

NDSU Agriculture and Extension

Faculty and Staff
Awards

Thursday, December 8, 2022

3 p.m. CST

NDSU Memorial Union Ballroom B
and by Zoom Webinar

NDSU

VICE PRESIDENT FOR AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 10 or fewer years of service. The recipient must have made a significant research contribution that addresses an applied problem or increases the basic knowledge of the area investigated.

■ Samat Amat

Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiological
Sciences

“Dr. Amat is a valued collaborator who has developed a very productive research program in his short time at NDSU.”

Samat Amat joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2020.

The microbial communities residing within livestock play a role in nutrient metabolism, infectious and metabolic diseases, and reproductive efficiency. The goal of Amat’s research program is to harness the bovine microbiome to improve animal health and productivity, reduce reliance on antibiotic use, and mitigate methane emissions.

The cattle sector faces unprecedented challenges in the coming years, including elevated demand for output to feed the world’s rapidly growing population, antimicrobial resistance and increasing concerns over the environmental footprint of beef production. The outcome of Amat’s research will contribute to the industry’s ability to address these challenges.

Amat has authored or co-authored 26 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, made 11 presentations and helped generate more than \$700,000 in grants.

He earned a B.Sc. degree from Xinjiang Agricultural University in China, M.Sc. degrees from Xinjiang Agricultural University and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and a Ph.D. from the University of Calgary, Canada.

■ Venkataramana Chapara

Assistant Agricultural Experiment
Station Specialist
Langdon Research Extension Center

“Dr. Chapara’s applied crop disease research program affords growers solutions to minimize disease impacts.”

Venkataramana (Venkat) Chapara joined NDSU as Extension crop protection specialist at the North Central Research Extension Center in 2013. He became assistant research professor at the Langdon Research Extension Center in 2015 and assistant Agricultural Experiment Station specialist in 2021.

Chapara assists farmers with integrated disease management practices. His research looks for an efficient outcome that will help farmers achieve the highest yields and highest quality crops possible.

The prevalence and severity of clubroot in canola in northeastern North Dakota led Chapara to focus on this disease. He has generated data that identifies the primary areas of clubroot prevalence, cultural practices that minimize the spread of the disease and strategies to continue to grow canola while minimizing clubroot spore development.

He has helped generate more than \$1,047,679 in grants, authored or co-authored 16 refereed journal articles and made 82 presentations.

Chapara holds a B.S. degree from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, India, an M.S. degree from Gujarat Agricultural University, India, and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Torre Hovick

Associate Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Range Science)

“Dr. Hovick has used his diverse skillset to address relevant problems to serve the state to the best of his ability.”

Torre Hovick joined NDSU in 2014 as an assistant professor. He became a program lead for range science in 2019 and an associate professor in 2021.

Hovick’s research focuses on conservation and management of natural resources in working rangeland landscapes. He investigates real-world issues using solution-based science to answer ecological questions of interest while contributing to the body of scientific knowledge overall. His research program has focused on native bee and bird communities and how they respond to land management actions.

His research on thermal ecology of upland gamebirds created a methodology that has changed the way wildlife ecologists think about cover as thermal refugia.

Hovick has authored or co-authored 67 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, made 143 presentations and helped generate more than \$3.1 million in grants.

He earned a B.A. degree from the University of Northern Iowa, an M.S. degree from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

Larson/Yaggie Award (continued)

■ Audrey Kalil

Associate Plant Pathologist
Williston Research Extension Center

“Dr. Kalil is a passionate and dedicated scientist whose research portfolio reflects the diversity of crops grown in western North Dakota.”

Audrey Kalil joined NDSU as an assistant plant pathologist in 2015 and became an associate plant pathologist in 2021.

Kalil conducts applied research on key pathogens in the major crops of western North Dakota. Her research focus on fusarium head blight includes evaluating varietal differences in vomitoxin accumulation in durum, fungicide evaluation and the effects of using scabby durum grain as seed. She has conducted extensive research on root rot pathogens. She conducts fungicide trials each year and evaluates foliar and seed-applied products.

Her research has a positive impact on crop producers in North Dakota and Montana. Kalil initiated experiments to answer farmers’ questions about scab management and root rot problems. Her fungicide trials give farmers unbiased evaluations of products and helps them make cost-effective decisions.

Kalil has authored or co-authored 12 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, made 47 presentations and helped generated more than \$5.5 million in grants.

