A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence 2023
2023

Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in College and University Awards Program
Partnerships are integral to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Through our continued partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and with each of you, we are cultivating groundbreaking discoveries, developing new knowledge, and delivering both in classrooms and communities across the nation to help our nation’s farmers and families, ranchers, producers, and consumers.

Together we are making great strides to address the most pressing needs of the people we serve, especially in creating climate-smart agriculture, improving nutrition security, building a better, more resilient economy, and ensuring diversity, equity inclusion and accessibility across the nation. We are proud to join you in celebrating this year’s conference theme: Innovation for Impact. I’m confident we will continue to be innovative as we generate major impacts and tell the powerful story of the real difference we make in the lives of people across this nation.

Today, we recognize the extraordinary efforts of educators, teachers, researchers, leaders, and Extension professionals whose work creates a tremendous positive impact for those we serve. It’s an honor to pause and reflect on the great work we’ve accomplished over the past year. Our heartfelt congratulations to the award winners being recognized today and to the universities that supported their efforts.

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**INTRODUCTION**

[Image] DR. MANJIT MISRA

Director, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Giving ordinary citizens access to extraordinary educational opportunities in agricultural sciences and engineering was at the heart of Justin Morrill's vision for legislation that established our national network of public, land-grant universities. Agricultural research and education are as critical to our national prosperity and security now as they were then.

Educators and researchers drive innovations and discoveries in agriculture and ensure they’re widely disseminated among the next generation of agricultural leaders. They, furthermore, inspire students to recognize and pursue opportunities they never thought possible, advance new innovations, and collaborate with their communities to tackle the most urgent challenges facing their regions.

Each year, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture recognizes these important contributions. Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in College and University Awards Programs. Their dedication to teaching, research, and community engagement. Thank you for your service; you have earned this important recognition.

DR. MARK BECKER
President, Association of Public & Land-grant Universities
National Teaching and Student Engagement Awards 2023
Dr. Dan Stein is an associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Oklahoma State University where he joined the faculty in 2009. Stein’s understanding of research and his years of ranching and livestock experience give him a unique perspective of production agriculture. This perspective, combined with his passion for making a difference in the lives of young people, has been a successful combination when it comes to engaging students. Scenarios often used in the classroom are from actual events and situations from the ranch that draw on the student’s practical understanding of the subject matter to make their final working decision.

Over the years, Stein has instructed more than 8,200 students, served on 39 graduate committees, mentored ten undergraduate research scholars and honors students, and advised 75 to 100 undergraduates each semester. In addition to his teaching duties, Stein’s Partners of the Prairie historical animal-agriculture exhibit, which showcases his team of oxen, allows him to engage with people of all ages about production agriculture: past, present, and future. His efforts have been recognized by OSU at the Departmental, Division, and University levels, the State of Oklahoma, and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Stein received his B.S. in Agriculture Ecology from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1978. After a successful career as the managing partner in his family’s Angus cattle operation, he returned to school and completed an M.S. and Ph.D. in Animal Breeding and Reproduction.
Dr. Jennifer Weeks is a lecturer in the Department of Entomology and Nematology in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida. She teaches a diversity of courses both in person and online that support the general education mission as well as upper-division courses for both undergraduate and graduate majors in Entomology. Her courses on biological diversity in a changing world, insect biology, and agricultural ecology are popular with students across campus.

Weeks is also committed to providing experience-based learning opportunities for youth in the community and introducing them to the diversity of careers in the agricultural and life sciences. She volunteers with Alachua County 4-H, Boy Scouts of America, and local K-12 institutions to bring students on campus, out in the field, and inquiry-based science activities to them in their classrooms. She is passionate about helping all students find a personal connection to science and maintaining their curiosity about the natural world. Weeks has been recognized multiple times for her contributions to 4-H and received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Educator Award this year.

Weeks earned a B.S. from Florida State University and Ph.D. from The University of Arizona.
National Teaching Awards 2023
Michael Gonda

Animal Sciences
South Dakota State University

Dr. Michael Gonda is a Professor in the Department of Animal Science at South Dakota State University. He teaches a wide range of students, including freshman to veterinary students. Gonda also teaches face-to-face, online, and experiential learning courses. He has led or co-led eight education abroad classes to five countries, created a unique experiential learning opportunity for Honors students studying agriculture, and has been a regular invited speaker at SDSU on strategies to improve teaching.

Gonda serves as Chair of the Animal Science Student Activities and Recognition Committee. He advises or co-advises three student organizations and is an advocate for engaging minority students in Animal Science research. He has a passion for including undergraduate students in research. He has won numerous teaching and advising awards on campus, including the Edward Patrick Hogan Award for Excellence in Teaching, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences Teacher of the Year, and Timothy Nichols Excellence in Undergraduate Advising awards.

Gonda strives to develop rigorous courses that are also fun and engaging. He exposes students to opportunities to learn outside the classroom, as these opportunities often impact students’ lives the most. He earned his B.S. (Animal Science) from North Carolina State University and M.S. and Ph.D. (Dairy Science) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has been fortunate to have excellent mentors, colleagues, students, friends, and family who have supported him throughout his career. He’s especially grateful for his wife, Tiffany. He could not make an impact in his students’ lives without her support.
Dr. De’Etra Young is a distinguished scholar and educator with a deep-seated passion for urban forestry and environmental science. Holding a Ph.D. in Forestry from Texas A&M University, she has carved a notable career path that bridges academia and the pursuit of teaching excellence.

Young serves as the Associate Dean for Academics and Land-grant Programs and an Associate Professor in the College of Agriculture at Tennessee State University, where she has become a driving force behind innovative pedagogy and teaching excellence. Her transformative pedagogical approach has enriched the academic experience for students, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to address pressing urban environmental challenges.

Young is a recognized leader in undergraduate research in environmental science. Her mentorship has cultivated a cadre of aspiring researchers who have gained national recognition for their impactful contributions. She has played a pivotal role in creating opportunities for students to engage in research that addresses critical environmental issues.

Young is a sought-after authority in urban forestry and environmental science outside the classroom, frequently sharing her expertise at conferences and seminars nationwide. She is a visionary educator and researcher whose commitment to urban forestry, pedagogy, and undergraduate research in environmental science has left an indelible mark on academia. She has been awarded more than $30 million in funding as PI and Co-PI. Her work inspires the next generation of environmental stewards, shaping a more sustainable future for urban environments.

Young earned her bachelor’s (2004) in Urban Forestry at Southern University and A&M College, and a Master of Science (2006) and a Ph.D. (2010), both in Forestry from Texas A&M University.
Regional Teaching Awards 2023
Dr. Ozzie Abaye joined the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences (CSES), now the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences (SPES) in 1993 with a teaching/Extension appointment and significant research and graduate student training responsibilities. The courses Abaye taught from 1993–present serve two curricula: Environmental Science and Crop and Soil Sciences. Her course responsibilities include required and technical elective courses for both majors.

Abaye is a great advocate of experiential learning activities (study abroad, service learning, crops judging, etc.). As such, all her courses integrate diverse field experiences including field trips and hands-on exercises such as cooking and activities that combine knowledge with “doing.” To support these efforts, she has generated $302,000 in funding (from 1993–2022) to get students into the field to augment their classroom learning.

Abaye is known for her love of teaching and students! She uses the classroom as a platform not only to deliver course content but also to create an environment that is conducive to learning and a sense of being in the community of learners. Abaye uses a sense of humor as a pedagogical tool to make the students feel comfortable and enhance learning. For the last 25 years, Abaye has been actively involved in international teaching and curriculum development projects in West Africa. She is recognized as a Pathways to General Education Scholar, is a member of Virginia Tech’s Academy of Teaching Excellence, and a recipient of teaching awards at the college, university, and national levels.

Abaye earned her B.S. from Wilson College, M.S. from Penn State, and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Laura Bowling
Agronomy, Natural Resources, and Environmental Sciences
Purdue University

Dr. Laura Bowling is a Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University and Director of the interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. She has taught 13 different undergraduate courses at Purdue since 2004. Her position in Agronomy was created to bridge the gap between discipline-oriented approaches focused on field-scale behavior and the broader impact of land management at watershed scales. Bowling has developed curriculum in agricultural water resources to address this need, including an undergraduate course in hydrology, with an emphasis on natural resource management and an undergraduate field skills laboratory. She has authored over 90 publications related to water and agriculture. Collectively, her courses and research on water resources and watershed dynamics better prepare students in the College of Agriculture to apply their disciplinary expertise to the broader-scale issues of water resource limitations to global food security.

As Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) program, Bowling teaches a sequence of courses to support students’ preparation for future careers addressing environmental policy, natural resources management, environmental restoration, and climate change adaptation. She also serves as the undergraduate advisor for the Environmental Science Club, and mentors approximately 180 undergraduate students in the NRES program.

Bowling developed a love for streams and rivers hiking in the West Virginia mountains and canoeing on Michigan rivers as a girl. She earned a B.S.E. degree in Civil Engineering and Water Resources from Princeton University and an M.S.C.E and Ph.D in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Washington.
Dr. Kristen E. Govoni currently serves as Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut.

