agInnovation North Central 2025 Award Nominations: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Purpose and Overview

We seek individual or group/team nominations for the regional agInnovation North Central (agNC) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Award. This award will recognize the creation or implementation of pluralistic and inclusive efforts at the local, state, regional, or national level. Efforts should go beyond meeting EEO/AA program requirements.

Honorees

Each year, one winner will be selected for the agNC DEIA 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 DEIA award plaque and a cash award of $1000 in acknowledgement of their DEIA accomplishments and to support future DEIA work if they choose. agNC directors will also have the option to join remotely to offer their congratulations. Alternatively, the host institution may provide travel support for the awardee to be recognized in-person at the NC Regional Mini LGU summer Meeting. This option 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.

Eligibility

Nominees can be an individual or team from the twelve 1862 agNC member land-grant universities, Lincoln University of Missouri, or Central State University. Eligible nominees include faculty and other scientists, including graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. Nominees must have a valid project supported by a capacity project. For example, the nominee should be a member of a multistate research project or receive support from a state hatch project, or other capacity program such as Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, or Animal Health and Disease at the time of nomination. If there is a team nomination, at least one member must have a valid project supported by a capacity grant. Nominations should be discussed with and approved by the agNC Director at the nominee's institution as each agInnovation institution is permitted to submit one nomination. All nominations must be sent to the agNC office by the institution's agNC Director or 1890 Agricultural Research Director to ensure only one nomination is endorsed by the institution.

Selection Process

The agNC Nominations and Awards Committee will review nominations and select the recipients based on the weighted elements in the Evaluation Criteria section and timeline below.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominees must be employed by one of the twelve 1862 agNC member Land-grant universities, Lincoln University of Missouri, or Central State University. When writing nominations, special attention should be given to efforts that have the potential to be sustained over time or can be replicated in other comparable situations.

Four weighted elements will be considered in the review process and should be described clearly in the nomination. These include:

- **Purpose;** *500 words or less*; Section Weight 40%
    - o What DEIA efforts were undertaken and why? How did the efforts improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in an agNC project/program (i.e., Hatch, Hatch Multistate, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health and Disease).
- **Innovation;** *300 words or less*; Section Weight 30%
    - o Why are these efforts worthy of recognition? What new or innovative strategies were developed or employed?
- **Impact;** 250 words or less; Section Weight 20%
    - o How have efforts led to positive, sustainable programmatic and/or organizational change? What metrics were used to assess change?
- **Scope;** 150 words or less; Section Weight 10%
    - o How broadly did (or likely will) this effort affect the success of the operations of agInnovation (formerly the Experiment Station Section)?

Nomination Package Requirements and Due Date

- Nominations must be submitted by an agNC State Agricultural Experiment Station Director or 1890 Agricultural Research Director.
- No more than one nomination per institution will be considered.
- 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 allowed and in addition to nomination document.
- Submit nomination electronically as a single PDF file to Chris Hamilton (chamilton@wisc.edu) by March 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).
- 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)

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

agNC Institution:_____

agNC Director/Nominator:_____ **E-mail:**_____

Nominee Name: _____**E-mail:** _____

Nominee Title: _____

Nomination Narrative Requirements:

- Nominations must be submitted by an agNC State Agricultural Experiment Station Director or 1890 Agricultural Research Director.
- No more than one nomination per 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 Chris Hamilton (chamilton@wisc.edu) by March 30.

Narrative Sections/Evaluation Criteria:

- **Purpose** (500 words): What DEIA efforts were undertaken and why? How did the efforts improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in an agNC project/program (i.e., Hatch, Hatch Multistate, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health and Disease). (40%)
- **Innovation** (300 words): Why are these efforts worthy of recognition? What new or innovative strategies were developed or employed? (30%)
- **Impact** (250 words): How have efforts led to positive, sustainable programmatic and/or organizational change? What metrics were used to assess change? (20%)
- **Scope** (150 words): How broadly did (or likely will) this effort affect the success of the operations of agInnovation (formerly the Experiment Station Section)? (10%)