculture sector continues to be one of the economic engines that drive our rural economy.

The integrated nature of our research, education, and extension system, as well as its ability to collaborate directly with other public, private, and not-for-profit actors is an important driver of this success. Today we recognize the extraordinary efforts of educators, teachers, researchers, leaders, and extension professionals whose science-based work creates a tremendous positive impact by helping their clientele seize the opportunities and overcome the challenges they face through advanced technology. The Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards recognize university faculty for engaging and preparing students for the future. The Excellence in Extension Awards recognize individuals committed to programs in lifelong learning and contributions to improving communities. The National Extension Diversity Award acknowledges outstanding efforts and accomplishments within the Cooperative Extension Service to enable and sustain diverse cultures and abilities. The Experiment Station Section leadership and diversity awards recognize those that have advanced the vision of the land-grant innovation and discovery ideal with excellence and inclusiveness. Finally, the Multistate Research Award recognizes the collaborative efforts of state Agricultural Experiment Stations working together to address critical, regional needs. These awards honor outstanding recipients who have made exceptional scholarly contributions. These awards also recognize the educational, extension, and research system that has long been—and will continue to be—critical to the success of our great nation.

Our congratulations to every member of the family of land-grant, non-land grant agriculture, and resource-related universities, and to the award winners being recognized today.
Distilled down to its essence, higher education is a network of people and ideas in exchange with society at large. Seen in this light, educators serve as the connection binding the higher education community together. These remarkable individuals deserve to be recognized for the tremendous contributions they make to their institutions every day.

Less tangible but no less valuable are the contributions scholars make to society. They inspire curiosity in their students, spark creativity through their research, and propel the world forward through service to their communities.

As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, I commend the 2018 recipients of the Food and Agriculture Excellence Awards. They have distinguished themselves in a field of men and women who work tirelessly to improve the world through their research, instruction, and community engagement.

This year’s winners are the very embodiment of excellence. As we continue to usher in an era of rapid societal and technological change, the individuals at the core of our universities promise to help shape a future that is better than our present or past. This is made possible only through their uncompromising dedication to excellence and their unrelenting commitment to improving our shared destiny.

I warmly congratulate this year’s winners and extend our sincere gratitude for their unwavering commitment to excellence.

Peter McPherson
President, APLU
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

NELSON MANDELA
A professor and director of graduate education in Iowa State University’s (ISU) Animal Science Department, Steven Lonergan has taught eight different courses and more than 3,200 students over the course of 40 semesters. Lonergan understands that ISU’s motto “Science with Practice” means creating opportunities for students to apply technical expertise, and that while an academic foundation is absolutely critical, internships and study abroad opportunities provide real-life experiences that develop active, engaged, life-long learners. He has provided these kinds of experiences as an instructor, advisor, researcher, and mentor and through service to international professional societies.

Lonergan has been recognized for outstanding achievement in teaching by his college, university, and international professional societies. He is a trusted and valued academic advisor and supporter of student professional and social organizations. He was the recipient of the ISU Wilbur Layton Award for student service in 2015 and the inaugural Claude B. Hutchison Award for Meritorious Service for FarmHouse Fraternity in 2018.

He has served as chair of the Graduate College faculty council and his department’s curriculum and outcomes assessment committees. He has also served as a member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Graduate College Curriculum committees. He is a well-known scholar in animal science and meat science and has published over 110 peer-reviewed publications.

Lonergan earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Iowa State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
Professor X. Ben Wu is known for his passion for teaching, genuine care for students and their learning, active and inclusive pedagogy to engage and foster the learning of all students, and scholarly teaching approach.

In the last 23 years, he has taught more than 9,000 undergraduate and 300 graduate students, mentored 36 graduate students, and served as a committee member for 106 graduate students. He has conducted dozens of teaching workshops for faculty and graduate students, served as associate dean of faculties and as director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, and actively engaged in higher education reform at the university and national levels.

He has received numerous teaching awards at college, university, national, and international levels. He was awarded the title of Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence, Arthur and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman University Professorship, and John Kincaid University Professorship for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence.

Wu’s research is in the areas of landscape ecology of rangeland ecosystems as well as ecology education, especially authentic scientific inquiries in introductory courses and their effects on student learning. He has more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and was a PI/co-PI for grants of over $12 million from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other sources, including 18 education-related grants totaling more than $2.5 million.

Wu earned a bachelor’s degree from Lanzhou University and master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee. He received his postdoctoral training at The Ohio State University.
True teachers use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross. Then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own.

Nikos Kazantzakis
REGIONAL TEACHING AWARDS 2018
Jason Bergtold, a professor in agricultural economics at Kansas State University (KSU), believes in an active and experiential learning environment. He utilizes hands-on active learning techniques to physically engage students in learning economic concepts that are often hard to grasp, as well as intensive hands-on and experiential learning techniques that expose students to real-life, problem-solving situations. Students enjoy becoming part of and experiencing economic processes first-hand and are able to apply these concepts more readily to their everyday lives.

Bergtold teaches core undergraduate classes in principles of agricultural economics and data analysis and graduate courses in operations research and applied econometrics. He has served as the director of graduate programs in his department and was recently made editor of a new journal, Agricultural Economics Teaching Resources. He has a highly productive research program with more than 55 peer-reviewed publications and has raised more than $9.3 million in extramural funds that have helped support graduate and undergraduate education and research.

Bergtold received the Outstanding Teaching Award, Less than 10 Years of Experience from the Western Agricultural Economics Association and Agricultural and Applied Economics Association; Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from KSU; and Outstanding Teaching Award from Gamma Sigma Delta.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University and master’s and Ph.D. degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Joshua M. Duke has helped students learn the power of economics to solve problems in agriculture and natural resources. But this power also requires learning the art of framing problems to reflect both the legal constraints on institutional change and the latest insights from the agricultural sciences. He regularly uses problem-based and active learning to help students, even in large classes, develop their own skills in the art and science of economic analysis.

Duke is devoted to student learning, and students describe him as well read and passionate. He taught over 2,000 students in the classroom and supervised 20 graduate students. Duke’s greatest learning accomplishments are challenging ambitious undergraduates with substantive research experiences; he has mentored dozens of these students in his lab, directed 23 undergraduate interns/theses, and co-authored nine refereed publications with undergraduates. Duke has received teaching awards from his department, college, and university.

Duke has won $3.8 million in grants and published 61 articles, conducting most of his research on teams with others from the agricultural sciences. Duke co-edited The Oxford Handbook of Land Economics and the journal Agricultural and Resource Economics. He also was associate editor at Water Resources Research. In 2012, Duke was elected president of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, where he was also named a distinguish member.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Vermont, master’s from the University of Rochester, and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.
Kimberly A. Moore
Professor
Environmental Horticulture
University of Florida

Located off-campus at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences’ Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Kimberly Moore has strived for the past 10 years to develop innovative online courses for the statewide Plant Science curriculum that incorporate hands-on activities into classes that traditionally have lab sections. Her strength in developing authentic assessments is appreciated by students who enjoy applying what they learn to real-world situations.