Govoni has taught numerous courses in Animal Science including Growth and Metabolism, Scientific Writing, Animal Behavior and Training, Animal Nutrition, and Undergraduate Seminar and served as academic advisor. She served as the Faculty Director of the Women in Math, Science, and Engineering (WiMSE) Learning Community for 7 years providing mentorship, instruction, and community for freshmen and sophomore women in STEM.

Govoni has secured over $7.4 million in funding, published 50 peer-reviewed papers, advised 10 M.S. students, 8 Ph.D. students, and 2 post-doctoral fellows, and served as co-advisor to 11 M.S. and 8 Ph.D. students. Through her research program she served as advisor for 2 University Scholars, 11 Honors Thesis students, and over 40 undergraduates in hands-on laboratory research over multiple semesters. With her guidance, these undergraduate students secured over $25,000 in research funds at UConn. Through several programs, Govoni has mentored undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented groups.

Govoni earned her B.S. (1998), M.S. (2002), and Ph.D. (2003) in Animal Science from the University of Connecticut. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Musculoskeletal Disease Center in the Jerry L. Pettis VA Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA, in 2008 and joined the faculty in the Department of Animal Science at UConn. She currently lives in Lebanon, CT, with her husband and two boys.

Dr. Russ Hovey is a Professor of Animal Science in the Department of Animal Science at the University of California, Davis where he teaches a freshman class in Introductory Animal Science, and a senior-level lactation physiology course. He also serves as the Lead Faculty Advisor for the Animal Science major’s 1300 undergraduate students, and an academic advisor for graduate students in 2 programs.

As a teacher, Hovey takes pride in helping all students become the next generation of scientist, regardless of the future setting they may find themselves in. He is particularly passionate about all aspects of applied agriculture and adopts a learn-by-doing approach focused on hands-on skills and the application of knowledge to a deeper understanding of animal systems. At the same time, he believes the classroom and laboratory should be a fun and stimulating environment that fosters engagement and discovery. He is always emphasizing the real-world application of everything students learn.

Hovey also leads an active research program focused on the biology of the mammary glands, and how it relates to outcomes ranging from animal production and milk synthesis through to breast cancer risk in humans. His work has been supported by a range of agencies including USDA, DOD, and the NIH. Hovey has received various awards for his teaching including recognition as a distinguished teacher by the UC Davis Academic Senate and the Western region of the American Society of Animal Science, and for excellent faculty advising by the NACADA Western region.

Hovey earned his B.S. in Agricultural Science from the University of Queensland, Australia, and his Ph.D from Massey University, New Zealand, prior to undertaking postdoctoral training at the NIH.
Dr. Kathleen Rodgers is known for her enthusiasm, compassion, and dedication to student success through building connection and community in the classroom, championing accessibility through low/no-cost materials, and flexible teaching approaches. Rodgers’ classes often focus on sensitive topics such as poverty, racial inequity, and family struggles, which can be challenging for students to process.

Using a variety of techniques and technologies, she invites students to approach difficult content with curiosity, to examine the world through different lenses, to gain perspectives beyond their own, and to recognize their values, biases, and assumptions about the human condition. Incorporation of growth mindset, social belonging, values-based learning, and mindfulness help students discover their contribution to learning and recognize their intellectual and personal growth.

Through her research on adolescent perceptions of media and romantic relationships, Rodgers has mentored numerous undergraduate first-generation students, McNair Scholars, and Honors students who have been recognized for outstanding research theses and presentations: 75% of her mentees have pursued post-graduate education.

Rodgers mentors faculty and graduate students in the use of evidence-based active learning and behavioral interventions to promote student success. She is a recipient of the R.M. Wade Award for Teaching Excellence (Washington State University College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences) and the Washington State University Honors College Faculty of the Year Award.

Rodgers earned a B.S. from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and a M.S. and Ph.D from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, all in Child and Family Studies.

Dr. Stephanie Yarwood’s students value her enthusiasm for soil microbiology and her engaging teaching style that keeps them interested and excited. By integrating the Socratic Method with her diverse educational background, students in her environmental microbiology course can expect to not only finish the course knowing which microorganisms transform nitrogen in wastewater treatment but also why outbreaks of yellow fever during the Civil War led to water treatment improvement in Washington, DC.

She has taught in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology at University of Maryland for 12 years where she has designed three new courses, advised 21 undergraduates and 13 graduate students, and served on 50+ graduate committees. Recently, she has designed a flipped course for University Honor’s students asking the questions: What will the farm of the future look like? The honor’s course links Farm Bill policy, rural life, and regenerative agriculture to underscore current agricultural challenges and opportunities to improve sustainability, nutrition, and farmer livelihood.

Yarwood has received teaching awards from her department, college, and the college alumni association. She previously was an instructor/advisor at Oregon State University in the Microbiology Department and prior to graduate school was a tutoring program coordinator at Blue Mountain Community College. She earned her Ph.D. from Oregon State University in Soil Science with an NSF-IGERT minor in Interdisciplinary Sub-surface Science. She also holds a B.A. in English from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.
Early Career Teacher Awards 2023
Brandy Phipps
Agricultural and Life Sciences
Central State University

“The purpose of education… is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decisions… The obligation of anyone who thinks of himself as responsible is to examine society and try to change it and to fight it—at no matter what risk. This is the only hope society has. This is the only way societies change.” — James Baldwin

Dr. Brandy E. Phipps believes that innovative thinking and a willingness to ask questions, take chances, make mistakes, and challenge the status quo is desperately needed to address the complex problems facing our world. To help students develop these traits, she strives to build community and a challenging, collaborative environment for her students in the classroom and through research and other experiential learning.

She forms bridges between her nutrition and food systems research, course material, and real-world applications, connecting them to students’ lived experiences and future job endeavors, cultivating a sense of belonging for students in the classroom and profession. She models—through her teaching, research, and community engagement—the ability to value one’s own culture and heritage, while respecting, appreciating, and learning from those with different experiences.

Phipps has received her university’s Presidential Faculty Excellence Award, the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCH) Faculty Excellence Award, and the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Early Career Leadership Award. She earned her B.S. in Nutritional Sciences from The University of Florida and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Logan Britton
Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University

Dr. Logan Britton’s mission is to develop students into the best versions of themselves. Since joining the faculty at Kansas State University in 2020, he has established a diverse teaching portfolio and employed innovative teaching methods to enhance student engagement and learning. His areas of instruction include computer decision tools, small business operations, contemporary issues in global food systems, agricultural finance, and agribusiness logistics.

Britton’s research centers on topics related to consumer demand, supply chains, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. He has secured more than $400,000 in direct support from external sources for his research programs and published in five peer-reviewed journals.

He serves as an academic advisor to undergraduate students and mentors Ph.D. students as instructors. Britton advises the College of Agriculture Ambassadors and Blue Key Honor Society at KSU. He volunteers his time with the Kansas FFA Association as well as community and professional associations.

Britton has participated in several teaching-orientated programs at KSU, including its Teaching and Learning Center’s Professional Development Series and the Association of College and University Educators’ Inclusive Teaching for Equitable Learning course. He has been recognized for exemplary teaching by the KSU Agriculture Student Council and KSU Mortar Board Honor Society as well as nationally for outstanding advising by Blue Key Honor Society. He received graduate student teaching awards from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Britton earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State University and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

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TEACHING AWARDS
SELECTION PANEL

Nina Lyon Bennett
Assistant Dean for Academics, School of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Human Sciences
University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff

Michael Compton
Assistant Provost, School of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin, Platteville

Catherine Finley Woodruff
Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
University of Vermont

Anna Ball
Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez
Associate Dean of Academics, College of Agricultural Sciences
Oregon State University

Amy Wright
Associate Dean of Instruction, College of Agriculture
Auburn University
# UNIVERSITIES OF EXCELLENCE

As recognized by the Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Recipients Since Inception of Awards</th>
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<td>University of Florida</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<td>University of Illinois</td>
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<td>University of Arizona</td>
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<td>University of California, Davis</td>
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<td>Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University</td>
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<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</td>
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(*) denotes number of recipients since inception of awards in 1992
ROLL OF RECIPIENTS

Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards (2008–2023)

NATIONAL

Teresa C. Balser  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009*

Michael J. Boehm  
*The Ohio State University, 2010*

Terence J. Center  
*The University of Georgia, 2015*

Ann D. Christy  
*The Ohio State University, 2016*

John L. Crompton  
*Texas A&M University, 2012*

Dennis R. Decoteau  
*The Pennsylvania State University, 2019*

Anna Dilger  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2021*

Liz Flaherty  
*Purdue University, 2020*

Garey A. Fox  
*Oklahoma State University, 2015*

Nick Fuhrman  
*University of Georgia, 2021*

Michael Gonda  
*South Dakota State University, 2023*

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*

Gretchen Mafi  
*Oklahoma State University, 2020*

Joshua J. Millspaugh  
*University of Missouri, 2008*

Robert A. Milvae  
*University of Connecticut, 2011*

Gregory Möller  
*University of Idaho, 2014*

Jacquelyn Dee Mosley  
*University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 2022*

