

AgResearch Dean's Awards Information



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AgResearch Dean's Professor Award

Purpose: To recognize faculty members at the rank of Professor who have achieved and sustained a track record of outstanding productivity and impact in their research program, with national and global prominence. The successful candidate will receive \$40,000/year funding support from AgResearch for a period of three years along with a plaque. The recipients will retain the AgResearch Dean's Professor title for the duration of service to the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. The funds may be used to support the faculty's research program, such as research supplies, travel to present research findings at professional meetings, GRA or postdoc support; however, it cannot be used to support faculty salary. Faculty with titled professorship, i.e., Endowed, Distinguished, Institute, or Chancellor's Professor, will not be considered for this award.

Criteria:

- Tenured Full Professor for 3 years or longer at time of nomination;
- 50% or greater AgResearch appointment;
- Evidence of continuous professional growth, productivity, and leadership;
- Evidence of significant impacts on nominee's discipline and stakeholders;
- A track record of successfully mentoring graduate students and postdocs; and
- An outstanding institutional citizen and collegial colleague.

Number of Award: one

Nomination procedure: The nomination package will consist of:

- A letter of nomination from the Department Head or the Department Awards Committee that describes the candidate's qualifications (limited to three pages);
- The candidate's up-to-date curriculum vita (limit to 25 pages), and a summary of accomplishments, demonstrating sustained outstanding track record;
- Two letters of support from external peers who are knowledgeable about the nominee's work and the impact it has had on the discipline or community; and
- A 1-page narrative describing the 5-year vision, goals, and desired outcome of the candidate's research program.

Review and selection: Nominations will be reviewed by a 3-member committee appointed by the AgResearch Dean, comprised of titled professors, plus the Associate Dean for AgResearch serving as the liaison. Review deliberations will be submitted to the Dean of AgResearch who will make the recommendation to the Sr. Vice President/Sr. Vice Chancellor. The AgResearch Dean's Professor Award will be presented at the UTIA's Annual Awards Luncheon.

Submission Deadline: COB, Last Friday of April

UTIA AgResearch T.J. Whatley Distinguished Young Scientist Award

The award will be presented to an early-career faculty member who has been in faculty position for no more than seven years, with a minimum of two years of service as a member of the agricultural faculty of The University of Tennessee. In addition, the faculty member must hold the rank of Assistant Professor (or within one year of promotion) and have an AgResearch appointment. This award recognizes demonstrated commitment and meritorious achievement in establishing an independent and impactful research program during the early stage of their academic career. Emphasis will be on the impact that a faculty member's efforts in research and technology development have had on UT AgResearch stakeholders and/or the scientific community at large. Only his/her accomplishments within the past five years will be considered as a basis for this award. Both tenure and non-tenure track faculty are eligible for the award.

Nominations are due by the last Friday of April.

The nomination package should include the

- A 2-page letter of nomination from the department head or chair of the department Awards & Honors Committee.
- One to three letters from nominee's UT colleagues who are in a position to elaborate on her or his research/creative activity.
- One to three letters from experts in the nominee's field at other institutions who are knowledgeable about the nominee's work. Provide a short paragraph summarizing the qualifications of external references.
- Current CV of the candidate (no more than 20 pages) with a one-page summary of key research accomplishments
- Short bio sketch of the candidate

Nominations should clearly describe how the candidate meets the following selection criteria:

- The significance of the faculty member's research contributions to his/her discipline. Cite specific examples.
- Activities and widespread recognition of the faculty members research program and emerging leadership in the scientific community including:
 - Publication record
 - Invited presentations
 - Successful grantsmanship
 - Successful mentoring of graduate students and postdocs
 - Involvement of undergraduate students in the faculty member's research
 - Participation in professional organizations
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills that contribute to innovation in achieving departmental programs and goals.

Applications will be evaluated by the AgResearch Award Advisory Committee composed of two faculty (full professor rank), one at-large committee member, and the Associate Dean of AgResearch (Chair). The committee will recommend an honoree (if any) to the AgResearch Dean and thereafter the UTIA Senior Vice President and Senior Vice Chancellor's Office. Previous recipients are not eligible for the award. This award will include a framed certificate, \$1,500 cash gift, and public recognition at the Institute of Agriculture Promotion/Recognition Luncheon held annually in late Summer.

UTIA AgResearch Mid-Career Faculty Research Excellence Award

The award will be presented to a mid-career faculty member who has between seven and fifteen years of faculty experience, with a minimum of five years of service as a member of the agricultural faculty of The University of Tennessee. In addition, the faculty member must hold the rank of at least Associate Professor and have an AgResearch appointment. This award recognizes demonstrated commitment and meritorious achievement in research by faculty during the mid-stage of their academic career. Emphasis will be on the impact that a faculty member's efforts in research and technology development have had on UT AgResearch stakeholders or the science community at large. Emphasis will be placed on his/her accomplishments during the past five calendar years for consideration of this award. Both tenure and non-tenure track faculty are eligible for the award.

Nominations are due by the last Friday of April.

The nomination package should include the

- A 2-page letter of nomination from the department head or the department Awards & Honors following committee
- One to three letters from nominee's UT colleagues who are in a position to elaborate on her or his research/creative activity.
- One to three letters from experts in the nominee's field at other institutions who are knowledgeable about the nominee's work. Provide a short paragraph summarizing the qualifications of external references.
- Current CV of the candidate (no more than 25 pages) with a one-page summary of accomplishments
- Short bio sketch of the candidate

Nominations should clearly describe how the candidate meets the following selection criteria:

- The significance of the faculty member's research contributions to his/her field(s). Cite specific examples.
- Activities and National/International recognition reflecting leadership in the scientific community including:
 - Research awards
 - Publication record
 - Invited presentations
 - Successful grant applications
 - Successful mentoring of graduate students and postdocs
 - Involvement of undergraduate students in the faculty member's research
 - Participation in professional organizations
- Implementation/adoption of research findings by stakeholders or the scientific community. Cite specific examples.