In addition to teaching, Moore conducts research on the use of reclaimed waste water on bedding plant and ornamental plant growth. Recently she has worked on documenting the effects of salt water on ornamental plant growth to find ways to minimize damage. Her background is in plant nutrition, and she investigates sustainable production practices for bedding plants and ornamental plants.

Moore is active in teaching committees at the University of Florida, as well as nationally through service in the North American College and Teachers of Agriculture and the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). Her efforts were recognized when she became a University of Florida Distinguished Teaching Scholar and a fellow of ASHS, the society’s highest honor. Her teaching has been recognized with many awards, including the Online Consortium Certificate in Online Teaching, NACTA Teacher Fellow, NACTA Southern Regional Outstanding Teacher, and ASHS Outstanding Graduate Educator.

Moore earned a B.S. from Eastern Illinois University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University.

Cheryl Joy Wachenheim
Professor
Agribusiness and Applied Economics
North Dakota State University

A professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, Cheryl Wachenheim has been on faculty with North Dakota State University (NDSU) since 1998, and she believes NDSU is home to the best students found anywhere. Teaching is her passion, and she regularly teaches classes in economics and agricultural sales, finance, and marketing. Her classes focus on accruing the many benefits associated with active student learning and inclusion of professional engagement.

Wachenheim regularly conducts pedagogical research and is inspired and motivated to grow as a teacher from the literature, experiences other teachers share within the profession, and the many teaching workshops and seminars provided by NDSU and the North American Colleges of Teachers of Agriculture. She owes any success in teaching to those who share their experiences and materials, who have provided and continue to provide formal and informal mentoring, agribusiness professionals who engage with students, and her students.

She has been a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard since 1998 and has had the opportunity to continue to engage with her students through online instruction during multiple deployments to Southeast Asia. She is currently the public affairs officer for the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

Wachenheim holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota and a master’s, MBA, and Ph.D. from Michigan State University.
William E. Walton
Professor and Vice Chairman
Entomology
University of California, Riverside

William “Bill” Walton is a professor and vice chairman of the Department of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside. He teaches courses in introductory evolution and ecology, insect ecology, aquatic entomology, and freshman advising seminar for first-year learning communities.

Walton maintains a research program that focuses on the ecology and control of mosquitoes. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, review articles, and book chapters. He served as a subject editor for the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* and *Journal of Medical Entomology* and on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Vector Ecology* and *Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association*. He was president of the Society for Vector Ecology and is currently president of the American Mosquito Control Association. He is a co-director of the Center for Disease Control-funded Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases.

Walton’s teaching was recognized through UC Riverside’s Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award, the Entomological Society of America Pacific Branch’s Excellence in Teaching Award, the Western Academic Program Section’s Western Region Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the Entomology Graduate Student Association Faculty Mentor Award. He is a National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Sciences.

He earned a B.S. from the University of Rhode Island and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Alan Elliott Wilson
Associate Professor
Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Sciences
Auburn University

After spending a year as a research investigator at the University of Michigan, Alan Wilson joined the Auburn University faculty in the College of Agriculture’s School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences in 2007. Currently an associate professor, Wilson is broadly interested in understanding the ecology of algal blooms in recreational, drinking, and aquaculture waterbodies. These systems serve as his teaching venues where he trains graduate and undergraduate researchers.

Experiential learning is central to Wilson’s teaching philosophy, and products like publications and presentations are the metrics he uses to define student and instructor success. For example, in his Meta-Analysis course that he has taught five times since 2010, his students, which include members of seven Auburn University Colleges as well as students at Purdue University and Cornell University, have produced 21 peer-reviewed journal articles in diverse, strong journals. Given the success of his course, Wilson has shared his course materials with colleagues at other institutions, so they can train their students to conduct meta-analyses.

He has been recognized by Auburn with the College of Agriculture Dean’s Grantsmanship Award, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Director’s Junior Faculty Research Award, and the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship.

Wilson earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a master’s degree from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. from Georgia Institute of Technology.
New Teacher Awards 2018
Michael L. Mashtare, Jr.
Assistant Professor
Agronomy and Environmental and Ecological Engineering
Purdue University

Mashtare, an assistant professor at Purdue University, teaches foundational courses in agronomy and engineering sustainability. Mashtare teaches in the Environmental Sciences Learning Community, has served as a research advisor for 17 undergraduate students representing 10 departments and schools across four colleges at Purdue, and currently serves on nine teaching- and academic-related committees. As a first-generation college student, Mashtare recognizes that the diversity of student experiences, dogmas, and biases can create unique challenges and opportunities within the learning environment. His student-centered approach to teaching and learning leverages his enthusiasm for the course material to engage the students; his empathy of how students are processing the material enables him to adjust for the variation of learning styles; his creative and active strategies foster long-term retention of foundational concepts; and his expertise in the subject matter brings current research and practical application into the classroom to show immediacy and relevancy.

Mashtare was awarded the Murphy Exceptional Early Career Teaching Award, Richard L. Kohls Early Career Teacher Award, and the Purdue University Learning Community Exceptional Event Planner Award. He was also a Teaching for Tomorrow Fellow and IMPACT (Instruction Matters Purdue Academic Course Transformation) Faculty Fellow.

He earned his bachelor’s and Ph.D. degrees at Purdue University.

Ranjith Ramanathan
Associate Professor
Animal and Food Sciences
Oklahoma State University

Enthusiastic, passionate, caring, and engaged are the words used by Ranjith Ramanathan’s student to describe his teaching style. Ram, as the students call him, has a flexible teaching approach that allows him to use the students’ personal strengths to reinforce the value of education. His food science courses range from undergraduate to graduate-level and are not only designed to teach students about food science, but also to create life-long learners.

In addition to his creative teaching, Ramanathan maintains a vibrant research program in muscle biochemistry and meat quality with more than 55 peer-reviewed manuscripts, one book chapter, and 115 abstracts, with more than $1.6 million in research funding. He has been an advisor or co-advisor to 55 graduate students, 24 undergraduate research scholars, and three visiting scholars.