She earned a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

■ Jiajia Rao

Associate Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Rao is an accomplished researcher who has developed a vibrant externally-supported research program that addresses consumer needs and maintains a safe, nutritious, sustainable food supply.”

Jiajia Rao joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2016 and became an associate professor in 2022.

The primary mission of Rao’s research is to foster long-term economic benefits for North Dakota through development of value-added and high-quality agricultural products. She launched a food biopolymer and ingredient laboratory and formed a research team to utilize current processing streams to increase value and revenue.

Her research on the modification of pulse-based protein for improved functionality and flavor profile improves the value of pulse crops grown in the state and helps promote the use of North Dakota-grown pulse seed as functional food ingredients.

Rao has helped generate more than \$2.5 million in grants, authored or co-authored 89 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, and made 21 presentations.

She received a B.Sc. from Sichuan University of Science and Engineering, China, an M.Sc. degree from Chongqing University, China, and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

■ Veeshan Rayamajhee

Assistant Professor
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

“Dr. Rayamajhee’s publications are well-received, well-cited and well-recognized.”

Veeshan Rayamajhee joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2019.

Rayamajhee’s research covers a wide range of topics, including crises, disasters, institutional economics and societal health.

One of his publications was a finalist for the Ostrom Prize, a prestigious award for the best paper published in the Journal of Institutional Economics. Another became the most cited journal article published in Disasters. Several research networks asked him to write blog posts or white paper versions of his publications to help them reach broader audiences.

In addition to his assistant professor role, he is a researcher with the Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth, a Public Policy and Public Choice research fellow with the American Institute for Economic Research, and an affiliate with the Ostrum Workshop at the University of Indiana.

Rayamajhee has authored 15 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, given 19 presentations and helped bring in more than \$100,000 in grants.

He earned a B.A. degree from Bryn Athyn College, Pennsylvania, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico.

Larson/Yaggie Award (continued)

■ Xin Sun

Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering

“Dr. Sun is a nationally recognized researcher of precision agriculture technologies who is highly respected by students as an educator and is active in outreach programs.”

Yin (Rex) Sun joined NDSU as a research scientist in 2015 and became an assistant professor in 2018.

Sun focuses his research efforts on precision agriculture technologies for improving livestock, crop and food production in the Red River Valley region. His impact on developing precision agriculture research and educational programs has resulted in a successful NDSU precision agriculture program.

He has developed three different versions of robots to identify and selectively spray weed species in the field. Currently, he is in the process of developing NDSU’s first-ever agriculture robotic autonomous vehicle. He also developed an algorithm that can monitor beef cattle behavior through thermal and video image technologies.

Sun has authored or co-authored 37 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, made 65 presentations and helped generate more than \$11.5 million in grants.

He earned a B.S. degree from Yantai University, China, and a Ph.D. from Nanjing Agricultural University, China.

■ Alison Ward

Associate Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

“Dr. Ward’s research on the impacts of maternal nutrition during pregnancy of beef cattle and on nutrient-gene interactions in postnatal growth paradigms is changing the way we think about the relationship between nutrition and genetics.”

Alison Ward joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2015 and became an associate professor in 2021.

Ward’s research focuses on nutritional epigenetics with a primary emphasis in beef cattle. She studies the effect of maternal nutrition during pregnancy on fetal offspring epigenetic programming and production performance as well as the transgenerational impacts that epigenetic programming has on future generations.

Ward contributes to the discovery of practices that allow ruminant livestock farmers and ranchers to increase both individual and whole herd nutrient use efficiencies. Her research on improving feed efficiency through developmental programming helps to improve production efficiency and profitability.

Ward has authored or co-authored 39 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, made 12 presentations and helped bring in more than \$1.7 million in grants.

She received a B.S. degree, M.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

Dahl Excellence in Research

This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 11 or more years of service. The recipient must have a distinguished research program in basic or applied sciences that has gained significant recognition in the state, region or nation and/or internationally.

■ David Rider

Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Entomology)

“Dr. Rider is the leading pentatomoid specialist in the world.”

David Rider joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 1991. He became an associate professor in 1997, a professor in 2005 and served as interim chair of Entomology from 2006 to 2008.

Dr. Rider’s laboratory conducts research on the systematics of various insect groups and performs faunal studies or surveys on insect species of concern in the region. His research has established him as a leading world authority on Pentatomidae, a large group of insects that are significant pests of agriculture, both in North Dakota and around the world.

