

Biological sciences receives FORWARD equity award

The Department of Biological Sciences has been awarded a \$5,000 Advance FORWARD Equity Award in recognition of accomplishments in supporting and advancing gender equity. In his nomination letter, Kevin McCaul, dean of science and mathematics, highlighted the department's efforts to increase the number of women faculty to be more consistent with the proportion of women doctoral graduates in the discipline. He noted during the past four years, the biological sciences department has hired six tenure-track faculty and one professor of practice, six of whom are women. The department also recently promoted its first female faculty member to associate professor with tenure. The Advance FORWARD Equity Award is awarded annually by the Commission on the Status of Women Faculty in conjunction with NDSU's National Science Foundation Advance grant. The award recognizes and rewards significant efforts departments have put in place to improve campus climate and gender equity within the faculty ranks. Another \$5,000 award will be given next spring, considering department strategies to improve organizational climate and/or to enhance recruitment, retention, promotion or advancement of faculty.