

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Nominations for the 2024 Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards

The Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards recognize, reward, and encourage excellence in the work of faculty, staff and students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. There are 14 award categories, and unless otherwise indicated, one recipient may be selected for each category:

Teaching Awards

- Graduate Teaching
- Early Career Teaching
- Teaching (Tenure/Tenure-Track)
- Teaching (APT)
- Educational Enrichment and Innovation

Research Awards

- Undergraduate Research
- Graduate Research
- Early Career Research
- Research (2 awards)

Other Awards

- Administration
- Faculty Mentoring
- International Impact
- Staff Excellence (3 awards)
- Service
- Student Relations

The description and rubric for each award category are listed below.

Eligibility: To be eligible for a Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award, nominees must have:

- some portion of their appointment with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or significant responsibilities or duties to the College on campus
- been employed in the College for at least 2 years (except for student awards)
- not received the award (for the same category) in the last 5 years

Nomination process:

- To nominate or self-nominate (which is encouraged), please use the nomination form for the appropriate category on this webpage: <https://faculty.aglifesciences.tamu.edu/deans-outstanding-achievement-awards/> by **Friday, May 30, 2025**. In the nomination form:
 - Articulate the outstanding achievements of the nominee, supported by evidence as appropriate, in response to the specific rubric items
 - Upload a CV that is *no more than 5 pages long* and emphasizes information relevant to the award category
 - A team (typically no more than 5 members) can also be nominated when appropriate. Attach an additional document (no more than 2 pages), defining the purpose and primary objective(s) of the team and providing a summary of the team's achievements and the impact of the team's work
 - No letter of support is required to be included in the nomination.
- Any faculty, staff or student from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences can submit nominations. Nominators are encouraged to coordinate with the departmental awards committee to avoid duplicate nominations of the same nominee. There is no limit to the number of nominations that can be submitted from a unit.

Selection Process & Award Presentation: The COALS Awards Committee will review the nominations and make recommendations to the Dean. The award recipients will be recognized in a ceremony in the Fall.

They will receive a framed certificate and a monetary award of \$500 for an individual award and up to \$2,000 for a team award (up to \$500 per member).

TEACHING

This award recognizes and encourages excellence in teaching. Successful nominees will exhibit outstanding performance in teaching and student mentoring, as evidenced by peer reviews, student satisfaction, and student outcomes. They demonstrate excellence in teaching innovations, scholarship of teaching and learning, and/or contribution to educational development and reform. In addition, effective performance in other area(s) of their faculty appointment (research and/or service) is also expected.

1. **Outstanding performance in teaching and student mentoring** – Excellence as evidenced by peer reviews, student satisfaction, and student outcomes; development and effective implementation of high impact learning experiences; effective practice of inclusive pedagogies and creating inclusive learning environment to support the success of all students; effective mentoring as evidenced by student outcomes (presentations, publications, grants, awards, time to degree, placements, etc.) and student reflections on the impact of care and mentoring on their development and well-being
2. **Teaching innovations, scholarship of teaching and learning, and/or contribution to educational development and reform** - innovations in pedagogical/course design; presentations and publications of widely adopted or acclaimed instructional materials (textbook, case studies, etc.) and/or research on disciplinary teaching and learning; receiving grant support for teaching innovation/research projects; significant efforts in peer mentoring in teaching or professional development in teaching as a facilitator; significant contributions to curriculum development efforts of the academic unit; active engagement in educational reforms at the institutional and national levels
3. **Recognition of teaching excellence** - invited presentations on teaching and learning at academic institutions and professional/teaching conferences; teaching awards at department, college, university, or national/international levels
4. **Effective performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (research and/or service), if any**

EARLY CAREER TEACHING

*This award recognizes and encourages excellence in teaching for individuals within **five years** of the start of their first faculty position (at any institution). Successful nominees will exhibit outstanding performance in teaching and student mentoring, as evidenced by peer reviews, student satisfaction, and student outcomes. They demonstrate excellence in teaching innovations, scholarship of teaching and learning, and/or contribution to educational development and reform. In addition, effective performance in other area(s) of their faculty appointment (research and/or service) is also expected.*

