

Horticulture Graduate Student and Faculty Receive North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Awards

Dr. Chad Miller, Associate Professor of Horticulture and Master's student, Braden Hoch, both in the Horticulture and Natural Resources Department, recently traveled to Purdue University to attend the annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) conference. Braden is working with Drs. Chad Miller and Jason Griffin, in the Horticulture and Natural Resources Department. Hoch presented a poster on behalf of fellow graduate student teaching assistant, Stuart Sprague, titled, Grocery Shopping for Geophytes. This project is a part of the Plant Propagation course in which the two are TAs. Miller gave an oral presentation titled, Plant Madness in Plant Identification, based on an activity implemented in his Landscape Plants II course.

At the conference, Hoch received a NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award. The award is given to graduate students who are active in classroom instruction and demonstrate excellence as teaching assistants in agriculture disciplines. Applicants are reviewed by a committee of NACTA members and are evaluated based on the graduate student's teaching philosophy, their involvement in teaching outside the classroom, self-evaluation, support letters from supervising faculty, administrator, and student recommendations. Congratulations, Braden!

Miller received a NACTA Educator Award at the conference. A major focus and intent of NACTA is to recognize individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education. The award is a criterion-based award, reviewed by a committee that evaluates the nominee based on criteria such as teaching philosophy, student evaluation summary, nominee's teaching activities, and supporting letters from peers and administrator.