Ramanathan received the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ Innovative Teaching Award; North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Young Educator Award; American Society of Animal Science Southern Section, Outstanding Young Animal Scientist; and the American Society of Animal Science Southern Section Teaching Award. Additionally, OSU has awarded him its Alpha-Zeta Award for Outstanding College Agriculture and Natural Resources Teacher; Leave the Ladder Down Award; and the Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

He earned a bachelor’s degree at Kerala Agricultural University and master’s and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Connecticut.
NATIONAL TEACHING AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

2018
For more than two decades, Shelly Peper Sitton has taught students to communicate effectively through writing, editing, and creating publications related to agriculture and natural resources topics. Her energy for student engagement, her emphasis on real-world scenarios, and her dedication to student development creates a classroom atmosphere sought by students and respected by peers. Under her guidance, agricultural communications at Oklahoma State University has grown from 24 to nearly 300 undergraduate and graduate students. The program is now one of the largest and most prestigious programs of its kind.

Perhaps the best example of Sitton’s dedication and commitment is the experience she provides students in the agricultural communications capstone course. This seniors-only course centers around the production of the Cowboy Journal magazine—a real-world, real-problem, real-solution, fast-track experience for 20 to 30 students each semester. Sitton crafts the course to implement nearly every aspect of her students’ previous core courses, helping them strengthen each technical and team-environment skillset to achieve a common goal.

Her research focuses on agricultural communications curriculum development, audience perceptions, and media ethics and objectivity.

Sitton has earned recognition at the college, university, regional, and national level for her teaching and advising. Additionally, her students’ work has garnered hundreds of national awards for design, writing, and photography.

Sitton earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Oklahoma State University.

Monika W. Oli
Senior Lecturer
Microbiology and Cell Science
University of Florida

With a multitude of experiences as researcher, inventor, author, parent, and globe-trotter, Monika Oli engages with her students in a very effective and unique way. A native Bavarian, Oli has been teaching in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Science at the University of Florida (UF) since 2011.

Student engagement is a priority for Oli. Whether it is teaching computer-based technology, making fermented milk products or hiking in the Alps during her study abroad, Oli incorporates many effective and notable teaching styles in and out of the classroom that require participants to acquire twenty-first century competency skills. Her passion is to challenge students to get outside their comfort zone through experiential learning, critical thinking, and internationalizing learner experiences. One of her main goals as an advisor is to provide a holistic approach that focuses not only on a student’s academic successes, but also on his or her physical and mental well-being.

Among many other accolades, Oli received the 2012–2013 UF Teacher of the Year and 2016–2017 UF Faculty Mentor/Advisor of the Year awards, UF’s 2018 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences’ Global Excellence in Internationalizing Student Education Award, and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology Award.

She earned a bachelor’s from the University of Edinburgh, master’s degrees from Mississippi State University and UF, and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Shelly Peper Sitton
Professor
Agricultural Communications
Oklahoma State University
Universities of Excellence

As recognized by the Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards

University of Florida (18)
Kansas State University (15)
Texas A&M University (15)
University of Illinois (14)
Iowa State University (11)
Cornell University (10)
The Ohio State University (10)
Oklahoma State University (10)
Purdue University (9)
University of Connecticut (9)
North Carolina State University (8)
University of Georgia (8)
Colorado State University (6)
University of Missouri–Columbia (6)
New Mexico State University (5)
The Pennsylvania State University (5)
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (5)
University of Nebraska (5)
Utah State University (5)
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (4)
University of Arizona (4)
University of California, Davis (4)
University of Idaho (4)
University of Kentucky (4)
University of Rhode Island (4)
University of Wyoming (4)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (4)
Louisiana State University (3)
Oregon State University (3)
Sam Houston State University (3)
Texas Tech University (3)
University of Massachusetts (3)
University of Minnesota (3)
University of Wisconsin–Madison (3)
Washington State University (3)
Auburn University (2)
California State University, Fresno (2)
Clemson University (2)
Delaware State University (2)
Langston University (2)
Michigan State University (2)
North Dakota State University (2)
South Dakota State University (2)
Southern University and A&M College (2)
University of California, Riverside (2)
University of Delaware (2)
University of Vermont (2)
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (1)
California State University, Chico (1)
Florida State University (1)
Illinois State University (1)
Montclair State University (1)
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (1)
Southwest Missouri State University (1)
Tarleton State University (1)
University of Hawaii (1)
University of Maryland, College Park (1)
University of Michigan (1)
University of Nevada, Reno (1)
University of North Carolina, Greensboro (1)
University of Wisconsin–River Falls (1)
West Virginia University (1)

( ) denotes number of recipients
A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.

Brad Henry
**Roll of Recipients**


**National**

George Acquaah
Langston University, 2007

Teresa C. Balser
University of Wisconsin, 2009

Michael J. Boehm
The Ohio State University, 2010

Terence J. Centner
The University of Georgia, 2015

Ann D. Christy
The Ohio State University, 2016

Daniel L. Civco
University of Connecticut, 2007

John L. Crompton
Texas A&M University, 2012

Garey A. Fox
Oklahoma State University, 2015

Tiffany M. Heng-Moss
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2013

Shida R. Henneberry
Oklahoma State University, 2014

M. Douglas Kenealy
Iowa State University, 2009

Kerry K. Litzenberg
Texas A&M University, 2011

Steven M. Lonergan
Iowa State University, 2018

Joshua J. Millsapgh
University of Missouri, 2008

Robert A. Milvae
University of Connecticut, 2011

Gregory Möller
University of Idaho, 2014

S. Suzanne Nielsen
Purdue University, 2017

F. Bailey Norwood
Oklahoma State University, 2016

Candice A. Shoemaker
Kansas State University, 2012

Ricky W. Telg
University of Florida, 2010

Ann Marie VanDerZanden
Iowa State University, 2017

Michael E. Wetzstein
University of Georgia, 2013

M. Susie Whittington
The Ohio State University, 2008

X. Ben Wu
Texas A&M University, 2018

**North Central Region**

Anna L. Ball
University of Missouri, 2014

Jason Scott Bergtold
Kansas State University, 2018

Michael Boland
Kansas State University, 2008

Emily B. Buck
The Ohio State University, 2016

C. Lee Burras
Iowa State University, 2011

Joseph F. Donnerneyer
The Ohio State University, 2010

Allen M. Featherstone
Kansas State University, 2011

Janice J. Haggart
North Dakota State University, 2013

Alan C. Hansen
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, 2015

Richard W. Hartel
University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2011

Walter L. Hurley
University of Illinois, 2014

Soo- Yeun Lee
University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign, 2013

Donald Jiann-Tyng Liu
University of Minnesota, 2007

Brian H. Lower
The Ohio State University, 2016

Christian Y. Oseto
Purdue University, 2008

Richard C. Schultz
Iowa State University, 2008
Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards, continued

Janice Marie Siegford
Michigan State University, 2017

Michael F. Smith
University of Missouri, 2010

Daniel U. Thomson
Kansas State University, 2012

Cheryl Joy Wachenheim
North Dakota State University, 2018

Michel A. Wattiaux
University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2009