Shyam Nair  
*Sam Houston State University, 2022*

S. Suzanne Nielsen  
*Purdue University, 2017*

F. Bailey Norwood  
*Oklahoma State University, 2016*

Candice A. Shoemaker  
*Kansas State University, 2012*

Michelle S. Shroeder-Moreno  
*North Carolina State University, 2019*

Ricky W. Telg  
*University of Florida, 2010*

Ann Marie VanDerZanden  
*Iowa State University, 2017*

Michael E. Wetzstein  
*The University of Georgia, 2015*

M. Susie Whittington  
*The Ohio State University, 2008*

X. Ben Wu  
*Texas A&M University, 2018*

De’Etra Young  
*Tennessee State University, 2023*

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Sanjeev Anand  
*South Dakota State University, 2021*

Anna L. Ball  
*University of Missouri, 2014*

Jason Scott Bergtold  
*Kansas State University, 2018*

Michael Boland  
*Kansas State University, 2008*

Laura Bowling  
*Purdue University, 2023*

Emily B. Buck  
*The Ohio State University, 2016*

C. Lee Burras  
*Iowa State University, 2011*

Joseph F. Donnermeyer  
*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

Cassandra Katherine Jones
Kansas State University, 2022

Soo-Young Lee
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, 2013

Brian H. Lower
The Ohio State University, 2016

Chad T. Miller
Kansas State University, 2022

Haley Franks Oliver
Purdue University, 2022

Christian Y. Oseto
Purdue University, 2008

Kevin L. Schalinske
Iowa State University, 2019

Richard C. Schultz
Iowa State University, 2008

Aleksan Shanoyan
Kansas State University, 2020

Janice Marie Siegfried
Michigan State University, 2017

Michael E. 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

Brian D. Whitaker
University of Findlay, 2020

Kimberly A. Williams
Kansas State University, 2009

Cody L. Wright
South Dakota State University, 2019

Linda Yarrow
Kansas State University, 2021

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

Kristen Govoni
University of Connecticut, 2023

Thomas P. Husband
University of Rhode Island, 2007

James P. Lassoie
Cornell University, 2014

David A. Levitsky
Cornell University, 2009

Lurlene E. Marsh
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2019

Antonio DiTommaso
Cornell University, 2019

Gulnihal Ozbay
Delaware State University, 2020

Rama B. Radhakrishna
The Pennsylvania State University, 2010

Stephanie Yarwood
University of Maryland, College Park, 2023

Steven Andrew Zinn
University of Connecticut, 2017

SOUTHERN REGION

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

Azenegash "Ozzie" Abaye
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2023

Pete Bettinger
University of Georgia, 2021

Marcy M. Beverley
Sam Houston State University, 2019

J. Chance Brooks
Texas Tech University, 2014

Dale A. Coleman
Auburn University, 2011

Kathrin Dunlap
Texas A&M University, 2021
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, 2022*

Steven Johnson  
*University of Florida, 2022*

Michael E. Kane  
*University of Florida, 2009*

Stanley F. Kelley  
*Sam Houston State University, 2012*

Robert A. Lane  
*Sam Houston State University, 2017*

Robert Mc Cleery  
*University of Florida, 2020*

Courtney Alyssa Meyers  
*Texas Tech University, 2022*

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*

Jon W. Ramsey  
*Oklahoma State University, 2021*

Tracy A. Rutherford  
*Texas A&M University, 2014*

Jeffrey W. Savell  
*Texas A&M University, 2015*

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*

Julianne Treme  
*North Carolina State University, 2020*

George W. Wardlow  
*University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, 2008*

Alan Elliott Wilson  
*Auburn University, 2018*

Elizabeth B. Wilson  
*North Carolina State University, 2010*

**WESTERN REGION**

Elizabeth A. Applegate  
*University of California, Davis, 2016*

Stephen Devadoss  
*University of Idaho, 2020*

Thomas R. Famula  
*University of California, Davis, 2012*

W. Marshall Frasier  
*Colorado State University, 2015*

Russell Hovey  
*University of California, Davis, 2023*

Matthew Mars  
*The University of Arizona, 2020*

Timothy D. Paine  
*University of California, Riverside, 2015*

Dennis T. Ray  
*The University of Arizona, 2009*

Kathleen Rodgers  
*Washington State University, 2023*

Heloisa Moreno Rutigliano  
*Utah State University, 2022*

William E. Walton  
*University of California, Riverside, 2022*

Brian K. Warnick  
*Utah State University, 2015*

Karen C. Williams  
*University of Wyoming, 2012*

Dean Winward  
*Southern Utah University, 2021*

**EARLY CAREER**

Abigail Borron  
*The University of Georgia, 2019*

Logan Britton  
*Kansas State University, 2023*

Leslie D. Edgar  
*University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 2013*

Kellie J. Enns  
*Colorado State University, 2014*

Miriam Ferzli  
*North Carolina State University, 2013*
Suzanne M. Gray  
*The Ohio State University, 2020*

Beatrix Haggard  
*Oklahoma State University, 2021*

Jason D. Hans  
*University of Kentucky, 2009*

Jennifer L. Hardesty  
*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*

Rebecca G. Lawver  
*Utah State University, 2016*

Jamie Loizzo  
*University of Florida, 2021*

Andrea Lucky  
*University of Florida, 2019*

Michael L. Mashbare, 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*

Joy Morgan  
*North Carolina State University, 2020*

Brian E. Myers  
*University of Florida, 2008*

Maria Navarro  
*The University of Georgia, 2012*

Gerardo Nunez  
*University of Florida, 2022*

Haley F. Oliver  
*Purdue University, 2014*

Brandy Phipps  
*Central State University, 2023*

Ranjith Ramanathan  
*Oklahoma State University, 2018*

Michael S. Retallick  
*Iowa State University, 2012*

T. Grady Roberts  
*University of Florida, 2010*

Mary Theresa Rodrigue  
*The Ohio State University, 2022*

Tyson Sorensen  
*Utah State University, 2020*

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**

James C. Anderson II  
*University of Georgia, 2021*

Rebecca Baldwin  
*University of Florida, 2022*

W. Wyatt Hoback  
*Oklahoma State University, 2020*

Erica Irlbeck  
*Texas Tech University, 2021*

Elizabeth L. Karcher  
*Purdue University, 2019*

Monika W. Oli  
*University of Florida, 2018*

Mary Kay Pohlschneider  
*The Ohio State University, 2022*

Shelly Peper Sitton  
*Oklahoma State University, 2018*

Daniel Stein  
*Oklahoma State University, 2023*

John D. Tummons  
*University of Missouri, 2019*

Nicholas Uluck  
*South Dakota State University, 2020*

Jennifer Weeks  
*University of Florida, 2023*
National Excellence in Extension Award for a Team

2023
Growing Together Multi-State Collaborative
Multiple Land-Grant Institutions

Growing Together is a multi-state SNAP-Ed donation garden collaborative that aims to promote healthy food access and offer nutrition and garden education for individuals who are nutrition insecure. This multi-state collaborative, including Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and most recently, South Dakota, meets regularly to share resources, promising practices, and challenges, while also building relationships and connections across state lines. Each state has tailored their effort to best meet their specific programmatic and community needs. The gardens and food distribution sites, including food pantries and meal programs, are in diverse communities across the states such as tribal nations, low-income housing units, schools, healthcare centers, organizations serving refugees, rural areas, and urban centers. The diversity of the states has been essential in deepening the impact of Growing Together and improving the quality and sustainability of this work.

Over the past three years, the multi-state collaborative has donated almost 601,000 pounds, equivalent to 1.8 million servings of fruits and vegetables, to 878 food distribution sites serving 375,000 clients. Direct nutrition or garden education as well as nutrition education materials are offered with the fresh produce.

This multi-state collaborative has created an initiative that maximizes the strengths of Extension and the communities it serves in a way that is reproducible throughout the nation to enhance healthy food access.

For the list of members of the Winning Team go to:
bit.ly/23-EiETeam-Award
National Excellence in Extension Award for an Individual 2023
Dr. Mary Arnold is a professor, developmental scientist, and 4-H youth development specialist at Oregon State University. Arnold currently serves as the Director Youth Development Research and Practice at National 4-H Council, and is principle author of the 4-H Thriving Model, a model that describes a theory of change for the impact 4-H has on young people.

The 4-H Thriving Model is a significant innovation that translates youth development research into effective Extension 4-H practice. The model has connected 4-H practitioners to the research base of their work, underscoring the body of scientific evidence behind 4-H youth development work and the importance of intentional theory-driven practice.

With the model, Arnold is leading the mobilization of a national effort to transform 4-H into a science-based, theory-driven youth development program. Today the 4-H Thriving Model is used in over 40,186 4-H programs, and at least two 1890s institutions. The model has been replicated in multiples studies and is serving as a catalyst for transforming 4-H program excellence. Arnold has received nearly $2 million in outside support to continue leading the effort to adopt the 4-H model across the country.