1. **Outstanding performance in teaching and student mentoring** – Excellence as evidenced by peer reviews, student satisfaction, and student outcomes; development and effective implementation of high impact learning experiences; effective practice of inclusive pedagogies and creating inclusive learning environment to support the success of all students; effective mentoring as evidenced by student outcomes (presentations, publications, grants, awards, time to degree, placements, etc.) and student reflections on the impact of care and mentoring on their development and well-being
2. **Teaching innovations, scholarship of teaching and learning, and/or contribution to educational development and reform** - innovations in pedagogical/course design; presentations and publications of widely adopted or acclaimed instructional materials (textbook, case studies, etc.) and/or research on disciplinary teaching and learning; receiving grant support for teaching innovation/research projects; significant efforts in peer mentoring in teaching or professional development in teaching as a facilitator; significant contributions to curriculum development efforts of the academic unit; active engagement in educational reforms at the institutional and national levels
3. **Recognition of teaching excellence** - invited presentations on teaching and learning at academic institutions and professional/teaching conferences; teaching awards at department, college, university, or national/international levels
4. **Effective performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (research and/or service), if any**

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND INNOVATION

This award recognizes excellence for college faculty and staff who demonstrate exceptional dedication and effectiveness in providing high impact student experiences and/or are exceptionally innovative in their approach to student learning, in or out of the classroom. Successful nominees will be actively involved in the creation and/or implementation of exceptional educational experiences such as study abroad, internships, unique classroom experiences, service learning or other activities that significantly impact student engagement, reflection and growth.

1. **Exceptional dedication and effectiveness in providing high impact student experiences and/or are exceptionally innovative in their approach to student learning in or out of the classroom.**
2. **Evidence of active involvement in the creation and/or implementation of exceptional educational experiences**, such as study abroad, internships, unique classroom experiences, service learning, or other activities (in person or virtual) that significantly impact student engagement, reflection and growth.

GRADUATE TEACHING

This award recognizes and encourages excellence in graduate student teaching. Successful nominees will exhibit an exceptional command of their subject area, unique and innovative teaching methodologies, outstanding student motivation and inspiration as well as a sense of caring and mentoring for their students. Eligibility Criteria: Graduate teaching award nominees must have taught on at least a ½ time basis for two semesters or summer sessions (10 weeks) during his/her graduate enrollment at Texas A&M University or must be completing the second semester of teaching at the time of nomination. The nominee must be a full-time student, classified as a graduate assistant or 50% lecturer/instructor with teaching responsibilities and have independent authority to assign grades for courses or laboratory sections.

- **Command of discipline and teaching methodologies.** Demonstrates strong expertise and passion for the discipline and the teaching of the discipline. Incorporates active and engaging learning strategies (e.g., in-class activities, group work, case studies, classroom assessment techniques). Integrates technology or other innovations to enhance learning. Evidence of exceptional effectiveness with the teaching methods used. Evidence of improvement in student motivation and engagement, student learning outcomes, and related student achievement. Student and peer comments directly relate candidate's pedagogy to outstanding student results and products.
- **Pervasive caring and mentoring.** Genuinely cares about the students, their learning, and their personal and professional development. Creates a sense of community and belonging in teaching/learning environment. Facilitates an environment to maximize learning through acknowledging and valuing students and the unique cultural backgrounds and experiences they bring to the classroom. Actively listens to students; asks students for feedback. Demonstrated accessibility and effectiveness in mentoring. Students written comments addressing care and positive impact.

RESEARCH

This award recognizes excellence in research which includes scholarship of all forms, including the scholarship of teaching and learning. Successful nominees will be recognized leaders nationally or internationally who demonstrate impact that has advanced their fields. In addition, effective performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (teaching and/or service) is also expected.

1. **Research impact that has advanced their field.** Indicators may include, but not limited to: publication of papers in leading journals of the discipline and books that synthesize the field; significant impact of scholarly (or creative) work on the discipline, such as high citation rates, innovations that influences the direction of the field, and significant translational impacts (including patents).
2. **Significant success in securing competitive extramural funding from federal, private and corporate funders.**
3. **Recognized leadership nationally or internationally.** Indicators may include, but not limited to: invited oral presentations at peer institutions and national and international professional conferences; serving on review panels and committees of national or international research organizations; and selection for prestigious external awards and fellowships.
4. **Effective performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (teaching and/or service)**

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH

*This award recognizes excellence in research for individuals within **five years** of the start of their first faculty position (at any institution). Successful nominees are expected to demonstrate independence in scholarship, demonstrate meaningful and nationally recognized impact in their field of research (which could include scholarship of teaching and learning) and be recognized as leaders in their field of study, or be on a strong and sustained trajectory to attain national leadership status. In addition, effective performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (teaching and/or service) is also expected.*

