2023-2024 Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)
North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA)

The **CALS/NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit** will be issued by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) in association with the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). This award will recognize two outstanding graduate students involved in teaching/instruction (one in the Master's and one in the Doctoral categories) who have contributed significantly to the academic advancement of students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences through their exemplary teaching abilities. A commemorative certificate will be presented to the two award winners.

Criteria for Nomination:

- He/She must have demonstrated outstanding classroom teaching techniques, abilities, and/or has been observed positively influencing students towards academic achievement.
- He/She must be an enrolled graduate student in the Summer 2023, Fall 2023 and/or Spring 2024 term(s) who teaches or taught either a lecture class or laboratory section (in full or in part) in the College of Ag & Life Sciences during one or more of these semesters. The graduate student may or may not be listed officially as the instructor of record in Banner, however the nomination packet (see below) requires some form of verification (e.g. course syllabus where the student is listed as instructor or teaching assistant) from the assigned instructor of record regarding the graduate student's role in the course(s) and/or laboratories (i.e., if this person is different than the nominator).
- He/She must be matriculating (full or part-time) in a CALS graduate degree program. Past recipients of the Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit will not be eligible for re-nomination unless their degree category changes (i.e. prior M.S. award winners can compete in the future for the Ph.D. award).
  Note: All CALS graduate students, regardless of assistantship title or budgetary designation [e.g., GTA, GRA, or GSA], are eligible for nomination. However, other full or part-time MSU staff and/or designated instructors pursuing a graduate degree are not eligible if instruction is part of their assigned effort.

Nomination Guidelines:

- **Completed nomination packet must be submitted electronically to the CALS Dean's Office by 5:00 pm on February 16, 2024.** Send as a complete single PDF to nominations@msstate.edu. Department Heads, Graduate Coordinators and/or the general CALS Faculty may nominate candidates for this Award of Merit. The CALS Excellence in Teaching Committee will review submissions and recommend potential award recipients to the CALS Dean.

Content of Nomination Packet (Checklist):

- o Nomination Form (attached) signed by nominator, and an attached statement of nominee teaching abilities attached to the form or as a corresponding letter from the nominator.
- o Letter of support from the department head, or include as part of the statement of nominee teaching abilities or a nominee letter a signature line for co-endorsement by the department head.
- o Letter of support from the student's Major Professor and/or Instructor of Record for the course(s), and/or student's instructional supervisor *(only needed if this person(s) is different from the Nominator)*.
- o One page statement from the nominee as to their teaching philosophy and/or approach to teaching.
- o *OPTIONAL:* (A) Up to three additional letters of support from students that completed the class, or ,eo-instructors (e.g.,fellow graduate students) who can provide specific evidence of nominee's exemplary teaching performance. (B) Up to three types of additional documentation that clearly and concisely address the award criteria. Items may include, but are not limited to: student evaluations with grade distribution or average grade assigned, administrative evaluations, course syllabi the nominee developed, direction to web pages illustrating innovative teaching methodologies, etc.

2023-2024 CALS/NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit Nomination Form

Nominee: _____ Net ID: _____

Nominee's Degree (M.S. or Ph.D.):_____

Nominee's Major and Major Professor: _____

Nominator: _____

1. How long and in what capacity have you had the opportunity to observe the nominee as a graduate teaching assistant? _____

    _____

2. List each lecture class and/or laboratory section that the nominee has taught for the Summer 2023, Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 terms:

Lecture Class/Laboratory Section	# of Student	Term
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. Rate the nominee's abilities as a teacher/teaching assistant:
    5=Excellent   4=Good   3=Average   2=Fair   1=Poor   N/A=No Basis for Judgement

    ____Knowledge of material   ____Clarity of presentations

    ____Classroom techniques   ____Availability outside of class

    ____Attitude toward Students   ____Ability to answer questions

    ____Other_____

4. What distinguishes the nominee from other graduate teaching assistants such that he/she deserves this year's CALS/NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit? Please attach a separate sheet (or letter) with your comments.

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____