Arnold has authored or co-authored multiple, highly read and referenced peer-reviewed articles (over 10,000 reads and cited over 550 times) on youth development. Arnold’s research interest score is higher than 84% of all Research Gate scholars.

Arnold earned a B.A. from Western Washington University and M.S. and Ph.D. from Oregon State University.
Regional Excellence in Extension Awards for an Individual 2023
1890S REGION

Cedric Ogden

Assistant Professor/Extension Engineer Specialist - Agriculture & Natural Resources
Fort Valley State University

Dr. Cedric Ogden holds appointments in teaching, research and Extension as an assistant professor and extension engineer specialist at Fort Valley State University. His research focus in alternative & renewable energy sources aid in the development of self-sufficient facilities and operations while addressing global concerns of population growth, food security and climate change. In addition to maintaining several renewable energy operations that provide power to campus greenhouses, Dr. Ogden coordinated partnered with regional and state utility distributors to develop one of the largest commercial scale solar operations on a U.S. campus to provide clean and reliable grid power to over 3,000 Georgia residential homes.

With 1890 Foundation’s Center of Excellence in forestry and over $3 million in grant-funded projects, Dr. Ogden’s research and extension ventures beyond renewable energy focus is on the use of remote sensing and drone technology for rural development, crop health and precision forestry. In addition to his professorship in Agricultural Engineering, Dr. Ogden’s appointment for FVSU’s Cooperative Extension Program has allowed his research to find its impact through outreach to farmers and landowners. Dr. Ogden’s renewable energy and precision agricultural impact has been requested and recently found its way to other countries with visits to Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Kenya.

Dr. Ogden earned his Bachelor’s degree Fort Valley State University, Master’s from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Elaine Johannes

State Extension Specialist - Community Health
Kansas State University

Dr. Elaine Johannes is the Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor in Community Health for K-State Research and Extension and is a state Extension Specialist in the Department of Applied Human Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University.

She has extensive experience in working with communities to address health disparities, unequal access to health care, and the social drivers and conditions that impact people’s health and well-being. Johannes’ Extension programming and applied scholarship build the capacity for resilience and well-being among youth, families, networks, and communities.

Elaine is a member of the Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council executive committee for the Bureau of Family Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is an executive committee member for the Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition and is a Governor’s appointee to the Kansas Dept. of Corrections Kansas Advisory Group (KAG) for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Extending her Extension outreach, Johannes is President of the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition (KCHWC). She teaches in the Kansas Community Health Worker certification course, facilitates applied placement experiences for K-State MPH students, supervises graduate student practicums in her department, and teaches graduate courses in Grant Development and Writing which culminate in a proposal to improve community services and infrastructures.

Dr. Johannes has degrees from Kansas State University in Psychology, masters in Adult and Community Counseling, a graduate certificate in Gerontology, and a doctorate in Lifespan Human Development.
NORTHEAST REGION

Jiff Martin
Extension Educator
University of Connecticut

As Extension Educator in Sustainable Food Systems at UConn’s College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, Jiff Martin is an active manager of several extension programs. Since joining UConn Extension in 2010, she has directed over $4 million in federally funded programming.

Jiff is deeply committed to supporting the growth of small farm businesses in Connecticut. In 2012, she led the creation of the Solid Ground Farmer Training Program which delivers relevant learning events and tools for beginning farmers. In 2019, she co-founded the Southern New England Farmers of Color Collaborative to design and deliver new farmer training targeting the growing community of Black, Indigenous, People of Color farmers. She will launch new training in Climate Smart Farming practices for beginning farmers in fall 2023. Her recent pilot project, Leaders of Color in Conservation Training Program, has unearthed new pathways to connect farmers of color to financial and technical resources. To increase market access for new, small farm businesses, she has also directed buy-local initiatives and led farm-to-school programming since 2014.

Jiff’s service includes Vice Chair of the State Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, and Board member of Connecticut Farmland Trust. She recently served as a member of the CT Dept. of Agriculture’s DEI Working Group. She is credited with launching two AmeriCorps service-learning programs. In 2015, Jiff received the White House Champions for Change Award in Sustainable Agriculture.

Martin received a B.A. from University of Michigan and two master’s degrees from Tufts University.

SOUTHERN REGION

A. Stanley Culpepper
Extension Agronomist – Weed Science
University of Georgia

Dr. Stanley Culpepper is a Professor in the Crop and Soil Science Department at The University of Georgia with a 98% Extension responsibility. A native of North Carolina, he grew up on a bicentennial family farm producing corn, cotton, peanut, soybean, and wheat. Stanley joined The University of Georgia as a cotton, vegetable, and small grain weed scientist in 1999, and continues with those responsibilities today. Stanley’s ultimate goal is to develop and share sound science with family farms improving their sustainability.

Because of Stanley’s efforts, he has been an invited speaker at 346 functions across 27 states and several countries. In Georgia, he has presented timely information to growers at 751 county meetings, 134 field days, and 124 regional meetings while also training extension agents during 72 in-service functions. He has authored or co-authored 122 refereed journal articles, 4 book chapters, 439 abstracts for presentations at professional meetings, 338 extension publications and 256 newsletters/blogs. Additionally, Stanley has authored 17 successful Section 18 packages and critical use nomination packages as well as co-authoring 63 Section 24(c) or 2(ee) state herbicide labels bringing new weed management tools to Georgia growers.

Stanley has been honored to win over thirty awards including the EPA’s Montreal Protocol International Award for assisting in the preservation of the ozone layer. Stanley has also served three terms on the U.S. EPA Agricultural Science Committee Advisory Board and is currently the Past President of the Weed Science Society of America.

Culpepper received his B.S. in Agronomy and his M.S. and Ph.D. in weed science from N. C. State University.
National Diversity in Extension Award 2023
There are five million Spanish speakers in Florida (out of 21 million residents and growing). This large portion of our population can be better served if we are able to provide more materials and support in Spanish. The Coalition of Florida Extension for Latino Communities (CAFÉ Latino) is assisting in this effort. CAFÉ Latino is gaining visibility in Cooperative Extension System and in other countries.

Since the Spring of 2018, University of Florida’s Dr. John Diaz, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, has led the development of CAFÉ Latino in collaboration with Dr. Karla Shelnutt, Professor, Jonael Bosques-Mendez, County Extension Director, and Laura Valencia, 4-H Agent, to help increase the capacity and competency for Extension to serve the needs of Florida’s growing Latinx population.

CAFÉ Latino represents a grassroots service organization that is focused on enhancing the access and efficacy of Extension programs. Comprised of Extension faculty and staff across the state (with expertise in all program areas), the 70 members of CAFÉ Latino are not solely Latinx faculty and staff. Instead, the group includes representation from various racial/ethnic groups. The leaders of CAFÉ Latino invite all who are interested in advancing culturally-responsive programs for multicultural audiences into the organization. More information is available at https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/teams-and-programs/cafe-latino.
ROLL OF RECIPIENTS

Excellence in Extension Awards (2008–2023)

NATIONAL TEAM AWARD
Growing Together Multistate Collaborative (2023)
Iowa State University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Purdue University
Montana State University
South Dakota State University
University of Wisconsin
AES NC3169: EFNEP-Related Research, Program Evaluation, and Outreach (2022)
Colorado State University

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL AWARD
Elizabeth L. Andress
The University of Georgia, 2012
Mary Arnold
Oregon State University, 2023
G. A. ‘Art’ Barnaby, Jr.
Kansas State University, 2009
Ann Allgood Berry
University of Tennessee, 2021
Barbara Chamberlin
New Mexico State University, 2011
Alison F. Davis
University of Kentucky, 2022
Matthew J. Devereaux
University of Tennessee, 2019
Jeffrey T. Edwards
Oklahoma State University, 2013
James D. Ellis (Jamie)
University of Florida, 2020
Stephanie D. Green
Texas A&M University, 2016
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

1890’S REGION INDIVIDUAL AWARD
Dorothy P. Brandon
Alabama A&M University, 2019
Fitzroy ‘Roy’ D. Bullock
Tennessee State University, 2009
Kevin Crenshaw
Alabama A&M University, 2012
Jason de Koff
Tennessee State University, 2018
Michelle L. Eley, Ph.D.
North Carolina A&T State University, 2021
Henry English
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2014
Karnita Golson-Garner
Alabama A&M University, 2016
Sanjun Gu
North Carolina A&T State University, 2020
David Heikes
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2010
Cedric Ogden, Ph.D.
Fort Valley State University, 2023
Marion F. Simon
Kentucky State University, 2015
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
Angela R. Williams
Alabama A&M University, 2022
Virginie Zoumenou
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 2015
### NORTH CENTRAL REGION