Kimberly A. Williams
Kansas State University, 2009

Curtis R. Youngs
Iowa State University, 2014

NORTHEAST REGION

Kenneth P. Blemings
West Virginia University, 2012

John C. “Jack” Clausen
University of Connecticut, 2013

Ashim K. Datta
Cornell University, 2011

Joshua Martin Duke
University of Delaware, 2018

John C. Ewing
The Pennsylvania State University, 2016

Thomas P. Husband
University of Rhode Island, 2007

James P. Lassoie
Cornell University, 2014

David A. Levitsky
Cornell University, 2009

Rama B. Radhakrishna
The Pennsylvania State University, 2010

Steven Andrew Zinn
University of Connecticut, 2017

SOUTHERN REGION

Antoine J. Alston
North Carolina A&T State University, 2010

Sarah Liberman Ash
North Carolina State University, 2007

S. Chance Brooks
Texas Tech University, 2014

Dale A. Coleman
Auburn University, 2011

W. Stephen Damron
Oklahoma State University, 2007

Molly Espey
Clemson University, 2012

L. Suzanne Goodell
North Carolina State University, 2017

Jeffory A. Hattey
Oklahoma State University, 2008

Susan K. Jacobson
University of Florida, 2017

Michael E. Kane
University of Florida, 2009

Stanley F. Kelley
Sam Houston State University, 2012

Robert A. Lane
Sam Houston State University, 2017

Foy D. Mills, Jr.
Sam Houston State University, 2015

Kimberly A. Moore
University of Florida, 2018

Zhu H. Ning
Southern University and A&M College, 2016

Lawrence R. ‘Dick’ Oliver
University of Arkansas, 2009

Tracy A. Rutherford
Texas A&M University, 2014

Jeffrey W. Savell
Texas A&M University, 2013

Robert L. Shewfelt
The University of Georgia, 2008

William J. Silvia
University of Kentucky, 2013

Patricia K. Smith
Texas A&M University, 2015

Nicole L.P. Stedman
University of Florida, 2016

George W. Wardlow
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, 2008

Alan Elliott Wilson
Auburn University, 2018
Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards, continued

Elizabeth B. Wilson
North Carolina State University, 2010

**Western Region**

Amin Ahmadzadeh
University of Idaho, 2007

Elizabeth A. Applegate
University of California, Davis, 2016

Stephen Devadoss
University of Idaho, 2010

Thomas R. Famula
University of California, Davis, 2012

W. Marshall Frasier
Colorado State University, 2015

James A. Knight
The University of Arizona, 2007

Timothy D. Paine
University of California, Riverside, 2015

Dennis T. Ray
The University of Arizona, 2009

William E. Walton
University of California, Riverside, 2018

Brian K. Warnick
Utah State University, 2013

Karen C. Williams
University of Wyoming, 2012

**New Teacher**

Leslie D. Edgar
University of Arkansas, 2013

Kellie J. Enns
Colorado State University, 2014

Miriam Ferzli
North Carolina State University, 2011

Jason D. Hans
University of Kentucky, 2009

Jennifer L. Hardey
University of Illinois, 2008

David W.W. Jones
North Carolina State University, 2013

Amy L. Kaleita
Iowa State University, 2007

Tracy Kitchel
University of Missouri, 2011

Neil A. Knebel
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, 2007

Rebecca G. Lawver
Utah State University, 2016

Michael L. Mashtare, Jr.
Purdue University, 2018

Eric S. McLamore
University of Florida, 2016

Courtney A. Meyers
Texas Tech University, 2015

Chad T. Miller
Kansas State University, 2017

Christine Whitney Miller
University of Florida, 2017

Brian E. Myers
University of Florida, 2008

Maria Navarro
The University of Georgia, 2012

Haley F. Oliver
Purdue University, 2014

Ranjith Ramanathan
Oklahoma State University, 2018

Michael S. Retallick
Iowa State University, 2012

T. Grady Roberts
University of Florida, 2010

Lori Unruh Snyder
Purdue University, 2009

Jennifer R. Strong
Texas A&M University, 2015

Amanda D. Weaver
South Dakota State University, 2010

**National Teaching and Student Engagement**

Monika W. Oli
University of Florida, 2018

Shelly Peper Sitton
Oklahoma State University, 2018
A mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.

William Arthur Ward
National Award for Excellence in Extension 2018
Lesia L. Oesterreich serves as an extension human science specialist and program manager with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and is passionate about developing effective educational programs for rural and urban early childhood educators.

Her early career collaboration with the Midwest Child Care Research Consortium identified key deficiencies in the quality of Iowa child care. Oesterreich has secured more than $8 million in extramural funding to strengthen early childhood programs. Her innovative programming ranges from entry-level health and safety training for new early childhood teachers to the development of professional credential programs for early childhood consultants. Her translation of research findings and outreach efforts contributed to the development of Iowa state-supported public preschool and the Iowa Quality Child Care Rating system.

Her most recent focus is on creating effective online training by leading a team of extension educators to develop user-friendly, online programs. These early childhood educational programs are accessed by more than 36,000 early childhood educators each year who teach an estimated 165,000 children annually. Follow-up evaluations and onsite assessments indicate that 88 percent of these individuals report or demonstrate new knowledge, skills, or program improvements. Evaluations show that teachers and caregivers significantly increase understanding in child development, early learning, supporting positive behavior, nutrition, and health and safety practices.

Nationally, Oesterreich has also served in leadership roles with Cooperative Extension’s National Network for Child Care; Children, Youth and Families, Education Research Network (CYFERnet) and eXtension Foundation.

She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas Tech University.
Jason de Koff serves as an associate professor/Extension specialist and assistant Extension program leader in the College of Agriculture at Tennessee State University. He engages in Extension and research programs in agronomy and soil science with specialization in bioenergy crop production. He has developed a series of 12 peer-reviewed fact sheets related to bioenergy, including a bioenergy activity for youth that received an Educational Materials Award from the American Society of Agronomy. Demonstrations of his mobile biodiesel trailer for farmers and youth have reached over 2,000 people across Tennessee and led to their increased knowledge and interest in this area. This project was featured in a Tennessee Department of Agriculture publication, on RFD-TV, and was a national finalist in the Search for Excellence in Crop Production by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in 2016. In 2017, he was named “Communicator of the Year” by the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists and also won the APLU Innovative Teaching Award. de Koff provides leadership to Extension faculty within the College of Agriculture as well as numerous agricultural agents throughout Tennessee. He has directly secured more than $650,000 in external funding to enhance his Extension programs, including new programs in soil health and drone technology. de Koff earned his bachelor’s degree from Ithaca College, master’s from the University of California, Riverside, and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Joe D. Luck primarily works in extension and research and teaches a course on precision agriculture technologies and site-specific crop management strategies. Since 2013, he has led the Nebraska Extension Precision Agriculture Data Management workshops, which have provided hands-on training to more than 600 producers and agriculture professionals, affecting more than 4.5 million acres of crops spanning five states. Luck serves as lead engineer for Project SENSE (Sensors for Efficient Nitrogen Use and Stewardship of the Environment), an integrated extension/research project that promotes reactive nitrogen management with crop canopy sensors. A 12-year member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), Luck has made significant leadership contributions within the ASABE Machinery Systems community. Luck was elected into the leadership of the North Central Extension and Research Association and in 2015, joined the Board of Directors for the Agricultural Data Coalition, an industry-wide consortium of groups committed to farmer-centric standards for agricultural data ownership and security. Luck received the 2015 Omtvedt Innovation Team Award for Extension from the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and 2017 Larry W. Turner Young Extension Professional Award from ASABE. He earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky.
**NORTHEAST REGION**

