

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 second Friday of May.

The nomination package should include the following:

- 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.