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARD

- **William J. Angell**  
  *University of Minnesota, 2009*
- **Lisa Bottomley**  
  *Michigan State University, 2020*
- **Nozella L. Brown**  
  *Kansas State University, 2016*
- **Christian E. Butzke**  
  *Perdue University, 2022*
- **John DeFtain**  
  *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*
- **Elaine Johannes**  
  *Kansas State University, 2023*
- **Kathleen A. Lodl**  
  *University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2011*
- **Joe D. Luck**  
  *University of Nebraska, 2018*
- **Ashley L. Mueller**  
  *University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2021*
- **Richard J. Rasby**  
  *University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2008*
- **Dianne E. Shoemaker**  
  *The Ohio State University, 2019*
- **Fred Whitford**  
  *Purdue University, 2012*
- **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, 2021*
- **Gordon C. Johnson**  
  *University of Delaware, 2019*
- **Jiff Martin**  
  *University of Connecticut, 2023*
- **Chad Ripberger**  
  *Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2010*
- **Jen Robertson-Honecker**  
  *West Virginia University, 2013*
- **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

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARD

- **A. Stanley Culpepper**  
  *The University of Georgia, 2016, 2023*
- **Damona Doye**  
  *Oklahoma State University, 2017*
- **R. Dwayne Elmore**  
  *Oklahoma State University, 2018*
- **Paul R. Fischer**  
  *University of Florida, 2022*
- **Clark D. Garland**  
  *University of Tennessee, 2010*
- **Denise M. Holston-West**  
  *Louisiana State University, 2013*
- **John S. Jacob**  
  *Texas A&M University, 2014*
- **Robert C. Kemerait, Jr.**  
  *University of Georgia, 2021*
- **Garry D. Lacefield**  
  *University of Kentucky, 2008*
- **Mark L. McFarland**  
  *Texas A&M University, 2009*
- **Derrell S. Peel**  
  *Oklahoma State University, 2015*
- **Mark Peterson**  
  *University of Arkansas, 2019*

### NORTHEAST REGION

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARD

- **Chester Arnold**  
  *University of Connecticut, 2009*
- **Chet Arnold**  
  *University of Connecticut, 2017*
- **Elaine Bowen**  
  *West Virginia University, 2013*
- **Nila S. Cobb**  
  *West Virginia University, 2022*
- **Harry Crissy**  
  *The Pennsylvania State University, 2021*
Tom A. Vestal  
*The Texas A&M University System, 2012*

Lisa Whittlesey  
*Texas A&M University, 2011*

Hailin Zhang  
*Oklahoma State University, 2020*

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**WESTERN REGION INDIVIDUAL AWARD**

Michael Bondi  
*Oregon State University, 2010*

Mary E. Burrows  
*Montana State University, 2012*

Daniel L. Fagerlie  
*Washington State University, 2009*

Ana Lucia Fonseca  
*Oregon State University, 2021*

Marsha A. Goetting  
*Montana State University, 2017*

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Brian J. Higginbotham  
*Utah State University, 2013*

Paul A. Hill  
*Utah State University, 2020*

Dana Martin  
*Oregon State University, 2015*

Donald B. Meehan  
*Washington State University, 2008*

Terry Allan Messmer  
*Utah State University, 2016*

Madeleine Sigman-Grant  
*University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 2014*

David G. Schnitt  
*Utah State University, 2019*

Michael P. Vogel  
*Montana State University, 2011*
ROLL OF RECIPIENTS


Cesar Asuaje  
*University of Florida, 2014*

Attitudes for Success Youth Leadership Program  
*Oregon State University, 2017*

CAFÉ Latino  
*University of Florida, 2023*

Coming Together for Racial Understanding Team  
*See list of universities at https://bit.ly/CTRUTeam, 2021*

Ronald B. Cox, Jr.  
*Oklahoma State University, 2018*

4-H Center for Youth Development  
*University of Missouri, 2020*

Susan Given-Seymour  
*Northwest Indian College Cooperative Extension, 2013*

Hector Mendiola  
*Utah State University, 2009*

Juntos and Abriendo Caminos Work Teams  
*Iowa State University, 2019*

Latinx Agriculture Network  
*Pennsylvania State University, 2022*

People of the Land  
*University of Nevada, 2011*

Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Relations Project  
*New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, 2008*

Texas Grow! Eat! Go! (TGEG) Program  
*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 2015*

The University of California Small Farm Program  
*2010*

UC ANR 4–H Youth Development Program  
*IDI Qualified Administrators*

University of California, 2016

Michael P. Vogel  
*Extension Tribal Housing & Health Program Montana State University, 2012*
UNIVERSITIES OF EXCELLENCE

As recognized by the Excellence in Extension Awards

University of Nebraska–Lincoln (9)
Texas A&M University (7)
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (6)
University of Nevada, Reno (5)
Oklahoma State University (5)
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (5)
Montana State University (4)
North Carolina A&T State University (4)
Oregon State University (4)
University of Florida (4)
University of Kentucky (4)
University of Tennessee (4)
Washington State University (4)
Iowa State University (3)
Purdue University (3)
Tennessee State University (3)
The University of Georgia (3)
Utah State University (3)
University of Connecticut (3)
Alabama A&M University (3)
Kansas State University (2)
Kentucky State University (2)
South Dakota State University (2)
University of California, Davis (2)
University of Delaware (2)
University of Wisconsin (2)
West Virginia State University (2)
Clemson University (1)
Colorado State University (1)
Louisiana State University (1)
Michigan State University (1)
New Mexico State University (1)
North Dakota State University (1)
The Pennsylvania State University (1)
University of Arkansas (1)
University of Idaho (1)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1)
University of Maine (1)
University of Maryland (1)
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (1)
University of Minnesota (1)
University of Missouri–Columbia (1)
University of New Hampshire (1)
University of Vermont (1)
West Virginia University (1)

UNIVERSITIES OF EXCELLENCE

As recognized by the Diversity in Extension Awards

The Pennsylvania State University (5)
University of California (4)
Oregon State University (3)
Utah State University (3)
Michigan State University (2)
Mississippi State University (2)
University of Florida (2)
University of Missouri (2)
Cornell University (1)
Iowa State 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 Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (1)
University of Maine (1)
University of Minnesota (1)
University of Nebraska (1)
University of Nevada (1)
University of Wisconsin (1)
National Excellence in Multistate Research Award 2023
Managing Soybean Diseases

Soybeans are an affordable, protein-rich legume with a wide variety of uses. In the United States, soybeans were planted on 87.2 million acres—about one-third of all croplands—and had a total value of $45.7 billion in 2022. In recent years, yields have been stagnant in several areas largely due to soybean diseases. Some diseases are more prevalent now due to warmer, wetter climate trends and increased use of no-till planting and are difficult to predict and prevent. Soybean diseases can cause losses of up to $45 per acre. Without sufficient disease management strategies, farmers may waste time and money on ineffective or unnecessary options, some of which pose environmental health risks or promote development of fungicide-resistant pathogens.

For more than 30 years, scientists and Extension educators at land-grant universities across the United States have worked together to study soybean disease prevalence and epidemiology; develop detection and management strategies; and share information and tools with farmers, crop consultants, breeders, government agencies, and agricultural companies. With members in more than 20 states, this project provides a forum that facilitates rapid response to soybean diseases.

New tools and products have helped diagnose and manage soybean diseases, increasing yields and saving farmers millions of dollars. For example, Alabama soybean farmers saved an estimated $2.7 million due to reduced yield loss from soybean rust after applying the right fungicide at the right time. Tennessee soybean farmers estimated saving $7 million in 2017 due to lower management costs and yield losses.

Understanding Soybean Diseases

Project scientists studied the biology and epidemiology of soybean diseases. For example, scientists in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi teamed up to understand the fungus causing taproot decline while researchers in Delaware, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin worked together to identify three novel species of Diaporthe fungi that cause seed disease. Other studies determined that soybean vein necrosis virus is spread mostly by soybean thrips, which are more abundant in dry weather.

Project members also looked at how specific farming practices affect soybean diseases. For example, Kansas researchers found that a pre-season mustard cover crop reduces charcoal rot severity. Another study in Kansas found that applying higher rates of phosphorus during corn years lessened the severity of sudden death.
syndrome in subsequent soybean crops. Michigan and Wisconsin researchers demonstrated that row spacing can dramatically reduce white mold. Studies in Delaware and Maryland showed that double-cropped soybeans may be affected more severely by soybean vein necrosis. Recently, research confirmed that GPS-guided planting of continuous soybeans has contributed to the emergence of taproot decline.

Monitoring Soybean Diseases

Project members designed better tools and methods for detecting soybean diseases, monitoring spread, and estimating risk. For example, researchers in Iowa and Kentucky showed how Twitter can be used to track soybean diseases. Wisconsin scientists developed the free Sporecaster app to help farmers predict white mold severity and determine when to apply fungicide. Since May 2018, the app has had over 3,000 downloads. The newer companion app, Sporebuster, calculates the economic return of deploying a white mold fungicide.