He also is the curator of the North Dakota State Insect Reference Collection, a vital resource for the scientific community with more than one million specimens.

He has authored or co-authored 119 refereed journal articles and seven book chapters, made 85 presentations and helped bring in more than \$1.1 million in grants.

He has a B.S. degree from Purdue University, an M.S. degree from Auburn University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

■ Kendall Swanson

Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

“Dr. Swanson is highly regarded nationally and internationally as a scientist that has contributed to our understanding of nutrient metabolism in cattle to improve efficiencies and economies for producers, while reducing the impact of beef cattle production on the environment.”

Kendall Swanson joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2010 and became a professor in 2015.

Swanson’s research focuses on improving the efficiency of feed utilization and reducing environmental impact of beef cattle production systems. He also focuses on nutrient metabolism of gut tissues and the whole animal, determining if expression of biologically important proteins can be altered through dietary manipulation or animal selection.

His aim has been to develop a broad and integrated research program to examine both basic and applied research questions with the goal of improving the efficiency of beef cattle production.

Swanson has authored or co-authored 136 refereed journal articles and six book chapters, made 200 presentations and helped bring in more than \$9.6 million in grants.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.

■ Asunta Thompson

Associate Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Thompson’s diligence, creativity, applied practical knowledge and plain hard work have led her program to a level of high excellence.”

Asunta (Susie) Thompson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2001 and became an associate professor in 2008.

The focus of her research is breeding and genetic enhancement of potato through hybridization with the outcome of releasing superior cultivars for grower, industry and consumer adoption and addressing shortcomings of current cultivars. Thompson’s expertise in agronomy and potato physiology aid in development of cultivar specific management profiles for promising selections and new cultivars, providing more opportunities for success by seed and commercial growers.

Recently, Dakota Russet, selected and developed by Thompson and the potato improvement team, was accepted by McDonald’s for french fry production by Midwest processors. Dakota Russet possesses moderate resistance to two important diseases for North American growers.

Thompson has helped bring in more than \$9.4 million in grants, made 114 presentations, and authored or co-authored 25 refereed journal articles and one book chapter.

She earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Idaho.

Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 10 or fewer years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.

■ Nonoy Bandillo

Assistant Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Bandillo is a brilliant professor who provides good study material in a way that is easy to understand.”

Nonoy Bandillo joined NDSU as an assistant professor and pulse crops breeder in 2019.

Bandillo teaches two high-level graduate courses in plant genetics, maintaining strong technical expertise and theoretical background in quantitative and population genetics. He helps students connect the relevance of crop breeding and genetics to their personal lives.

His approach translates technical concepts so they are easily learnable, provides hands-on training, and incorporates collaboration across disciplines that impact plant variety development. His courses receive evaluation scores above the department, college and university averages, and he incorporates feedback from students to improve his classes for the future.

He is professionally committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion to build a sense of belonging in his courses.

His students say he helps them clearly understand complicated technical concepts.

He has B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

■ Danielle Condry

Assistant Professor of Practice
Department of Microbiological
Sciences

“Dr. Condry excels in the classroom as an innovative, passionate and caring teacher who also discovers and disseminates new knowledge on teaching effectiveness through her research program.”

Danielle Condry joined NDSU as an assistant professor of practice in 2018.

Condry’s classes provide many concrete examples and case studies from current microbiology research, the department’s weekly journal club, the department’s seminar series and current events. She also links the research occurring in the department to class content to get students interested in working in the various research programs and to help them realize the role NDSU faculty play in the building of knowledge.

She aligns her classroom environment with evidence-based strategies to build trust and increase motivation and engagement of the learning community. All her classes are designed with evidence-based teaching practices, and she incorporates self-assessments that are tied to career interests and career skill development.

Her students say that she is compassionate and empathetic and pushes them to their maximum potential.

She holds a B.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.

■ David Englund

Senior Lecturer
Department of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics

“David keeps extraordinarily current in the courses he teaches, and he is well-armed with recent examples of how what he is teaching applies to what students see in their daily lives.”

David Englund joined NDSU as an adjunct lecturer in 2013 and became a senior lecturer in 2020.

Englund has taught Principles of Microeconomics over 120 times. During that time, he developed thousands of examples and explanations that relate concepts to current events and students’ lives. He strives to become a better teacher by constantly reevaluating and improving his teaching methodology and delivery of course content.

He encourages students to engage in their learning through frequent opportunities for active learning. His courses incorporate meaningful questions to motivate students to engage and process new information. Daily quizzes allow students to self-assess their learning and build confidence, while polls gauge understanding.