Applications will be evaluated by the AgResearch Award Advisory Committee composed of two faculty (full professor rank), one at-large committee member, and the Associate Dean of AgResearch (Chair). The committee will recommend an honoree (if any) to the AgResearch Dean and thereafter the UTIA Senior Vice President and Senior Vice Chancellor's Office. Previous recipients, Distinguished Professors, or Institute Professors are not eligible for the award. This award will include a framed certificate, \$3,000 cash gift, and public recognition at the Institute of Agriculture Promotion/Recognition Luncheon held annually in late Summer.

UTIA AgResearch Research & Development Impact Award

The award will be presented to a senior faculty member who has, in general, a minimum of fifteen years of service as a member of the agricultural faculty of The University of Tennessee. Exceptions for the 15-year service requirement may be granted for extraordinary faculty who have served at previous institution(s) and continue to demonstrate exemplary research excellence at UT. The faculty member must hold the rank of Professor and have an AgResearch appointment. This award recognizes meritorious achievement in establishing a nationally/internationally recognized research program within their discipline. Emphasis will be on the impact that a faculty member's efforts in research and technology development have had on UT AgResearch stakeholders and/or the scientific community at-large. Both tenure and non-tenure track faculty are eligible for the award.

Nominations are due the last Friday of April.

The nomination package should include the following:

- A 2-page letter of nomination from the department head or chair of the department Awards Committee
- One to three letters from nominee's UT colleagues who are qualified to comment on the individual's research/creative activity.
- One to three letters from experts in the nominee's field at other institutions who are knowledgeable about the nominee's work. Provide a short paragraph summarizing the qualifications of external references.
- Current CV of the candidate (no more than 30 pages) with a two-page summary of key research program developments
- Short bio sketch of the candidate

Nominations should clearly describe how the candidate meets the following selection criteria:

- The significance of the faculty member's research contributions to his/her discipline. Cite specific examples.
- Activities and widespread recognition of the faculty members research program and emerging leadership in the scientific community including:
 - Research awards
 - Publication record
 - Invited presentations at national and international events
 - Successful grantsmanship
 - Successful mentoring of graduate students and postdocs
 - Involvement of undergraduate students in the faculty member's research
 - Participation in professional organizations
- The implementation and adoption of new knowledge by stakeholders and/or the scientific community.

Applications will be evaluated by the AgResearch Award Advisory Committee composed of two faculty (full professor rank), one at-large committee member, and an Associate Dean of AgResearch (Chair). The committee will recommend an honoree (if any) to the AgResearch Dean and thereafter the UTIA Chancellor's Office. Previous recipients are not eligible for the award. This award will include a framed certificate, \$5,000 cash gift and public recognition at the Institute of Agriculture Promotion/Recognition Luncheon held annually in late Summer.

UT AgResearch Dean's Awards for Outstanding Staff

Award Program

The UT AgResearch Dean's Awards for **Outstanding Staff** honors and acknowledges excellence of employees in fulfilling their job responsibilities. The Awards will be presented in two categories, the Dean's Award for Outstanding **Support** Staff, and the Dean's Award for Outstanding **Professional** Staff. In both cases, the awards recognize employees who demonstrate:

- Competence and critical thinking
- Cooperativeness and team building
- Professionalism and ethical behavior
- Initiative, adaptability, and dependability
- Clear communication skills

Nominations are due the last Friday of April.

Award Criteria

All regular full or part-time AgResearch appointed staff who have been in their current position continuously for a minimum of two years, by the nomination deadline date, are eligible for these awards. This includes departmental, specialized center, and research and education center staff. Faculty, temporary employees, and student employees are ineligible for these awards.

The UT AgResearch Dean's Awards for **Outstanding Staff** will be made annually in conjunction with the UTIA awards timetable and the UTIA awards and promotion luncheon. There will be a ***combined*** maximum of three awards conveyed each year with each recipient receiving a \$1,000 stipend.

The UT AgResearch Dean's Awards for Outstanding Staff will be made from sources of funds identified by the AgResearch Dean's Office. Funds may come from appropriate endowments, dean's office discretionary funds, or other sources. Source of funds will be determined by the AgResearch Budget Director in consultation with the Dean.

A maximum of two awards may be given to one of the two Outstanding Staff awards categories, with the balance award for the other category (a total three maximum). Employees may be nominated for the award multiple times. However, ten years must have elapsed after receiving the award before the employee may be nominated again.

Nomination Process

Nominations will be solicited annually in conjunction with the UTIA awards timetable. Any UTIA regular employee can nominate an eligible staff member for these awards. Each nomination will contain one *letter of nomination* (3-page limit) and up to three *Letters of Support* (2-page limit).

Selection Process

An awards selection committee, chosen by the AgResearch Dean, will review nominees and present recommendations to the Dean and/or Associate Dean(s) regarding annual award recipients. Nominees will be evaluated by the committee based upon their excellence in the areas listed in the award criteria (above).

The selection committee can award a maximum of three awards each year. However, only two awards per category can be given in a year (e.g., there cannot be three Outstanding Professional Staff awards conveyed and zero Outstanding Support Staff awards conveyed in a given award year).

As determined by the awards selection committee, there may be years when fewer than three awards are made. The number of awards conveyed in a year is solely the selection committee's decision and is based upon the evaluation of the nominees against the award criteria as judged by the committee.