Researchers are also keeping an eye on pathogens that are resistant to fungicides. For example, researchers in Kentucky and New York spearheaded an effort that identified fungicide-resistant strains of Cercospora sojina, which causes frogeye leaf spot, in 22 states. Genomic analysis detected greater frequency of fungicide resistance among the pathogens that cause Septoria leaf spot and target spot. Researchers also developed a tool that tracks fungicide-resistant pathogen populations. With information about fungicide resistance, soybean farmers can avoid wasting time and money on ineffective fungicide applications.

Testing Chemical Control Options

Project members annually test seed treatments and foliar fungicides to determine which are most cost-effective. Fungicide efficacy tables produced by the group reach about 100,000 users in 18 states each year. In addition to decreasing human and environmental health risks, judicious use of chemical pesticides is saving farmers money. For example, in Alabama, researchers showed that a single well-timed fungicide application for soybean rust can increase yield by 15% to 20%. After learning of these findings, farmers treated more acres with fungicide and saved an estimated $2.7 million in potential yield loss from soybean rust (after considering the application cost for the fungicide).

Improving Soybean Varieties

Project members routinely evaluate soybean resistance to disease causing pathogens. For example, in Arkansas, researchers evaluate the susceptibility of soybean varieties to southern root-knot nematode each year. Scientists in North Dakota and South Dakota identified sources of resistance to the fungal pathogen Fusarium graminearum, and scientists in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio improved the durability of soybean resistance to pest and disease pressure. Researchers also bred numerous soybean varieties with stronger resistance. For example, four varieties with resistance to Sclerotinia sclerotiorum (which causes white mold) will be released in 2024. Soybean variety tests and new disease-resistant varieties help crop consultants and farmers select and plant better soybeans. For example, a farmer in Michigan reported a 20% yield increase after choosing a variety based on trial results.
Increasing Awareness

Providing science-based information to the soybean industry has increased use of effective solutions. Between 2015 and 2023, this committee produced over 725 peer-reviewed publications; 20 books or book chapters; and more than 500 newsletters, videos, webinars, podcasts, news articles, and other extension products. During field days, grower meetings, and other events, thousands of clients improved their knowledge about soybean disease management. In particular, many project members have been involved in training farmers, pesticide applicators, government agencies, and others on how to detect soybean diseases, select and use chemical fungicides, and monitor fungicide resistance. All project members contributed to the Integrated Pest Management Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education, which shows the spread of soybean diseases in real time and helps farmers make decisions. Project members also provided data and materials for the Crop Protection Network. The network’s publications and decision-support tools have over 750,000 page views. North Dakota State University leads the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition, which has encouraged farmers to change the way they manage the disease. The coalition’s efforts have saved growers an estimated $100 million. As part of the coalition, project members helped run “Beat the Pest. Take the Test, Version II,” an outreach campaign that encouraged farmers to test for soybean cyst nematode and take appropriate actions.

Project Participation & Funding

NCERA-137: Soybean Diseases is funded in part by the Multistate Research Fund through the USDA-NIFA and by grants to project members at the following institutions: Arkansas Cooperative Extension, Auburn University, Cornell University, University of Delaware, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Illinois, Illinois Cooperative Extension, Iowa Cooperative Extension, Kansas State University, University of Kentucky, Louisiana State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Mississippi State University, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, North Dakota State University, The Ohio State University, Oklahoma State University, Purdue University, Pennsylvania State University, South Dakota State University, University of Tennessee, Virginia Tech, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Other partners include the United Soybean Board and the North Central Soybean Research Program. Industry sponsors include BASF, Bayer, Cibus, Inc., Corteva, FMC, Syngenta, UPL, Valent, Stratton Seed Company, and Progeny Ag Products. Learn more: bit.ly/NCERA-137. This Impact Statement was produced by the Multistate Research Fund Impacts Program. Learn more: mrfimpacts.org/
NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARDS

Soybean Diseases (NCERA-137), 2023
Research and Extension for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Applications in U.S. Agriculture and Natural Resources (S-1069), 2022
Soil, Water, and Environmental Physics to Sustain Agriculture and Natural Resources (W-4188), 2021
Social, Economic and Environmental Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change in Rural America (W-4001), 2020
Enhancing Microbial Food Safety by Risk Analysis (S-1056), 2019
Drainage Design and Management Practices to Improve Water Quality (NCERA-217), 2018
Water Management and Quality for Ornamental Crop Production and Health (NC-1186), 2017
Fly Management in Animal Agriculture Systems and Impacts on Animal Health and Food Safety (S-1060), 2016
Improving Sustainability in Fruit Tree Production through Changes in Rootstock Use (NC-140), 2015
Microirrigation for Sustainable Water Use (W-2128), 2014
Sweet Potato Collaborators Conference (SERA-3), 2013
Response to Emerging Threat: Soybean Rust (NCERA-208), 2012
Improving the Sustainability of Livestock and Poultry Production in the United States (S-1032), 2011
Biological Improvement of Chestnut through Technologies that Address Management of the Species, its Pathogens, and Pests (NE-1033), 2010
Biology, Impact, and Management of Soybean Insect Pests in Soybean Production Systems (S-1039), 2009
Porcine Reproductive and Regulatory Disease: Methods for the Integrated Control, Prevention, and Elimination of PRRS in United States Swine (NC-229), 2008
REGIONAL EXCELLENCE IN MULTISTATE RESEARCH AWARDS

NORTH CENTRAL
*Soybean Diseases (NCERA137)*

Alyssa Koehler, Technical Committee Chair
Marty Draper, Administrative Advisor

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
Auburn University
University of Arkansas
Cibus, Inc.
Cornell University
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Purdue University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
University of Kentucky
Louisiana State University
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
North Dakota State University
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
South Dakota State University
University of Tennessee
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
University of Wisconsin-Madison

University of Rhode Island
University of Tennessee
University of Vermont
West Virginia University

SOUTHERN REGION
*Industrial Hemp Production, Processing, and Marketing in the U.S. (S1084)*

Heather Darby, Technical Committee Chair
Lesley Oliver, Administrative Advisor

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
Alabama A&M University
Auburn University
University of California-Riverside
Central State University
University of Connecticut
Colorado State University
Cornell University
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Kansas State University
University of Kentucky
Kentucky State University
Louisiana State University
University of Maryland
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
Montana State University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
North Carolina State University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Southern Illinois University
University of Tennessee
Utah State University
USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit
University of Vermont
Virginia State University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Washington State University
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin-Madison

NORTHEAST REGION
*Sustainable Management of Nematodes in Plant and Soil Health Systems (NE2140)*

Nathaniel Mitkowski, Technical Committee Chair
Anton Bekkerman, Administrative Advisor

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
University of California-Riverside
Cornell University
University of Florida
University of Hawaii-Manoa
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Michigan State University
USDA-ARS/Mississippi
Pennsylvania State University
WESTERN REGION
Agrochemical Impacts on Human and Environmental Health (W4045)

Susanne Brander, Technical Committee Chair
Chris Pritsos, Administrative Advisor

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
Bayer Crop Science
University of California-Davis
University of California-Riverside
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
University of Florida
University of Hawaii-Manoa
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
Louisiana State University
USDA-ARS/Maryland
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
Montana State University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nevada-Reno
Purdue University
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina
The Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Rutgers University
USDA-ARS/South Dakota
Experiment Station
Section National Excellence in Leadership Award 2023
**1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS (ARD)**

**Chandra Reddy**

*Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of Research/Administrator of Extension*  
*Tennessee State University*

Dr. Chandra Reddy provides leadership as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of Research/Administrator of Extension at Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN.

Dr. Reddy currently serves on the Boards of Agriculture Future of America (AFA), 1890 Universities Foundation Board, Emerging Technologies Life Sciences Advisory Board, Ag Launch Technical Advisory Board and Tennessee State Fair and Exposition Commission. In the recent past, he served on the Boards of National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and LEAD 21/APLU. He is the immediate past Chair of the Association of Research Directors (ARD) of 1890 land-grant universities.

Dr. Reddy is an internationally recognized research scholar and an institution building expert. He received several prestigious honors and awards including the USDA/NIFA Partnership Award in 2013; a Joint Resolution from the Tennessee State Legislature in 2012 for his outstanding contributions to Tennessee Agriculture and the George Washington Carver Agricultural Excellence Award sponsored by the USAID in 2008 for his impactful international research and institution building efforts.

Dr. Reddy focused much of his research work on soil quality, crop production and environmental sustainability issues. He is currently directing the Center of Excellence on Natural Resources, Energy and Environment. Dr. Reddy has published his research findings in several prestigious journals, books, and conference proceedings, with current totals including 266 publications and numerous externally funded research projects. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate-level courses and directed the thesis/dissertation research of several M.S. and Ph.D. degree candidates. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America.

Dr. Reddy earned B.S. and M.S degrees from India and a Ph.D. degree in Agronomy from the University of Florida.

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

**Jeff Jacobsen**

*Retired December 2023; Former Executive Director*  
*North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*

Dr. Jeff Jacobsen served as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Montana State University from 2004 through 2013. In 2014, Jeff was appointed as Executive Director of NCRA.