His students say he has the ability to make complex material accessible to all students, not only those majoring in his content area.

He earned a B.S. degree from Bemidji State University and an M.S. degree from South Dakota State University.

Foster Award (continued)

■ Lauren Hulsman Hanna

Associate Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

“Dr. Hanna’s style of teaching reflects not only her knowledge of the material but also her genuine care for the students.”

Lauren Hulsman Hanna joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013 and became an associate professor in 2020.

Hanna thoughtfully designs her classes to make certain that the curriculum outcomes indicated are met. She works to ensure that every student understands and can apply course content. For example, her animal breeding and genetics course has a reputation for being rigorous, but she incorporates applied examples and active learning to help students succeed.

She has made teaching improvement a priority and has attended more than 25 teaching and advising seminars and workshops since arriving at NDSU. She continually investigates, experiments with and adopts new technologies to enhance student learning.

Her students appreciate her straightforward approach and real-world examples. They say her classes reflect both her knowledge and passion for the material and also her genuine care for her students.

She has B.S. and M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

■ Ewumbua Monono

Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering

“Dr. Monono is an outstanding teacher who has made significant impact on the students he has taught and to the department.”

Ewumbua Monono joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2015 and became an assistant professor in 2020.

Monono demonstrated his mastery of the subject and experience managing the NDSU Pilot Plant by developing two new hands-on processing lab sessions for ABEN 110, an introductory class taught by another faculty member. The labs develop the students’ knowledge of processing and the importance of moisture in bioprocessing, a concept they will study in depth in the upper-level processing classes he teaches.

For his biobased energy class, he added a new spray dryer lab component and hands-on activities. This enhances student learning by incorporating concepts taught in class and applying it to real-life processing examples.

His students appreciate the way he explains concepts in a simplified manner and relates them to real-life situations.

He holds a B.S. degree from the University of Dschang, Cameroon, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.

H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 11 or more years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.

■ Shawn DeKeyser

Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Natural Resources Management)

“Dr. DeKeyser has the rare talent of understanding how to not only push a student to realize the full potential of their knowledge but also how to support and encourage a student in gaining confidence within their own minds.”

Shawn DeKeyser joined NDSU as a research specialist and lecturer in 2000. He became an assistant professor in 2007, an associate professor in 2011 and a professor in 2017. He also serves as curator of the NDSU Herbarium, program leader for Natural Resources Management (NRM), and director of the NRM graduate program.

Incorporating real-life applications of theories learned in class is important to DeKeyser. He has developed three courses stemming from real-world experience of current research, job markets and ecological issues.

In addition to his own teaching, DeKeyser has been highly involved in the curriculum development and integration of the NRM major with other programs. He has also helped develop major learning outcomes that overarch all the School’s programs.

His students say he is passionate about his work and always is open to questions and new ideas.

DeKeyser earned a B.A. degree from Jamestown College and an M.S. and Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Tom Gustad

Instructor
Department of Microbiological
Sciences

“Tom combines his passion for microbiology with meticulous organization and skillful storytelling to create courses where students love to learn.”

Tom Gustad joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1986. He became a lecturer in 2001, a senior lecturer in 2006 and an instructor in 2010.

Gustad’s teaching is rigorous, exacting, challenging and always fair. He keeps students engaged with well-organized and -delivered lectures, along with periodic quizzes, writing assignments and in-class assignments. Many of these assignments will require students to go beyond the classroom and textbook material, which is a great way to get the students involved in microbiology.

Tom is consistently effective at teaching technical courses, specialized courses such as Animal Cell Culture and Immunology and Serology lab and general education courses such as Introductory Microbiology. He motivates students to do well by providing stimulating and engaging material, being organized and knowledgeable about the subject, and caring about student success.

He has two B.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Jeremy Jackson

Professor
Department of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics

“Dr. Jackson’s classroom lessons do not just prepare students for the next exam; they prepare them for a more fulfilling life.”

Jeremy Jackson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2009. He became an associate professor in 2016 and a professor in 2020. In 2016, he also became director for the Center of Public Choice and Private Enterprise.

Jackson is committed to continuous improvement and adaptation of course content and pedagogy. He reviews textbook offerings to find the ones that best meet the needs of his students, and he adopts new technology to improve his teaching methodology.

