

# TWS College and University Education Working Group

## INNOVATION IN WILDLIFE TEACHING

This award recognizes a faculty at any career stage for excellence in teaching and teaching innovations in wildlife-related education.

### AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible faculty must have at least 3 yrs of experience as the primary instructor of wildlife courses and nominees typically have more than 10 yrs of teaching experience.

Eligible faculty should be members of TWS-CUEWG.

Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of a dossier documenting outstanding contributions to wildlife education. The dossier should provide specific evidence of outstanding performance in teaching as well as innovation in wildlife-related education:

1. **TEACHING:** direct contact with students in courses and programs and in co-curricular activities. Teaching activities include instructing groups of students in classes, seminars, and laboratories; and supervising individual activities, such as practicums, internships, field-learning experiences, tutorials, performances, exhibitions, and independent study – including supervision of undergraduate and graduate research projects.
2. **ADVISING:** activities that aid individual students with course and major selection, career plans, and personal development, especially in ways that go beyond formal curricular advising; and those that provide guidance to student organizations or groups. Documentation should include information about accessibility to students, which ordinarily includes but is not limited to office availability.
3. **INNOVATION IN WILDLIFE EDUCATION:** activities that constitute leadership, creativity, and contribute substantially to the enhancement of wildlife education. We encourage the nominator and the nominee to define what type of activity should be described as innovative. Some examples may include but are not limited to creative in-class activities or case-studies, innovative opportunities that are based in experiential or service learning, novel course development & implementation, publication of an impactful research article, book, or online teaching resource, innovative assessment strategies, changes to recruitment practices that enhance diversity of minority groups, or strategies to enhance inclusivity within the classroom or profession.

### NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Organization and Presentation of Dossiers:

To maintain a similar format among dossiers and facilitate efficient review, brevity is encouraged in assembling materials. Use 12-point font, one-inch margins, and 1.5 line spacing in preparing materials. Each dossier should be organized according to the following guidelines:

1. One page Statement from the Nominator. Please open the statement with nominee's name, college, the award name (TWS-CUEWG Innovation in Teaching Award) and a one sentence

summary of why you nominating the person for this teaching award. The remainder of the one page statement forms the basis of the nomination and is extremely important for the review process. The nominator should describe the nominee's qualifications and provide evidence and examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria. The aim of this statement is to set out a convincing case for the nominee's outstanding contributions to wildlife education.

2. One page Personal Statement by the Candidate. Briefly summarize of your teaching philosophy and pedagogy used in the classroom. Please provide evidence and examples that address the award criteria and your impact on wildlife education.
3. Candidate's curriculum vitae of 3 pages. Ensure that the CV includes 1- names of courses taught and approximate number of students enrolled, 2- details on noteworthy supervision and mentoring of individual students or groups of students.
4. Two letters from colleagues, administrators, or students. Letter writers are encouraged to cite specific examples as to how the nominee enhanced your learning or the impact of the teaching innovation to students or the wildlife profession.
5. Up to one additional page of assessment of teaching or innovation impact can be included. For example, a numerical overview of student evaluations from courses taught in the last five years or a teaching assessment completed by a faculty colleague or an assessment of the impact an innovation.

Email nomination packet to [tws.cuewg@gmail.com](mailto:tws.cuewg@gmail.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.