Jeff is a thoughtful, knowledgeable, patient, kind, and highly influential leader within the Land-grant university (LGU) system, as well as with LGU partners including USDA-NIFA, USDA-ARS, USDA-NRCS, and other key stakeholders of food and agriculture systems across our nation. He is best known for his integrity, kindness, and approachable nature that contributed to his success in facilitating discussions to identify effective solutions for challenges faced by LGUs. His ability to listen, synthesize and evaluate information, and identify approaches that are acceptable and beneficial to all parties contributed to improved partnerships, processes, accountability, and science important to improving agriculture, the environment, and people’s lives.

Jeff’s contributions as the NCRA Executive Director are extensive and cannot be fully described in this brief, but here are a few powerful examples of his impact, Jeff:

- provided outstanding leadership and oversight of all NCRA activities including, oversight and improvements to multistate projects and committees, mentoring and guidance of new administrators and agInnovation chairs;
- delivered exceptional leadership and direction at the national level through his service on many ESCOP committees and associated activities and initiatives;
- initiated the ESS Finance Committee and subsequent investment of surplus funds;
- was integral to the establishment of the Diversity Catalyst Committee;
- co-established and led the north central Administrative Boot Camps for new administrators and LGU2U to build relationships and share valuable information on LGUs to new NIFA staff; and
- fostered close relationships and partnerships with the 1994s in the North Central region.

Dr. Jacobsen earned a B.S. degree in soil science from California Polytechnic State University, an M.S. degree in agronomy from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. in soil science from Oklahoma State University.
NORTHEASTERN REGION

Jan P. Nyrop
Retired June 2023; Former Goichman Family Director of Cornell AgriTech at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cornell University

Dr. Jan P. Nyrop was named Senior Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University in 2007. In 2015 he was appointed as the Director of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean, and in 2017 he was honored as the “best of the best” as the endowed Goichman Family Director, Cornell AgriTech at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

At Cornell, Jan was instrumental in establishing the Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture and the Center of Excellence in Food and Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech. His commitment to research excellence extended to Cornell undergraduates and is exemplified in AgriTech’s Summer Scholars Program. This summer experience led many student scholars into graduate study programs and/or careers in agriculture.

Jan was NERA’s senior statesman and mentor. At the time of his retirement, he had served the Association longer than any other current NERA member. Jan lent his intellect, administrative acumen, disciplinary expertise, and time to the members of NERA selflessly, graciously, and competently. During his tenure with NERA Jan chaired ESCOP committees like the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee and served as an invaluable Administrative Advisor to four regional multistate committees. Jan’s true legacy to the region and to the Experiment Station Section was his service as chair of NERA and chair of NERA’s Multistate Activities Committee (MAC). Jan was a model leader of the MAC. He provided thoughtful input and prodded both the MAC and the multistate technical committees to think big and inclusively. As chair of NERA, Jan applied a similar mindset and challenged NERA directors to reimagine the experiment station. When Jan hosted difficult discussions, he did so deliberately and empathetically. He led by example, acted with humility, listened mindfully, and built a culture of trust.

Dr. Nyrop received a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine, M.S. degrees in Entomology and in Systems Engineering as well as a Ph.D. in Entomology from Michigan State University.

SOUTHERN REGION

Henry Fadamiro
Associate Vice President for Research, Strategic Initiatives, Formerly Associate Director and Chief Science Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Texas A&M University

Dr. Henry Fadamiro currently serves as the Associate Vice President for Research, Strategic Initiatives at Texas A&M University where in 2022, he transitioned from the Associate Director and Chief Science Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He also served as the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University, Associate Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and Associate Dean & Director of Global Programs.

Henry has served SAAESD and agInnovation in numerous roles, including ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) chair, SAAESD Multistate Research Committee, SAAESD Strategic Implementation Committee, Southern Region Small Farms Working Group (chair), and Southern Region IPM Center Advisory Board. Further, he has served as an advisor for SERA and Multistate projects and has nurtured 1862-1890 land-grant partnerships between Alabama A&M and Tuskegee universities and Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Prairie View A&M University.

Henry has contributed to the Land-grant system through numerous other leadership roles. He is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, the African Academy of Sciences, and the Food Systems Leadership Institute. He received a Rhodes Scholarship for his Ph.D.

Dr. Henry Fadamiro earned a Bachelor of Technology in Biology from Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria and a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Oxford.
Dr. Glenda Humiston was appointed University of California Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources in 2015. Glenda has since served many leadership roles on behalf of the experiment stations at both the regional and national levels. Glenda’s steadfast commitment to serve and no non-sense approach, coupled with her vast experience in the political arena, has helped move the needle.

Dr. Humiston served as WAAESD chair during a time when the regional office was experiencing some internal issues. Glenda’s leadership was essential to managing through those tough times.

On the national level, Dr. Humiston served as the Chair of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy’s (ESCOP) Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC). Chairing this committee also entails serving as the ESCOP representative to the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly’s Budget and Advocacy Committee and Committee on Legislation and Policy. She also served on an ad hoc infrastructure committee that was formed by the APLU BAA to address the rapidly declining facilities operated by colleges of agriculture. Glenda’s leadership was instrumental in all of these committees. For example, she helped the system develop a longer-term strategy for justifying annual federal appropriations requests in support of capacity research funds that are allocated to State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Glenda also played a pivotal role in creating awareness among congressional leaders that the nation must address the infrastructure challenges colleges of agriculture are facing.

Dr. Humiston earned a B.S. degree in Animal Science from Colorado State University, an M.S. degree in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from the University of California, Berkeley.
NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

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

David A. Benfield  
*The Ohio State University (NC)*, 2022

Conrad Bonsi  
*Tuskegee University (ARD)*, 2021

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 Cholick  
*Kansas State University (NC)*, 2015

Joe P. Colletti  
*Iowa State University (NC)*, 2019

Henry Fadamiro  
*Texas A&M University (S)*, 2023

Cameron Faustman  
*University of Connecticut (NE)*, 2019

Robert W. Godfrey  
*University of the Virgin Islands (S)*, 2020

Deb Hamernik  
*USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, (NCRA)*, 2021

H. Michael Harrington  
*Western Regional Association (W)*, 2018

Bret W. Hess  
*University of Wyoming (W)*, 2019

Walter A. Hill  
*Tuskegee University (ARD)*, 2016

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

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

Glenda Humiston  
*University of California (W)*, 2023

Shirley Hymon-Parker  
*North Carolina A&T University (ARD)*, 2018

Jody Jellison  
*University of Massachusetts (NE)*, 2022

C. Colin Kaltenbach  
*University of Arizona (W)*, 2014

Moses T. Kairo  
*University of Maryland Eastern Shore (ARD)*, 2022

Jeff Jacobsen  
*North Central Regional Association (NC)*, 2023

Arlen Leholm  
*North Central Regional Association (NC)*, 2014

Marc Linit  
*University of Missouri (NC)*, 2020

Steven J. Loring  
*New Mexico State University (W)*, 2020

Jan L. Maw  
*Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (NE)*, 2018

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

Bruce McPherson  
*The Pennsylvania State University (NE)*, 2014

Jean-Francois “JF” Meullenet  
*University of Arkansas (S)*, 2022

J. Ernst (Ernie) Minton  
*Kansas State University (NC)*, 2017

Saied Mostaghimi  
*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (S)*, 2019

Craig Nessler  
*Texas A&M (S)*, 2014

Mortimer H. Neufville  
*1890 Universities Foundation (ARD)*, 2019

Jan Nyrop  
*Cornell University (NE)*, 2023

Keith Owens  
*Oklahoma State University, (S)*, 2021

Ron Pardini  
*The University of Nevada-Reno (W)*, 2015

Alfred L. Parks  
*Prairie View A&M University (ARD)*, 2020

Chandra Reddy  
*Tennessee State University (ARD)*, 2023
Dan Rossi  
*Northeastern Regional Association (NE), 2016*

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

Frederick A. Servello  
*University of Maine (NE), 2021*

Milan P. Shipka  
*University of Alaska (W), 2022*

Adel Shirmohammadi  
*University of Maryland, College Park (NE), 2020*

Steven Slack  
*The Ohio State University (NC), 2016*

Lee Sommers  
*Colorado State University (W), 2017*

John A. Tanaka  
*University of Wyoming (W), 2021*

Alton Thompson  
*Delaware State University (ARD), 2015*

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

Eric Young  
*Southern Regional Association (S), 2015*
National Experiment Station Section
Diversity and Inclusion Award
2023
INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Jacquelyn Mosley
School of Human and Environmental Sciences, Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences University of Arkansas

Dr. Jacquelyn Mosley has been actively involved in promoting cultural competence in the state of Arkansas for over a decade and is admired widely for passionately integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion into Arkansas agriculture. She has published over 50 research articles and secured over $2.2 million in federal funding from the USDA/NIFA, NIH, and NSF, all supporting DEI programming. Dr. Mosley is the faculty mentor for the UARK Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and has increased membership in the local organization by 900%. She is also a trained administrator in the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and has taught 8 different classes related to cultural competence. She has established herself as the go-to person for cultural competence training, assessing over 2,000 students, faculty, staff, and Division of Agriculture leaders in over 60 trainings across campus, as well as the leadership team of Tyson Foods. Clearly, Dr. Mosley is an agent of change, and her efforts are making a difference.

