



## **DEAN'S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES GUIDELINES**

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University works to feed our world, protect our environment, improve our health, grow our economy and enrich our youth. For more than 100 years we have maintained a strong tradition of leadership across the agricultural, natural resources and life sciences. Our faculty, staff and student's excellence and dedication to the land-grant mission distinguishes the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Texas A&M University as one of the leading colleges and universities in the state, nation and world.

### **Purpose**

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Established in 2012, the purpose of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Awards program is to:

- Recognize, reward and encourage excellence in the work of faculty, staff and students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Promote the values and critical mission areas of the college
- Foster development of competitive awards packets for university, system and national level awards

### **Eligibility**

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Nominees...

- Must have some portion of their appointment with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or have significant demonstrated responsibilities or duties to the College on campus
- Must have been employed for at least 2 years (student awards are exempt from this requirement)
- Must not have won the award for 5 years previously

### **Selection Process and Award Presentation**

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- An anonymous committee of faculty, staff, students and/or alumni will serve as the selection advisory committee.
- Nominations not selected in the year in which the nomination is submitted in the categories of teaching, research and other awards will be considered for an additional two years. Student award nominations will not be carried forward and must be nominated each year.
- Only one nomination per award category is encouraged from each department.
- Awards will be given annually and winners will be recognized at an event each fall. Recipients receive a framed certificate as well as a monetary award of \$500 for individuals and a shared \$2,000 for the team awards.

## Nomination Packet

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A nomination packet should be prepared for electronic submission to the Vice Chancellor and Dean's office and will include the following:

1. **Nomination Form** (*use appropriate form*)
2. **Letter of Nomination** (*2 page limit; no smaller than 11 point font*)
3. **Curriculum Vitae or Resume** (*required for individual nominations*)
  - *Attach full curriculum vitae or resume inclusive of education, employment/experience, awards, honors, professional memberships, committee/teaching/research assignments, courses taught, graduate students advised and other pertinent information.*
4. **Team Accomplishments** (*required for team awards only*)
  - *Attach a document (no more than 2 pages, no smaller than 11 point font), defining the purpose and primary objective(s) of the team and provide a brief summary of the team's activities, accomplishments and impact of the team's contributions, recognition, awards, honors and publications.*
5. **Optional Letters of Support/Recommendation** (*no more than three signed letters; two-page maximum each*)
  - *Letters of support are not required, but greatly enhance the strength of the nomination.*

To submit, compile in the order listed above. Submit as one (1) electronic file (*PDF file format*). Name the file as follows: Name of Nominee-Category (*example: John Doe -Teaching*) and submit the electronic file to [t-beamon@tamu.edu](mailto:t-beamon@tamu.edu)  
**DEADLINE: MAY 22, 2015**

## Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award Categories

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### *Faculty and Staff Awards*

- Early Career Teaching
- Teaching
- Educational Enrichment & Innovation
- Early Career Research
- Research
- Interdisciplinary Research Team
- Administration
- Advising and Student Relations
- Diversity
- Faculty Mentoring
- International Impact
- Staff
- Service

### *Student Awards*

- Undergraduate Research
- Graduate Research
- Graduate Teaching

# Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards Categories

## Teaching Awards

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One award is presented in each of the following three (3) categories:

- Early Career Teaching (*Nominees must have less than 5 years teaching experience in a full-time position*)
- Teaching (*Nominees must have more than 5 years teaching experience in a full-time position*)
- Educational Enrichment and Innovation

**Early Career Teaching:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in 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. In addition, strong performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (e.g. research, service) is also expected. Teaching excellence award nominees should exemplify the desire to expand and encourage exploration, engagement and inquiry for students.

**Teaching:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in 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. In addition, strong performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (e.g. research, service) is also expected. Teaching excellence award nominees should exemplify the desire to expand and encourage exploration, engagement and inquiry for students.

**Educational Enrichment and Innovation:** (1 award) This award recognizes excellence for college faculty and staff who demonstrate dedication to 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 or support of exceptional educational experiences such as study abroad, internships, unique classroom experiences, service learning or other activities that positively impact student engagement and reflection.