**MOLLY E. DONOVAN**  
State Specialist  
Community and Economic Development  
University of New Hampshire  

Molly Donovan serves as a state specialist in community economic development with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Her work centers on increasing the capacity of citizen volunteers and leaders to build resilient communities and a strong economy. This work includes revitalizing downtowns, retaining and growing business, enhancing quality of life, and creating a vision for communities. She specializes in community engagement—bringing everyone into local decision-making—as a way to strengthen ideas, make change, and build leadership.

Her area of expertise has been community development practice with a focus on community engagement. She developed and teaches in the Community Engagement Academy, designed to train a new generation of leaders in a broad array of engagement tools and a focus on under-represented audiences. She is an expert in community development practice including leadership development, needs assessment, engagement, action planning, and evaluation. She is working on revitalization efforts in New Hampshire’s small downtowns. She connects University of New Hampshire students in community development work and has a passion for mentoring the next generation of community leaders. In 2018, she was awarded the University of New Hampshire Presidential Award of Excellence.

Donovan received a bachelor's degree from Canisius College and a master's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

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**SOUTHERN REGION**

**R. DWAYNE ELMORE**  
State Extension Wildlife Specialist and Professor  
Wildlife Biology  
Oklahoma State University  

Dwayne Elmore is a professor, wildlife extension specialist, and Bollenbach Chair in Wildlife Biology with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service at Oklahoma State University. His primary focus areas are wildlife habitat management, prescribed fire, endangered species conservation, wildlife damage management, range management, grouse conservation, and youth education.

In addition to working directly through county educators, Elmore works with various stakeholder groups to provide technical assistance on land management issues. These stakeholder groups include private landowners, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Quail Forever, the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, and multiple state wildlife agencies.

Elmore’s program can be characterized as collaborative, applied, and multidisciplinary. He has been successful at identifying stakeholder needs, designing research and Extension projects to address those needs, acquiring $5.9 million in funding to carry out programs, and disseminating the results in more than 100 peer-reviewed and Extension outlets.

Elmore believes that as a member of the land-grant system he has an obligation to seamlessly integrate research and Extension activities. His programs are designed around stakeholder needs and have direct application to land management for Oklahoma and beyond.

Elmore received his bachelor’s at the University of Tennessee, master's at Mississippi State University, and Ph.D. at Utah State University.
Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.

LETTER FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON (1787)
NATIONAL
DIVERSITY IN
EXTENSION
AWARD
2018
Ronald Cox, Jr. is an associate research professor and extension specialist at Oklahoma State University. Cox also serves as the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Child and Family Resilience and as associate director of community engagement for the Center for Family Resilience in the College of Human Sciences.

Cox's research focuses on how environment, family, and individual characteristics interact to create risk and resilience factors among Latino immigrant adolescents and has led to the development and evaluation of the ¡Unidos Se Puede! (United We Can!) program. ¡Unidos Se Puede! has impacted approximately 500 families and has been shown to increase areas like parental involvement in school and youth academic achievement and self-efficacy, and to reduce negative behaviors like drug use.

To serve Latino families in Oklahoma, Cox also has gathered or translated more than 1,000 Spanish-language fact sheets and distributed them to social service agencies serving Latinos, launched a Spanish-speaking radio program that weekly reaches 20,000 listeners with research-based information, and helped to start a health fair for Spanish speakers that annually provides health screenings and advice to approximately 600 families.

With innovative ideas and high-quality research methods, Cox has received more than $6 million in external funding, including more than $2 million from the National Institutes of Health, $3 million from the USDA/NIFA Children Youth and Families at Risk program, and $500,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Cox earned a bachelor's degree from Harding University, master's from the University of Louisiana, and Ph.D. from Michigan State University.
ROLL OF RECIPIENTS

NATIONAL
Elizabeth L. Andress
The University of Georgia, 2012
G. A. ‘Art’ Barnaby, Jr.
Kansas State University, 2009
Barbara Chamberlin
New Mexico State University, 2011
Jeffrey T. Edwards
Oklahoma State University, 2013
Stephen D. Green
Texas A&M University, 2016
Ronald J. Hustedde
University of Kentucky, 2007
Robert L. Kallenbach
University of Missouri, 2014
Lesia Oesterreich
Iowa State University, 2018
Joe Outlaw
Texas A&M University, 2015
Louie Rivers, Jr.
Kentucky State University, 2017
Marilyn J. Smith
University of Nevada, 2008
Alison Van Eenennaam
University of California, Davis, 2010

Thelma Sanders-Hunter
Tennessee State University, 2007
Marion F. Simon
Kentucky State University, 2013
Claudette L. Smith
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 2011
Nathan M. Stone
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2008
Misty Blue-Terry
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 2017
Virginie Zoumenou
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2015

NORTH CENTRAL REGION
William J. Angell
University of Minnesota, 2009
Frederick P. Baxendale
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007
Nozella L. Brown
Kansas State University, 2016
John DeFrain
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2010
Kevin Erb
University of Wisconsin-Extension, 2017
Rick Funston
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014
Julie Garden-Robinson
North Dakota State University, 2015
Kimberly A. Greder
Iowa State University, 2013
Kathleen A. Lodl
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011
Joe D. Luck
University of Nebraska, 2018
Richard J. Rasby
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2008
Fred Whitford
Purdue University, 2012

1890s REGION
Fitzroy ‘Roy’ D. Bullock
Tennessee State University, 2009
Kevin Crenshaw
Alabama A&M University, 2012
Jason de Koff
Tennessee State University, 2018
Henry English
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2014
Karnita Golson-Garner
Alabama A&M University, 2016
David Heikes
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2010

Tennessee State University, 2007
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 2011
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2008
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 2017
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2015
University of Minnesota, 2009
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2007
Kansas State University, 2016
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2010
University of Wisconsin-Extension, 2017
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2014
North Dakota State University, 2015
Iowa State University, 2013
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011
University of Nebraska, 2018
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2008
Purdue University, 2012