GROUP AWARD

Cloquet Forestry Center

For several years, the staff at the Cloquet Forestry Center (CFC) have been working with representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Fond du Lac Nation, and the University of Minnesota to employ prescribed fire on the experimental forest. This effort was led by the CFC to restore both the cultural and the ecological benefits of fire on the forest ecosystem. In early 2022, the program was formalized in a memorandum of understanding, which set the stage for collaborative burns at the CFC. In May of 2022, CFC staff and firefighters from the Fond du Lac Band, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and The Nature Conservancy gathered to burn 75 acres at the CFC. For many, the burns were long-awaited: they signified both the return of fire to a fire-adapted ecosystem and the restoration of the deeply rooted Ojibwe cultural practice of burning.

This partnership emphasized community-informed research to address critical issues in natural resource management in Minnesota to meet ecological and cultural objectives. Through building this relationship, the CFC has created a tribal nation partnership model that showcases joint learning and collaboration in a respectful and productive way creating pathways for sustainable long-term relationships and stewardship of the land.
NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AWARDS

Anna Katharine Mansfield
Cornell AgriTech (The New York Agricultural Experiment Station), 2022

Elizabeth Myles
Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center, Alcorn State University, 2022

Shannon Archibeque-Engle
Assistant Vice President for Diversity Office of the Vice President for Diversity Colorado State University, 2021

Carlene Chase, Marilyn Swisher, Oscar Liburd, Jin Zhao, Zhifeng Gao, Alejandro Bolques and Sanjun Gu
Organic Farming Team Horticultural Sciences Department Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences University of Florida, 2021

Tracy Irani, Jenny Jones, Sharon Austin, Keith Diem, Kelly Moore, Dale Pracht
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS) Institute of Food Agricultural Sciences University of Florida, 2020

Jeff Jacobsen
ESS/ARD Diversity Catalyst Committee North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA), 2019

Neil Knobloch and Levon Esters
The Mentoring@Purdue Team Purdue University, 2018
2023
Board on Health and Human Sciences Awards
Alicia Powers
Hunger Solutions Institute
Ellen Swallow Richards Public Service Award

During Powers’ five years as Managing Director of Hunger Solutions Institute in the College of Human Sciences at Auburn University, Powers has elevated HSI as a true academic center providing steadfast leadership in teaching, research, and service in food and nutrition security. Powers teaches and mentors numerous undergraduate and graduate students in hunger-related coursework and research activities. HSI engages multiple faculty from universities nationwide in research related to food and nutrition security. HSI also convenes several networks, such as Universities Fighting World Hunger and Presidents United to Solve Hunger, to foster collaboration and multiply best practices. HSI currently has $8 million in active grants and gifts and serves as a national leader in implementing strong programming and conducting innovative research in the areas of nutrition incentives for SNAP households and hunger in college students. Powers has moderated panels for the White House and testified before Congressional committees to highlight the role of higher education institutions, particularly land-grant institutions, in food and nutrition security for vulnerable populations.

Prior to joining HSI, Powers served as an associate professor of Health Sciences at Furman University where she co-founded Live Well Greenville, a coalition of organizations partnering to ensure access to healthy eating and active living opportunities for every Greenville County, South Carolina resident.

Dr. Powers holds a PhD in Nutrition and Food Systems from The University of Southern Mississippi as well as a MS and BS in Nutrition and Food Sciences from Auburn University.

Jill Joyce
Oklahoma State University
Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

Jill is a Registered Dietitian who hates kale, Associate Professor, Graduate Coordinator, and Co-director of the Tactical Fitness and Nutrition Lab at Oklahoma State University. She is originally from Pittsburgh, PA, and after graduation, spent 9 years moving around the country with her husband for his active-duty Army service working in a variety of settings from in-patient clinical and out-patient eating disorder treatment to home health and childcare menu development. As a researcher, Jill investigates social determinants of health and nutrition for tactical athletes, including firefighters, law enforcement officers, and military personnel and their families. Her team then works on addressing areas of concern through public health nutrition interventions to improve dietary quality, and subsequently occupational performance, health, and quality of life of tactical athletes. The why that drives her passion for research and mentoring is that she wants to change the world, and she hopes she does just that for her undergraduate researchers and the tactical athletes they serve as a team. It is a true honor and extreme joy that students involve her in their journey to becoming the professionals they dream of being.
Elaine Johannes
Kansas State University
Outstanding Engagement Award

Elaine Johannes is the Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor in Community Health for K-State Research and Extension and is a state Extension Specialist in the Department of Applied Human Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University. Dr. Johannes has degrees from Kansas State University in Psychology, masters in Adult and Community Counseling, a graduate certificate in Gerontology, and a doctorate in Lifespan Human Development.

She has extensive experience in working with communities to address health disparities, unequal access to health care, and the social drivers and conditions that impact people’s health and well-being. Johannes’ Extension programming and applied scholarship build the capacity for resilience and well-being among youth, families, networks, and communities.

Elaine is a member of the Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council executive committee for the Bureau of Family Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is an executive committee member for the Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition and is a Governor’s appointee to the Kansas Dept. of Corrections Kansas Advisory Group (KAG) for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Extending her Extension outreach, Johannes is President of the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition (KCHWC). She teaches in the Kansas Community Health Worker certification course, facilitates applied placement experiences for K-State MPH students, supervises graduate student practicums in her department, and teaches graduate courses in Grant Development and Writing which culminate in a proposal to improve community services and infrastructures.
2023
Food Systems Leadership Institute
Mort Neufville
President & CEO
1890 Universities Foundation

Dr. Mortimer Neufville is President & CEO of the 1890 Universities Foundation. Mort previously served as President of Coppin State University from 2013 to 2015 and prior to that, as Interim President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

In 1998 Mort was appointed Director, of Federal Relations-Food Environment and International Affairs at NASULGC (now APLU). And later was appointed Executive Vice President. He retired from APLU in 2008.

Neufville held a number of positions at UMES, including Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs; Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; 1890 Research Director and Dean of Agricultural Sciences, Project manager for the Cameroon Root and Tuber Food Crops Research Project funded by USAID and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, where UMES served as lead institution. He also chaired the HBCU International Liaison Officers Committee and provided leadership for four projects funded through the Egyptian Universities Linkage Program.

Neufville served on the Board of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and was Board Chair 2004–2006. His service on global food and agriculture boards includes a number of high-impact organizations including serving on the ACDI/VOCA Board of Directors and Board Chair for 10 years, and the Board of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) where he also served for 10 Years. Other related organizations benefiting from Dr. Neufville’s extensive experience include his work on behalf of the US/India Agriculture Knowledge Initiative, and the Food Systems Leadership Institute Commission. In 2021 he was selected to serve on the prestigious World Food Prize Council of Advisors.

Neufville received his B.S. degree from Tuskegee University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Science from the University of Florida, Gainesville. He was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Science degree by Tuskegee University on February 4, 2001, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the University of Florida on December 15, 2001. He was inducted into the International Continuing Education Hall of Fame in 2008.
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David Anderson
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee

Mike Castellano
Professor and William T. Frankenberger Professor of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University

Shana Forster
Center Director / North Central Research Extension Center District Director/ NDSU Extension, North Dakota State University

James Henderson
Professor and Head, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University

Jennifer Hunter
Assistant Extension Director – Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment; University of Kentucky

Andra Johnson
Dean for Extension & Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida

Sherri Jones
Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska Lincoln

Amy Kaleita
Professor and Chair, Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University

Dean Kopsell
Professor and Chair, Environmental Horticulture Department, The University of Florida

Kelley Lowe
Director Product Development, Abbott Nutrition

Linda Prokopy
Professor and Department Head, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University

Jason Ross
Department Chair, Lloyd Anderson Endowed Professor in Physiology, Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University

Tracy Rutherford
Department Head, Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Agricultural, Leadership and Community Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Scott Senseman
Associate Vice President of Ag Research, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Oklahoma State University

Melanie Simpson
Professor and Department Head, Molecular and Structural Biochemistry, North Carolina State University

Manpreet Singh
Department Head and Professor Food Science & Technology, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia

Ami Smith
Vice President and Dean and Director for Agricultural Research & Extension, West Virginia State University

Darron Smith
Dean, College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, Tennessee Technological University

George Smith
Director of AgBioResearch, CANR Senior Associate Dean for Research, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University

Puneet Srivastava
Associate Dean for Research and Associate Director of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland – College Park

Lee Anne Thompson
Interim Dean, Professor, and Associate Director, Provost Scholars Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Psychological Sciences, Case Western Reserve University

Janine Woods
Associate Administrator, Cooper Extension, College of Agriculture, Virginia State University