

# TWS College and University Education Working Group

## RISING STAR IN TEACHING EXCELLENCE

This award recognizes an early-career faculty who demonstrated excellence in wildlife-related education at the undergraduate or graduate level.

### AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible faculty should have at least 3 yrs of experience as the primary instructor of wildlife courses and typically no more than 10 years of 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 and advising, and/or educational leadership:

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. **EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP:** extra-programmatic activities that constitute leadership and contribute substantially to wildlife education. Examples may include scholarship of learning and teaching (e.g., research presentations or papers), contributions to academic program development, innovative new course development, or activities that promotes diversity and inclusion within the student body and the wildlife 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 Rising Star 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 student learning.
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, 3- information on advising.
4. Two letters from current or former students. Letter writers are encouraged to cite specific examples as to how the nominee enhanced your learning and how the nominee meets the award criteria.
5. Up to one additional page of assessment of student learning 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.

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