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2010
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 2017
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2015
Excellence in Extension Awards, continued

**NORTHEAST REGION**

Chester Arnold  
University of Connecticut, 2009

Chet Arnold  
University of Connecticut, 2017

Elaine Bowen  
West Virginia University, 2013

Molly E. Donovan  
University of New Hampshire, 2018

Jerome L. Frecon  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2008

Elizabeth “Betsy” Greene  
University of Vermont, 2011

Walter E. Kee, Jr.  
University of Delaware, 2007

Chad Ripberger  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2010

Richard W. Taylor  
University of Delaware, 2016

Richard W. VanVranken  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2014

Changlu Wang  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2015

**SOUTHERN REGION**

Stanley Culpepper  
The University of Georgia, 2016

Damona Doye  
Oklahoma State University, 2017

R. Dwayne Elmore  
Oklahoma State University, 2018

Clark D. Garland  
University of Tennessee, 2010

Denise M. Holston-West  
Louisiana State University, 2013

John S. Jacob  
Texas A&M University, 2014

Garry D. Lacefield  
University of Kentucky, 2008

Mark L. McFarland  
Texas A&M University, 2009

Derrell S. Peel  
Oklahoma State University, 2015

Nancy M. Porter  
Clemson University, 2007

Tom A. Vestal  
The Texas A&M University System, 2012

Lisa Whittlesey  
Texas A&M University, 2011

**WESTERN REGION**

Michael Bondi  
Oregon State University, 2010

Mary E. Burrows  
Montana State University, 2012

Daniel L. Fagerlie  
Washington State University, 2009

Marsha A. Goetting  
Montana State University, 2017

Brian J. Higginbotham  
Utah State University, 2013

Dana Martin  
Oklahoma State University, 2015

Donald B. Meehan  
Washington State University, 2008

Terry Allan Messmer  
Utah State University, 2016

Marcia R. Ostrom  
Washington State University, 2007

Madeleine Sigman-Grant  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 2014

Michael P. Vogel  
Montana State University, 2011
Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge.

**Stephen Hawking**
Universities of Excellence

As recognized by the Excellence in Extension Awards

University of Nebraska–Lincoln (7)  
Texas A&M University (6)  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (5)  
University of Nevada, Reno (5)  
Oklahoma State University (4)  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (4)  
Montana State University (3)  
Tennessee State University (3)  
Washington State University (3)  
Alabama A&M University (2)  
Iowa State University (2)  
Kansas State University (2)  
Kentucky State University (2)  
Oregon State University (2)  
University of Connecticut (2)  
University of Delaware (2)  
The University of Georgia (2)  
University of Kentucky (2)  
Utah State University (2)  
Clemson University (1)  
Louisiana State University (1)  
New Mexico State University (1)  
North Carolina A&T State University (2)  
North Dakota State University (1)  
Purdue University (1)  
University of California, Davis (1)  
University of Florida (1)  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (1)  
University of Minnesota (1)  
University of Missouri–Columbia (1)  
University of New Hampshire (1)  
University of Tennessee (1)  
University of Vermont (1)  
University of Wisconsin (1)  
West Virginia State University (1)

Universities of Excellence

As recognized by the Diversity in Extension Award

University of California (4)  
Oregon State University (3)  
Utah State University (3)  
Michigan State University (2)  
Mississippi State University (2)  
The Pennsylvania State University (2)  
Cornell University (1)  
Lincoln University (1)  
Montana State University (1)  
New Mexico State University (1)  
Northwest Indian College (1)  
Oklahoma State University (1)  
Purdue University (1)  
Texas A&M University (1)  
University of Florida (1)  
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (1)  
University of Maine (1)  
University of Minnesota (1)  
University of Missouri (1)  
University of Nebraska (1)  
University of Nevada (1)  
University of Wisconsin (1)

() denotes number of recipients
National Excellence in Multistate Research Award 2018
Since 2004, Multistate Research Project NCERA-217 has worked to address water quality issues that stem from the drainage of agricultural land in the Midwestern United States. The cropland in the Midwest is among the most productive in the world, but only if adequate drainage is provided. Drainage reduces soil compaction, makes it easier for farm machinery to work the land, and decreases crop damage from excess moisture. Much of the region's cropland uses underground pipes or "tiles" to channel excess water from the field.

Nitrogen, phosphorous, and bacteria, some of which are naturally present in the soil and some of which come from fertilizers and pesticides, can make their way through the soil to tile drainage systems and enter lakes, rivers, and groundwater. This pollution can be harmful to humans and can create "dead zones" where aquatic life cannot survive.

In recent years, the team of 22 researchers and Extension specialists worked with USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists, policymakers, non-governmental organizations, and industry partners to develop and promote new technologies and strategies that improve drainage, enhance crop production, and protect water quality. Project members recommended practices, such as planting living mulch, winter cover crops, perennial grasses, and other land covers, using lower fertilizer application rates, and avoiding applications on wet ground and when rain is forecasted within 24 hours. Researchers also designed better drainage systems and refined models to evaluate the effectiveness of structures, such as bioreactors, saturated buffers, wetlands, and vegetated ditches, which are placed at the edge of fields to filter drainage water. Many of the new systems use automation and other "smart" features to help farmers fine-tune drainage management and minimize time, labor, and costs.
Moving beyond research and development, this project’s strong Extension component has increased farmers’ knowledge and confidence about drainage management and provided valuable information to industry, conservation professionals, and educators. The project has also had major impacts on policy. For example, the U.S. EPA’s Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force and many of the Mississippi River basin states used the group’s recommendations to develop their strategies for nutrient reduction. The group’s research also laid the foundation for three new USDA-NRCS conservation standards that detail design specifications for edge-of-field drainage management structures.

As a result of this extensive research and outreach, farmers across the country and world are now adopting new tools and practices. With conservation standards for edge-of-field structures, farmers can now apply for cost-sharing and interest in these practices has increased dramatically. Between 2011 and 2017, farmers in the 12 states on the Hypoxia Task Force installed more than 32 denitrifying bioreactors and implemented drainage water management on more than 40,000 acres, preventing over 300,000 pounds of nitrate from entering the Mississippi River. In eastern North Carolina, a recently developed automated drainage water control structure is trailblazing the revitalization of controlled drainage in the area. Across the country, producers, contractors, and confined animal feed operation advisors are paying more attention to vulnerable drainage outlets and adjusting their manure application methods, rates, and timing accordingly. The group’s drain spacing calculator has been used in 44 countries and 36 states, and newly refined and expanded drainage and water quality models are being used worldwide.

Improved drainage management has major potential to significantly reduce water quality problems and related environmental and human health risks. Furthermore, improved drainage can boost crop yields and reduce variability from year to year, providing a more stable source of food for consumers and predictable profits for farmers, and better drainage models will help scientists and farmers prepare for the ways climate change will affect agricultural drainage.

