



## agInnovation North Central 2025 Award Nominations: Early and Mid-Career Excellence in Agricultural Research Innovation

### **Purpose and Overview**

The agInnovation North Central (agNC) Early and Mid-Career Agricultural Research Innovation Awards of Excellence are designed to recognize one early career and one mid-career agNC researcher who strive in their research career to achieve benchmarks reflective of excellence. These benchmarks include, but are not limited to, demonstration of high research impact; scholarly productivity, including funding, publications, and patents; commitment to inclusivity; professional recognition of research excellence through local, regional, national, and/or international awards and honors; demonstrated ability to inspire and lead effective collaborations; and foster development of other scientists, including postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

### **Criteria for Nomination**

Nominees must be active researchers employed by one of the [twelve 1862 agNC member land-grant universities](#), Lincoln University of Missouri, or Central State University.

For the early career researcher award:

- Nominee must be at the Assistant level professorial rank equivalent (tenure or non-tenure track).

For the mid-career researcher award:

- Nominee must be at the associate level professor rank equivalent (tenure or non-tenure track) with no more than 10 total years of experience post promotion.

All nominees must also hold a valid capacity grant project (i.e., Hatch, Hatch Multistate, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health and Disease) and/or participate on a multistate committee supported by Hatch Multistate or Evans-Allen funds at the time of nomination. Nominations must be submitted to the respective agNC State Agricultural Experiment Station Director or 1890 Agricultural Research Director. Each agInnovation institution in the north central region is permitted to submit one nomination for the early-career and one nomination for the mid-career award each year. Nominations are to be prepared to match the evaluation criteria indicated below. A CV, not to exceed 10 pages, that highlights the evaluation criteria is also allowed and recommended. Award recipients are not eligible for renomination. Nominations must be emailed to the agNC office ([chamilton@wisc.edu](mailto:chamilton@wisc.edu)) by the respective State Agricultural Experiment Station Director or 1890 Agricultural Research Director by the deadline.

### **Honorees**

Each year, one winner will be selected for the early-career and the mid-career agNC Excellence in Agricultural Research Innovation award. Arranged by the agNC director of the awardee's home institution, each award winner will be honored during a college, departmental, or equivalent celebration of their achievements, where they will be presented with an agInnovation North Central Excellence in Agricultural Research award plaque and \$1000 in recognition of their research accomplishments and in support their research program, if they choose. agNC directors will have the option to join the on-campus celebration remotely to offer their congratulations. Alternatively, the host institution may provide travel support for the awardee to be recognized in-person at the annual NC Mini LGU summer Meeting. This would be at the discretion of the host institution and based on the awardee's availability to attend.

Each recipient will be asked to submit photos and a project summary for sharing with agNC membership, on the agNC website, and submit an impact statement for the [Land-Grants Impacts](#) database, with assistance from their institution's research impact writing team.

## **Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria**

The agNC Nominations and Awards Committee will review nominations and select the recipients based on the evaluation criteria below.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Early Career Award:**

- *Demonstrated High Impact of Research* (500 words or fewer). Weight – 45%
  - Relevance of the research to one or more of the agInnovation Grand Challenges (5%)
  - Explain the impact of the research program on US agriculture following the format of the [Land-Grants Impacts](#) database (10%).
  - Document the ability to foster science collaborations and participate as an active member or leader of interdisciplinary teams (20%).
  - Mentor undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scientists and other early career scientists (10%).
- *Demonstrated Career Trajectory and Impact* (500 words or fewer). Weight - 45%
  - Detailed grant funding history, including the nominee's specific role in each project (e.g., principal investigator, co-PI, collaborator). (15%)
  - Robust publication record and invitations to publish. (15%)
  - Contributions as a scientific expert on panels or committees and invitations to present research at national and international conferences. (10%)
  - Recognition through professional awards and other notable achievements. (5%)
- *Demonstrated Conveyance of Cultural Sensitivity and Appreciation for Inclusivity* (200 words or less). Weight – 10%

#### **Mid-Career Award:**

- *Demonstrated High Impact of Research* (500 words or fewer). Weight – 45%
  - Relevance of the research to one or more of the [agInnovation Grand Challenges](#). (5%)
  - Explain the impact of the research program on US agriculture following the format of the [Land-Grants Impacts](#) database. (5%)
  - Document the ability to inspire and lead effective science collaborations, including interdisciplinary teams. (20%)
  - Demonstrated effectiveness in fostering the development of other scientists, including postdoctoral scientists and other early career scientists, graduate students, and undergraduate students. (15%)
- *Demonstrated Career Trajectory and Impact* (500 words or fewer). Weight - 45%
  - Detailed grant funding history, including the nominee's specific role in each project (e.g., principal investigator, co-PI, collaborator). (15%)
  - Robust publication record and invitations to publish. (15%)
  - Contributions as a scientific expert on panels or committees and invitations to present research at national and international conferences. (10%)
  - Recognition through professional awards and other notable achievements. (5%)
- *Demonstrated Conveyance of Cultural Sensitivity and Appreciation for Inclusivity* (200 words or fewer). Weight – 10%

### **Nomination Package Requirements and Due Date**

- ❖ Nominations must be submitted by an agNC Director.
- ❖ No more than one nomination by an agInnovation member institution will be considered for each award category.
- ❖ Nomination packages must adhere to word limits noted in the Evaluation Criteria section of this document.

