

Horticulture Faculty Wins USDA National Teaching Award

Chad T. Miller, Associate Professor of Horticulture in the College of Agriculture, was among nine educators recently honored by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) at the 130th APLU Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Miller was recognized as one of two recipients of the 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Best New Teacher Award for Food and Agricultural Sciences. The New Teacher Award recognizes a faculty, with no more than seven consecutive years of experience in higher education teaching, who has demonstrated a commitment to a career in teaching, has exhibited meritorious teaching through scholarship of teaching and learning, and exemplary service to students. The award also includes a \$2,000 stipend for the purpose of strengthening the honoree's teaching and advising program.

"Teaching is at the very core of public universities' mission," said Ian Maw, Vice President of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources at APLU. "By sparking their students' curiosity and shaping their students' career aspirations, educators help cultivate the next generation leaders in agricultural sciences. This year's winners of the Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences stand out for their tireless and innovative work to help students find success and enjoyment in their studies."

Miller teaches several undergraduate horticulture courses, in the Horticulture program, including an orientation course, plant propagation, and two plant identification courses. In addition, Miller assists with developing and leading departmental international study abroad course experiences. He advises an average of 25 undergraduate students each year and is also the co-advisor for the Horticulture Club.

He approaches teaching and advising with a goal of creating a classroom atmosphere with a sense of community. He brings his excitement and enthusiasm of plants and learning to the classroom, through the many hands-on/minds-on learning opportunities horticulture courses provide. He further motivates, encourages, and challenges students to take an active role in their education to maximize their college experience. With this, it is his hope that students will not only learn horticultural knowledge, but also critical life skills, so that when they leave the university, they are better prepared and continue to be active, lifelong learners as global citizens.

Miller has been recognized for his teaching and advising receiving the Perennial Plant Association Academic Award; North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Educator Award; K-State College of Agriculture Advisor of the Year; K-State College of Agriculture Teaching Faculty of the Semester; the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award; K-State College of Agriculture Innovative Teaching and Learning Award; Association of Public Land Grant Universities Innovative Teaching Award; Big 12 Faculty Fellow and was a recipient of the Greenhouse Product News Top 40 under 40 award. Miller earned his B.S. degree at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Cornell University.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities is a research, policy and advocacy organization representing 236 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems and affiliated organizations. Founded in 1887, APLU is North America's oldest higher education association, with member institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, Canada and Mexico.