NCERA-217 is funded in part by the Multistate Research Fund through USDA-NIFA and by grants to project members. Collaborative efforts among NCERA-217 members have resulted in projects totaling more than $27 million and more than $8 million in in-state grants.

**Participating Institutions:**

- Cornell University–Ithaca
- Iowa State University
- Michigan State University
- North Carolina State University
- North Dakota State University
- Purdue University
- South Dakota State University
- University of Georgia–Athens
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kentucky
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- USDA-ARS (Iowa)
- USDA-NRCS–West National Technology Support Center (Oregon)
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Success is not accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.

— Pele
REGIONAL EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARDS

NORTHEAST REGION

Resource Management in Commercial Greenhouse Production (NE-1335)
Neil Mattson, Technical Committee Chair
Adel Shirmohammadi, Administrative Advisor

Participating Institutions:
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station—New Haven
Cornell University–Ithaca
Iowa State University
Michigan State University
North Carolina State University
The Ohio State University
Purdue University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
University of Alaska
University of Arizona
University of Connecticut–Storrs
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska
University of New Hampshire
USDA ARS (Ohio)
Virginia Cooperative Extension (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and Virginia State University)

SOUTHERN REGION, cont’d.

Participating Institutions:
Clemson University (South Carolina Cooperative Extension)
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University
Mississippi State University
Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service
Texas A&M University AgriLife Research
University of Arkansas
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of the Virgin Islands

SOUTHERN REGION

Genetic Improvement of Adaptation and Reproduction to Enhance Sustainability of Cow-Calf Production in the Southern United States (S-1064)
Amber Rayfield Starnes, Technical Committee Chair
Joe W. West, Administrative Advisor

WESTERN REGION

Biology and Management of Iris Yellow Spot Virus (IYSV), Other Diseases, and Thrips in Onions (W-3008)
Lindsey du Toit and Christine Hoepting, Technical Committee Chairs
Steve Loring, Administrative Advisor

Participating Institutions:
University of California, Riverside
Colorado State University
Cornell University–Geneva and Ithaca
Cornell Cooperative Extension
University of Georgia
University of Idaho
New Mexico State University
Oregon State University
The Pennsylvania State University
Texas A&M University (AgriLife Research)
Utah State University
Washington State University
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Enza Zaden (Worldwide)
Sakata Farms (Colorado)
Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.

ZORA NEALE HURSTON
Experiment Station
Section National Excellence in Leadership Awards

2018
1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS (ARD)

SHIRLEY HYMON-PARKER
Associate Dean for Research
College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Shirley Hymon-Parker, a leader and trailblazer in the fields of human sciences and agricultural sciences, has been instrumental in bringing visibility to and seeking solutions for the issues and challenges facing the food and agricultural system.

As associate dean for research of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, she provides oversight for the research program, one-third of the university’s $62 million research and development funding. As interim dean, the CAES has established a strategic plan, Destination Excellence, to set the direction of the college for the next five years. Most recently, she is leading the effort to establish the college’s first doctoral program.

Hymon-Parker served as chair of ESCOP for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. She has also served in leadership positions for APLU’s Policy Board of Directors of the Board on Agriculture Assembly Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources; the 1890 Association of Research Directors; and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS).

She has received a number of honors and awards, including the AAFCS Distinguished Service Award and the ADEC Webb-Godfrey-Hill Distance Education Award of Excellence.

Hymon-Parker received a bachelor’s degree from North Carolina Central University, a master’s from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

DOUGLAS D. BUHLER
Director of the MSU AgBioResearch
Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
Michigan State University

Douglas D. Buhler continually strives for unique solutions and holistic impacts across a spectrum of state, regional, national, and international programs. As director of AgBioResearch and assistant vice president for research and graduate studies, Buhler is well-known as a tireless advocate for agriculture and natural resources.

Buhler has served the North Central Regional Association (NCRA) of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors as an active member and as the chair and member of a number of committees. He has also contributed as an administrative advisor to four North Central multistate committees and two national research support projects on atmospheric deposition and specialty crop pest management. He is an inaugural Board of Directors member with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.

Buhler is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Weed Science Society of America, and the North Central Weed Science Society. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Wisconsin-Platteville; Honorary Alumni of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Award at MSU; Honorary Member of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association; Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan State Horticultural Society; and Master Farmer Associate Award from the Michigan Vegetable Council.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin–Platteville and master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
IAN L. MAW
Vice President
Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Ian Maw has served as the mentor for land-grant deans, directors and administrators for more than 15 years. Maw’s professional career was largely launched at Cook College at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. There, he served in many positions, from professor and department chair to dean of academic and student affairs, executive dean, and director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service. In 2003, he left Rutgers and served as the executive director of academic programs for the National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges, APLU’s predecessor. From there, he was promoted in 2005 to vice president—Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, APLU.

In his role as vice president, Maw has left an indelible signature and a legacy of promoting inter-institutional collaboration, the heart of the multistate research fund’s mission. He oversees the activities of the Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources and its associated boards. He interfaces with the APLU member institutions and the various federal agencies that fund instructional, research, and extension activities. He works with the Council on Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET), a lay advocacy group supporting the land-grant system. Maw is also actively engaged with international life science and agricultural higher education organizations.

His education began at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and culminated with master’s and Ph.D. degrees at The Pennsylvania State University.

JOHN S. RUSSIN
Director, LSU AgCenter’s Global Network
Former Vice Chancellor and Director
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
Louisiana State University

As vice chancellor and director of Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station (LAES), John S. Russin engaged actively with the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD), serving as chair in 2015, representative to ESCOP executive committee, and chair/member of the science and technology committees.

Russin migrated into administration early in his career. At Southern Illinois University, he chaired the Department of Plant Soil, and Agricultural Systems for three years before accepting the role of associate dean for research in the College of Agricultural Sciences. He later served as the associate director of LAES and rose to vice chancellor and director.

His administrative vision and dedication helped maintain research productivity and a strong national presence for the LSU AgCenter. Two notable successes include a public/private partnership that received USDA funding of $17.3 million for biofuels and bioproducts from Louisiana crops and crafting then directing the Food Business Incubator, an entrepreneurship initiative for emerging food companies.

Partially retired, he serves currently as director of the LSU AgCenter Global Network, which emphasizes student exchanges, faculty collaborations, and global public-private partnerships for technology development and commercialization.

Russin earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Maine, master’s at University of Delaware, and Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky.
Research:
The distance between an idea and its realization.

David Sarnoff

Western Region

H. Michael Harrington
Executive Director
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

H. Michael Harrington’s responsibilities as executive director of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors include providing leadership on high priority multistate initiatives and management oversight for multistate projects funded through the Multistate Research Fund, as well as developing integrated multistate projects that include research, extension, and academic programs. He also serves as the directors’ liaison to USDA-NIFA.

