

College of Agriculture Outstanding Teaching Award

Application Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria

The College of Agriculture **Outstanding Teaching Award** was established to recognize faculty members for their innovation and excellence in teaching and honor their teaching creativity, scholarship, and impacts.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for this award, the applicant must:

1. Have a full-time faculty appointment (Teaching, Research or Extension appointment) within the College of Agriculture.
2. Have at least one year of service at the College by December 31st of the previous year.
3. Have a minimum of 3 credit hours of teaching load during the previous calendar year. Applicant must identify their teaching load for this period.
4. Have not received this award within the last five years.

The award carries a cash value of \$500.00

If no applicants meet the award requirements, the award will not be presented during that year.

Application materials:

1. ***Teaching Quality Assessment:*** Document teaching quality by providing evidence such as: peer evaluations, self-reflection, supervisory evaluations, teaching awards, student evaluations of instruction, assessment of student learning, etc. Responses must demonstrate how the applicant excels when compared to others within the department, college, and university. Please provide a description of how you have improved your teaching based on feedback from evaluations and assessments.
2. ***Teaching philosophy:*** Should identify teaching creativity, innovation, and impacts (see specific evaluation criteria below) (3 pages maximum)
3. ***Curriculum Vitae:*** Should demonstrate service to the profession, professional development, scholarly activity, and service to students.
4. ***Three letters of support:*** Letters should be from students (former students, included) and colleagues advocating and outlining the case for why and how the applicant has met the award criteria listed below. Specific examples of these contributions should be provided. Students currently enrolled in the applicant's spring semester class and students under his/her direct supervision are ineligible to write support letters.

Evaluation Criteria:

The following scoring criteria will be used to evaluate the award applications.

1. **Teaching quality assessment** (1 year) (30 points) – Teaching quality will be assessed based on the level of achievement identified in the student course evaluations and course comments from the previous year.
2. **Teaching creativity, innovation, and impacts** (1-5 years) (40 points) – This category will be based on the demonstrated methods provided in the applicant's teaching philosophy that relate to the previous 1-5 years. Examples of innovation include the incorporation of new technologies, new teaching methods, implementation of experiential and/or service-learning methods, evaluation of new teaching methods, demonstrated and relevant updates to course syllabi and participation in teaching improvement workshops. Impacts can be derived from letters of support from students and student comments from the course evaluation or provided by the applicant. The applicant must draw attention to specific impacts within their teaching philosophy statement.
3. **Service to students, profession, and scholarly activity** (1-5 years) (20 points) – This category includes demonstrated mentorship of high school, undergraduate and graduate students research, academic and career advising and will be identified in the applicant's CV/resume. Successful advisement and mentorship of students need to be clearly presented under two separate categories including examples of how they were conducted. Examples of service to students include student research presentations, published student research, and documented participation on graduate student committees. Scholarly activity in teaching relates to publications, presentations or grant awards related specifically to teaching. Examples of publications include peer-reviewed publications. Documentation must be provided for how and where textbooks and lab manuals were used.
4. **Student support letters** (10 points) – Support letters will advocate and outline the case for why and how the applicant has met the above-mentioned award criteria. Specific examples of these contributions should be provided.

Conflicts of interest:

Award committee members are neither eligible nor can submit letters of support.

Deadline:

Electronic or hard copies of all required documents should be submitted by March 13th to the email or address below:

Mr. Everett Jolley
Director of Recruitment and Retention
evjolley@tnstate.edu