- ❖ Font and font size should be Calibri 11 pt. Font size smaller than 11 pt will not be accepted.
- ❖ A CV, not to exceed 10 pages, that highlights the evaluation criteria is highly recommended (in addition to nomination package addressing the Evaluation Criteria above).
- ❖ Incomplete nomination packages or nominations that exceed the word limits will not be reviewed.
- ❖ The due date for nominations to the agNC office ([chamilton@wisc.edu](mailto:chamilton@wisc.edu)) is March 30, 2025, with awards announced by May 30, 2025.

### **Timeline**

- January– Request for nominations sent to Directors and Administrators, by agNC Chair.
- March 30– Nominations due, to be emailed to agNC Office ([chamilton@wisc.edu](mailto:chamilton@wisc.edu)).
- April-May – Nominations reviewed by agNC Nominations and Awards Committee.
- May-June – agNC award announcements and feedback sent to nominators for nominees not selected for an award.
- July/August/September – Host institution provides a celebration for their awardee(s) and presents them with the cash award and plaque with an option for agNC Directors to participate remotely. Alternatively, the host institution can provide travel support for the awardee to be recognized in-person at the annual NC Mini LGU summer Meeting.

### **Contact**

Please contact the agNC office if there are questions: Christina Hamilton ([chamilton@wisc.edu](mailto:chamilton@wisc.edu))

**\*PLEASE USE THE NOMINATION FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

## Nomination Title Page

agNC Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

agNC Director/Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Title: \_\_\_\_\_

### Nomination Narrative Requirements:

- ❖ No more than one nomination per agNC Institution per award (i.e., 1 early career researcher and 1 mid-career researcher award nomination permitted for each agNC institution).
- ❖ Font and font size should be Calibri 11 pt. Font size smaller than 11 pt will not be accepted.
- ❖ Nomination narratives must not exceed 1200 words, refer to the word limits for individual nomination narrative sections below.
- ❖ A CV, not to exceed 10 pages, that highlights the evaluation criteria is highly recommended (in addition to nomination package addressing the Evaluation Criteria).
- ❖ Submit nomination electronically as a single PDF file to Christina Hamilton ([chamilton@wisc.edu](mailto:chamilton@wisc.edu)) by March 30.

### Required Narrative Sections/Evaluation Criteria:

#### Early Career Award:

- **Demonstrated High Impact of Research (500 words or fewer). Section Weight – 45%**
  - Relevance of the research to one or more of the [agInnovation Grand Challenges](#) (Weight - 5%)
  - Explain the impact of the research program on US agriculture following the format of the [Land-Grants Impacts](#) database (Weight - 10%).
  - Document the ability to foster science collaborations and participate as an active member or leader of interdisciplinary teams (Weight - 20%).
  - Mentor undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scientists and other early career scientists (Weight - 10%).
- **Demonstrated Career Trajectory and Impact (500 words or fewer). Section Weight - 45%**
  - Detailed grant funding history, including the nominee's specific role in each project (e.g., principal investigator, co-PI, collaborator). (Weight - 15%)
  - Robust publication record and invitations to publish. (Weight - 15%)
  - Contributions as a scientific expert on panels or committees and invitations to present research at national and international conferences. (Weight - 10%)
  - Recognition through professional awards and other notable achievements. (Weight - 5%)
- **Demonstrated Conveyance of Cultural Sensitivity and Appreciation for Inclusivity (200 words or less). Section Weight – 10%**

#### Mid-Career Award:

- **Demonstrated High Impact of Research (500 words or fewer). Section Weight – 45%**
  - Relevance of the research to one or more of the [agInnovation Grand Challenges](#). (Weight - 5%)
  - Explain the impact of the research program on US agriculture following the format of the [Land-Grants Impacts](#) database. (Weight - 5%)
  - Document the ability to inspire and lead effective science collaborations, including

- interdisciplinary teams. (Weight - 20%)
- Demonstrated effectiveness in fostering the development of other scientists, including postdoctoral scientists and other early career scientists, graduate students, and undergraduate students. (Weight - 15%)
- ***Demonstrated Career Trajectory and Impact (500 words or fewer). Section Weight - 45%***
  - Detailed grant funding history, including the nominee's specific role in each project (e.g., principal investigator, co-PI, collaborator). (Weight - 15%)
  - Robust publication record and invitations to publish. (Weight - 15%)
  - Contributions as a scientific expert on panels or committees and invitations to present research at national and international conferences. (Weight - 10%)
  - Recognition through professional awards and other notable achievements. (Weight - 5%)
- ***Demonstrated Conveyance of Cultural Sensitivity and Appreciation for Inclusivity (200 words or fewer). Section Weight – 10%***