## Research Awards

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One award is presented in each of the following three (3) categories:

- Early Career Research (*Nominees must have less than 5 years research experience in a full-time faculty position*)
- Research (*Nominees must have more than 5 years research experience in a full-time faculty position*)
- Interdisciplinary Research Team

**Early Career Research:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in research at the state, national and international level. Successful nominees will demonstrate important influence in advancing knowledge in the broad fields of agriculture, natural resources and life sciences. In addition, strong performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (e.g. teaching, service) is also expected. Outstanding research contributions such as excellence in scholarly publications, lectures, inventions, patents, copyrights, licenses, success in research grants and contracts, graduate student training, research awards and/or involvement in professional societies should be highlighted.

**Research:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in research at the state, national and international level. Successful nominees will demonstrate important influence in advancing knowledge in the broad fields of agriculture, natural resources and life sciences. In addition, strong performance in other areas of their faculty appointment (e.g. teaching, service) is also expected. Outstanding research contributions such as excellence in scholarly publications, lectures, inventions, patents, copyrights, licenses, success in research grants and contracts, graduate student training, research awards and/or involvement in professional societies should be highlighted.

**Interdisciplinary Research Team:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in interdisciplinary research in a team setting. An interdisciplinary team may exist within a single administrative unit, but will more often cross departmental, college or institution lines. Successful nominees will show a coordinated team approach to addressing complex research issues across disciplines focused on a specific program or activity. Nominations should document how team members cooperated and collaborated to move scientific inquiry forward. **At least one team member must have an appointment in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It is strongly encouraged that team nominations not exceed six (6) members.**

## Student Awards

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***Undergraduate Research:*** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in undergraduate student research. Successful nominees must demonstrate substantial involvement in 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.

***Graduate Research:*** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in graduate student research for both master's and Ph.D. students. The award is limited to research completed while a student 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.

***Graduate Teaching:*** (1 award) 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 (9 hours minimum), classified as a graduate assistant or 50% lecturer/instructor with teaching responsibilities and have independent authority to assign grades for courses or laboratory sections.

## Additional Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards Categories

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**Administration:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in administration. Successful nominees will recognize individuals who have substantially enhanced the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' overall mission and goals through their administrative vision. Excellence in 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, assistant or associate dean, and/or director (e.g. center or institute).*

**Advising and Student Relations:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in those faculty or staff who advise and support 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. Other criteria may include strong communications skills, evidence of selfless service, and encouraging student success.

**Diversity:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in achievements, impact and innovations in diversity for faculty or staff. Successful nominees will demonstrate a positive impact on recruitment, retention, or development of programs, courses, activities or attitudes that enhance faculty, staff or student diversity or support underrepresented populations. Nominees should demonstrate outstanding commitment to diversity and promoting a "community of respect."

**Faculty Mentoring:** This award recognizes and encourages excellence in faculty mentoring. Successful nominees are those faculty members who provide exceptional support and guidance to developing other faculty. Successful mentors foster supportive relationships that encourage faculty to create their vision and network for achievement. Nominees should exhibit unique mentoring contributions, such as a focus on new faculty, underrepresented faculty, faculty who enter academe from non-academe, etc.

**International Impact:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in international impact and involvement. Successful nominees are those faculty or staff who contribute to significant international outreach, programs or other support of activities which have significant international impacts.

**Staff:** (1-3 awards) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in College of Agriculture and Life Sciences staff members. 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.

**Service:** (1 award) This award recognizes and encourages excellence in service or other outreach related activities by faculty or staff. Successful nominees will exhibit outstanding personal engagement in outreach and engagement with the community, university, professional organizations, student organizations or other groups. The award supports Texas A&M's Vision 2020 plan, "*This landmark legislation [the Morrill Act] recognized that education could and should lead to the improvement of the human condition. It also resulted in recognition that learning should be for the many rather than the few. This strong notion of service still prospers at Texas A&M University.*"