

The William A. Dugas Early Career Award for Research Excellence Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Background

Established in 2018 as a recognition to Dr. Wm. A. Dugas upon his retirement, this \$5,000 annual award honors an early career¹ AgriLife Research Faculty member² who has “made an exceptional contribution to the agency and research in the prior year.”

Eligibility Criterion

Faculty award winners must meet one of the following criterion: Have an ad loc to AgriLife Research, or be a TAMU faculty member with a primary appointment that includes research in a department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The nominee must have met one of these two criteria for the past three years.

A faculty member may win this award only once. The Director’s office will solicit nominations, later in the calendar year, and will define the process for nominations.

Nomination Process

A department (in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or the School of Veterinary Medicines and Biomedical Sciences) or research center may submit more than one nomination in a given year. Nominations consist of a designated electronic nomination form and an abbreviated five year (5-year) faculty achievement report/ curriculum vitae and up to 3 letters of support (optional). Curriculum vitae and letters of support should be submitted via the online form, unless you have a ‘cvm’ email address. For those with a ‘cvm’ email, letters of support and curriculum vitae may be submitted to research@ag.tamu.edu with the subject line: **Early Career Award _ (nominees name)**.

Selection Criteria

The Director will use one or more of the following criteria in selecting the winner (in random order):

- Publication of a seminal³ paper in a prestigious journal and/or of a significant book
- Acquisition of one or more large, federal, competitive grant(s) or contract(s)
- Conducted research that significantly elevates the positive public opinion of the agency
- Developed and disclosed significant and impactful intellectual property
- Receipt of a significant, national award
- Other criteria deemed important by the Director

Use of Award

The award can be used for any legal and appropriate purpose that furthers the research program of the winner (e.g. professional travel, salary for graduate student or support staff, equipment, etc.). It cannot be used for salary support for the award winner.

These guidelines may be periodically revised. (Rev. June 2023)

¹Defined as a faculty member who received his/her Ph.D. (or other terminal degree) within the past 10 years.

²Includes personnel with the word ‘professor’ in their title (e.g. Assistant Professor, Research Assoc. Professor, etc.)

³Highly influential, especially in some original way, and providing a basis for future development or research.