1. **Research impact that has advanced their field.** Indicators may include, but not limited to: publication of papers in leading journals of the discipline and books that synthesize the field; significant impact of scholarly (or creative) work on the discipline, such as high citation rates, innovations that influences the direction of the field, and significant translational impacts (including patents).
2. **Success in securing competitive extramural funding from federal, private and corporate funders.**
3. **Recognized, or strong trajectory to attain, national leadership.** Indicators may include, but not limited to: invited oral presentations at peer institutions and national or international professional conferences; serving on review panels and committees of national or international research organizations; and selection for prestigious external awards and fellowships.
4. **Effective performance in in other areas of their faculty appointment (teaching and/or service)**

GRADUATE RESEARCH

This award recognizes excellence in graduate student research. The award is limited to research completed while a student is in a graduate program at Texas A&M University in a major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Successful nominees will demonstrate exceptional research advancing knowledge in the broad fields of agriculture, natural resources and life sciences.

1. **Number and quality of peer-reviewed publications**
2. **Impact of the scholarly work in advancing the field**
3. **Broader impact of the research**

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

This award recognizes excellence in undergraduate student research. Successful nominees must demonstrate substantial involvement in a major research project or conduct independent research with faculty members. The award is limited to research completed while an undergraduate student in a major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

1. **Substantial involvement in a research project or conducts independent research with faculty member.** For example, played a key role in the conceptualization, design, execution, analysis, and/or writing in a research project.
2. **Research outcomes.** These may include, but not limited to, peer reviewed articles published and paper or poster abstracts accepted and presented at professional conferences.

STUDENT RELATIONS

This award recognizes excellence in those faculty or staff who support undergraduate and/or graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Successful nominees are those who demonstrate outstanding care for the professional and personal development of students and strong interest and exceptional support of student physical and mental well-being. Other criteria may include selfless service and strong interpersonal communications skills to support student success.

1. **Outstanding care for the professional and personal development of undergraduate and/or graduate students**
2. **Strong interest and exceptional support of student physical and mental well-being**
3. **Demonstrated selfless service and strong interpersonal communications skills to support student success**

FACULTY MENTORING

This award recognizes excellence in faculty mentoring. Successful nominees are those faculty members who provide exceptional support and guidance to developing other faculty, effectively foster supportive relationships that encourage faculty to create their vision and network for achievement, and demonstrate significant impact of their mentoring of new faculty, underrepresented faculty, faculty who enter academe from non-academe, and/or others.

1. **Evidence of exceptional support and guidance to developing other faculty**
2. **Effectiveness in fostering supportive relationships that encourage faculty to create their vision and network for achievement**
3. **Significant impact of their mentoring of new faculty, underrepresented faculty, faculty who enter academe from non-academe, and/or others**

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

This award recognizes and encourages excellence in international impact and contributions. Successful nominees are those faculty or staff who excelled in international research, education, or outreach activities which have had significant international impacts.

1. **Exceptional leadership or contributions to international research, education, or outreach activities**
2. **Significant impact of the international research, education, or outreach activities involved**

STAFF EXCELLENCE

*This award recognizes the excellence of **administrative and professional staff** in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Successful nominees are staff members who demonstrate exceptional dedication, competence, innovation and willingness to go “above and beyond” expected job duties. Other criteria may include a commitment to the core mission of the college, demonstrated leadership, outstanding communication and cooperation, an ability to improve college processes or programs and a desire to enhance the reputation of the College.*

1. **Exceptional dedication to support students, faculty, administrators, and a commitment to the core mission of the college**
2. **Competence and proven leadership**
3. **Innovation in methods and tasks performed**

SERVICE

This award recognizes excellence in service or other outreach related activities by faculty or staff. Successful nominees will exemplify the Aggie core value of Selfless Service and exhibit exceptional engagement and significant impact in service to the academic unit and university, the profession, and/or the society.

1. **Exceptional engagement in service to academic unit and university, profession, and/or society**
2. **Significant impact in service to academic unit and university, profession, and/or society**

ADMINISTRATION

This award recognizes excellence in administration. Successful nominees will have substantially enhanced the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ overall mission and goals through their administrative vision. Excellence in the development of faculty and staff, unique or innovative approaches to obtaining resources, building morale, educational achievements or other areas that accomplish the objectives of the College. Examples of eligible titles for this award include department head, assistant or associate department head, and assistant or associate dean.

1. **An articulated vision to inspire others within their unit to achieve excellence toward the overall mission and goals of the College**
2. **Contributions to the development of faculty and staff by enabling them to achieve excellence in accomplishing the objectives of the College**
3. **Demonstrated capacity for unique or innovative approaches to obtaining resources**
4. **Demonstrated ability to build morale of their unit**
5. **Excellence in educational achievements or other areas of their unit**