

## 2021 OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARD

### Guidelines and Procedures

Teaching Award Committee, Range Science Education Council

#### Purpose of the Award

The Range Science Education Council/Society for Range Management Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award was established to encourage and recognize individual excellence in teaching that has extended over the course of many years. Such teaching rises above good instruction: it incites intellectual curiosity in students, engages them thoroughly in the process of learning, and has a life-long impact.

#### Eligibility

All full-time faculty/instructors directly involved with teaching courses for Range Science students for an extended period of time are eligible. Faculty nominated must have evidenced unusually significant and meritorious achievement in the instruction of students for a significant period of time, and often a career. Because the intent of the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award is to recognize faculty members with a sustained record of exemplary teaching, nominations should normally be limited only to those who have at least 10 years professional experience as an instructor and have taught *at least 10 regularly scheduled courses in the last 20 semesters* in residence. The Range Science Education Council believes that distinguished excellence in teaching and excellence in creative and scholarly work—both essential duties of Range Science faculty members—go hand in hand. Therefore, faculty members who are nominated will be those who have successfully united these two roles. Only one candidate should be nominated by a department in any year.

#### Nature of the Award

Recipients of the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award receive a monetary award from the Range Science Education Council and recognition by both the Range Science Education Council and the Society for Range Management. The recipient is announced at the Awards ceremony during the annual Society for Range Management meeting.

#### Selection criteria

There are multiple ways to be an Outstanding Teacher. Therefore, the Teaching Awards Committee cannot provide one single set of absolute criteria or rely on one kind of evidence. Thus, the committee has put together a list of criteria by which nominees will be evaluated.

***Criteria for Excellence in Teaching:*** In general, recipients of the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award will excel in the following areas:

- Command of the subject.
- Continuous growth in the field of study and in the methods used for instruction.
- Ability to organize course material and present it cogently.
- Effective design and redesign of courses, including the utilization of progressive teaching techniques.
- Have a history of inspiring students to independent and original thinking.
- Ability to encourage intellectual interests in beginning students and stimulate advanced students to creative work.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm and vitality in learning and teaching.
- Exhibit leadership in guiding undergraduate student research projects, as well as providing support of student organizations.
- Participation in student advising and curricula improvement.

## Nomination Packet

The Range Science Education Council and Society for Range Management invites nominations for the **2021** Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in teaching and advising Range Science students.

### *Nomination packets must include the following:*

- (1) Completed nomination form;
- (2) Candidate biodata (limit 4 pages) indicating:
  - (a) education (degrees held; source and date);
  - (b) teaching and related work experience;
  - (c) current and past undergraduate teaching responsibilities (list undergraduate courses taught and indicate term/years taught and credit hours);
  - (d) sponsorship of student organizations and scholastic fraternities;
  - (e) membership and committee responsibilities in professional and honorary societies;
  - (f) committee responsibilities (department, college, university);
  - (g) awards, achievements, appointments of honor;
  - (h) new undergraduate courses and/or techniques developed;
  - (i) list of textbooks and articles published that relate to undergraduate education;
  - (j) list of scholarly articles published (list up to 5 recent citations and/or identify other evidence of professional accomplishments);
- (3) Statement prepared by candidate of his/her philosophy on undergraduate teaching (how does the nominee view undergraduate teaching regarding the development of the student as a scientist and scholar, etc.) (4 page limit);
- (4) Letters of endorsement and compliment from:
  - (a) professional colleagues on campus (2 letters, maximum);
  - (b) former students (4 letters, maximum);
  - (c) current students (2 letters, maximum);
- (5) A letter from the department head, program leader or academic dean;
- (6) One photo (i.e. pdf or jpg file) of the nominee must accompany the nomination (black and white glossy passport size bust shot). It will be available for news release purposes. It will not be included in the nomination packet submitted to the selection committee.

An electronic copy (**a single pdf file containing all components of the nomination is strongly preferred**) of the complete nomination packet should be received by the Range Science Education Council Teaching Awards Chair (address below) by **November 2, 2020**. In all fairness to every nominee, the nomination packet must conform to the format described above just as if it were prepared as a tenure application. If the nomination does not conform to the format described above, it will not be considered.

Nominations will be considered for 2 consecutive years. **Nominators are encouraged to update their nomination packages for applicants prior to the second year.**

Paul Meiman, Chair  
RSEC Awards Committee  
Dept. of Ag., Veterinary and Range Sciences  
701 Walnut Street  
Elko, NV 89801

775-738-7291 (voice)  
[pmeiman@unr.edu](mailto:pmeiman@unr.edu)