He conducted regional needs assessments that resulted in the development of the “Western Perspective and Western Agenda,” detailing common areas of interest to the region and stimulating new regional collaborations. He was instrumental in creating a partnership with the Western Governors Association.

Harrington provides leadership to the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy, serving as executive vice chair four times and as executive vice chair of the Budget and Legislative Committee since 2008. He has also served on its Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy, Strategic Realignment Task Force, Western IPM Center Steering Committee, Western Region Rural Development Center, and National Center for Food and Agriculture Policy.

Previously, he was at the University of Hawaii from 1985–2001 and served as chair of the Department of Plant Molecular Physiology; assistant dean for Academic Affairs; interim director of the Hawaii Institute for Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; and as interim dean.

Harrington holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Miami University and a Ph.D. from Ohio University.
NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARDS (2014–2018)

Barbara Allen-Diaz  
University of California System (W), 2016

Carolyn B. Brooks  
1890 Research Directors (ARD), 2014

William (Bill) Brown  
University of Tennessee (S), 2016

Douglas D. Buhler  
Michigan State University (NC), 2018

Fred A. Cholick  
Kansas State University (NC), 2015

H. Michael Harrington  
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (W), 2018

Walter A. Hill  
Tuskegee University (ARD), 2016

Michael P. Hoffman  
Cornell University-Ithaca (NE), 2015

George M. Hopper  
Mississippi State University (S), 2017

Shirley Hymon-Parker  
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (ARD), 2018

C. Colin Kaltenbach  
University of Arizona (W), 2017

Arlen G. Leholm  
North Central Region Association (NC), 2014

Ian L. Maw  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (NE), 2018

Orlando F. McMeans  
West Virginia State University (ARD), 2017

Bruce A. McPheron  
The Pennsylvania State University (NE), 2014

J. Ernest “Ernie” Minton  
Kansas State University (NC), 2017

Craig L. Nessler  
Texas A&M University (S), 2014

Ronald S. Pardini  
The University of Nevada-Reno (W), 2015

Dan Rossi  
Northeastern Regional Association (NE), 2016

John S. Russin  
Louisiana State University (S), 2018

Steven A. Slack  
The Ohio State University (NC), 2016

Lee Sommers  
Colorado State University (W), 2017

Alton Thompson  
Delaware State University (ARD), 2015

Gary A. Thompson  
The Pennsylvania State University (NE), 2017

Eric Young  
Southern Regional Association (S), 2015
There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Colin Powell
NATIONAL EXPERIMENT STATION SECTION
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD
2018
The Experiment Station Section (ESS), composed of 1862 and 1890 institutions, has rededicated efforts to increase diversity across its constituencies and foster inclusive environments. A component of this new effort is recognition of experiment station individuals, groups, or organizations that go beyond meeting EEO/AA program requirements. To that end, the ESS released in the spring of 2018, a call for nominations for a new, national award: National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award.

This award recognizes the activities of individuals or teams at the local, state, regional, or national level, that empower groups and effectively enhances inclusion within organizations. Importantly, the award recognizes efforts that aspire to achieve consistent, holistic, inclusive excellence. The award includes recognition at the ESS/AES/ARD Annual Meeting, inclusion in the APLU Annual Awards booklet, and $1,000 for use by the winning individual or team.

Following a national solicitation for nominations and a rigorous evaluation, the first National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award was given in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 2, 2018 during the 2018 ESS/AES/ARD Annual Meeting to The Mentoring@Purdue team, led by Drs. Neil Knobloch and Levon Esters. This program originated in 2012 evolving from an experiment station Hatch Project and has led directly to $2.4 million in external funding to support diversity and inclusion.

The Mentoring@Purdue program has dramatically increased inclusion and mentoring on the Purdue campus and has effectively led to the recruitment of women and underrepresented minorities into graduate programs. The Mentoring@Purdue program extends beyond Purdue by employing an innovative 1862–1890 land-grant university model. This strategy has enhanced the STEM pipeline of talented students of diverse backgrounds through historically black colleges’ and universities’ (HBCUs) engagement and outreach, peer-to-peer mentoring, critical topic seminars, monthly meetings, and summer scholar programs. The Mentoring@Purdue team now includes 15 future leaders of diversity and inclusion and has impacted over 2,500 student, staff, and faculty participants from Purdue and 7 HBCUs.
The Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) is dedicated to developing individual and institutional leadership for a 21st century food system. The program curriculum focuses on a series of core leadership competencies and three complementary threads: individual leadership; leading change within organizations; and understanding and influencing complex diverse food systems. This curriculum lays the groundwork for leaders who will transition food systems research, education, and outreach to broader, more holistic approaches. FSLI is a program of the Association of Public Land-grant Universities with initial support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. North Carolina State University is the primary host institution, responsible for program implementation and hosting FSLI Scholars during one of their three onsite residential sessions. The Ohio State University and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo are also partners in the FSLI, providing their expertise in leadership and food systems to the FSLI curriculum and hosting onsite residential sessions for FSLI participants.

**FSLI Fellows, Cohort 12**

**Derek Aday**  
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**Robert W. Godfrey**  
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**John Blanton, Jr.**  
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**Gerald Holmes**  
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Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences,
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Megan Terp
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Global Product Development
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Joy K. Ward
Associate Dean of Science Research
Dean's Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Kansas

Mike Yoder
Associate Director, North Carolina Cooperative Extension
State Program Leader, 4-H
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
North Carolina State University
Robert A. Easter

President Emeritus, Dean Emeritus, and Professor Emeritus
University of Illinois

Bob Easter grew up on a grain and livestock farm in Southwest Texas. After earning his undergraduate and master’s degrees in agriculture at Texas A&M and his doctorate in swine nutrition and production at the University of Illinois (UI), he joined the UI College of Agriculture faculty where he taught swine production and nutrition courses and directed masters and doctoral student research in swine nutrition research. He served as head of the animal sciences department; dean of the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; interim chancellor of the Urbana campus; and also, for the three years prior to his retirement in May 2015 as president of the University of Illinois system. As an emeritus professor he currently holds a part-time appointment in the National Center for Research and Professional Ethics.

He is a fellow of the American Society of Animal Science and an honorary member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

In 2008 President George W. Bush appointed Easter as chair of the Agricultural Advisory Board for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Easter serves on the boards of five non-governmental organizations: the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, the Illinois Agriculture Leadership Foundation, the Illinois State Fair Association, Supporters of Agricultural Research, and the Riley Memorial Foundation. He is also on the board of Aptimmune, a swine biologics company. He is an advisor to the Archer Daniels Midland Institute for the Prevention of Post-Harvest Loss and to the U.S. Agency for International Development Soybean Innovation Lab.