As a recipient of the 2021 Peltier Innovation in Teaching Award, Jackson’s innovation in teaching methodology has been well documented. He also was a member of the first cohort of the Gateway-ND program, a National Science Foundation-funded instructional faculty and staff development program, hosted by NDSU’s Office of Teaching and Learning.

He holds a B.A. degree from Baylor University and an M.A. degree and Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

Lund Award (continued)

■ Burton Johnson

Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Johnson is an excellent educator, a concerned mentor and advisor, and a lifetime learner whose flexible approach to classroom discussions and soothing yet authoritative style create a welcoming environment for learning.”

Burton Johnson joined NDSU as an interim project leader in 1993. He became an assistant professor in 1998, an associate professor in 2004 and a professor in 2010.

Johnson’s 200-level Principals of Crop Production course is integral to the training of Plant Sciences students. The course is structured to benefit from local experts who possess unique information and experience. Topics are organized to cover key aspects of annual crop production.

An important aspect of his course structure is direct contact between the instructor and students as well as among students to facilitate stronger interpersonal relationships. Johnson also makes himself available to help outside of class.

His students say he teaches in a way that challenges them to think critically and on a large scale.

He earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Zhulu Lin

Associate Professor
Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering

“Dr. Lin’s commitment to student learning and teaching effectiveness has been tremendous to our academic programs. He is a constant support, mentor and guide to his students.”

Zhulu Lin joined NDSU in 2008 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2018.

Lin is an effective teacher who not only strives to provide students with hands-on computing experience but also enhances their learning experience through a carefully designed curriculum. He also likes to bring real-world engineering problems into the classroom to stimulate students’ interest in addressing the challenges our world faces.

He believes that students can grow more holistically when they know their professors sincerely care about their well-being and personal growth. Lin is the designated teaching faculty to meet with prospective engineering students and their parents.

His students say he is approachable and understands the learning experience through their perspective.

Lin obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees from East China University of Science and Technology, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising Award

This annual award recognizes the contributions of faculty and staff who have demonstrated excellence in advising undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and/or its student organizations.

■ Lisa Christenson

Associate Professor of Practice
Department of Animal Sciences

“Since her arrival at NDSU, Dr. Christenson has made students her priority. This is reflected in the countless ways she supports, questions and encourages them to grow and learn.”

Lisa Christenson joined NDSU as an assistant professor of practice in 2012 and became an associate professor of practice in 2018.

Early in her career at NDSU, Christenson realized that the students who most often need advising did not seek out advising meetings or respond to email requests. In response, she places an advisor hold on all first-year students prior to spring registration and meets with each of them before they can register for classes.

She ensures her students feel comfortable meeting with her, whether that means meeting them at the Memorial Union coffee shop or meeting in group settings.

Her advisees say she cares about each advisee as a whole person, and many say she has been the most influential person during their time at NDSU.

She holds a B.A. degree from Concordia College and a DVM from the Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

■ Erik Hanson

Assistant Professor
Department of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics

“What sets Dr. Hanson apart in undergraduate advising is his true interest in understanding how a student’s choice of classes and activities influence their understanding of and ability to succeed in their career.”

Erik Hanson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2016.

Accessibility to students is one of Hanson’s core principles both inside and outside the classroom. He holds regular office hours and maintains an “open door” policy for drop-in visits whenever he is in the office. Additionally, he is the advisor for the student Agribusiness Club.

Hanson has been the first departmental contact for several undergraduate advisees after they transferred from other institutions or other majors at NDSU. He helps these students get a strong start in their agricultural economics or agribusiness studies. Department academic support staff often recommend him as an advisor for newcomers to the department.

His advisees appreciate his focus, commitment and preparation.

He holds B.A. and B.S. degrees from Minnesota State University Moorhead, an M.S. degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

■ Matthew Olhoft

Senior Lecturer
Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering

“Matthew strives to get to know each advisee and to help them get the most out of their time and opportunities at NDSU.”

Matthew Olhoft joined NDSU as a senior lecturer in 2016.

Olhoft strives to visit with each advisee, learning more about where they come from and their goals. He works to ensure they get the most out of their time at NDSU and that their degree helps them get where they want to go.

He is the primary faculty member of the Agricultural Systems Management program and serves as the advisor for most of the students in the program. In addition, he is also the faculty advisor for the Agricultural Systems Management student organization, the annual student-sponsored Agricultural Technology Expo and the Bison Pullers Quarter-Scale Tractor Club.

His advisees say he cares about them and motivates them to reach their academic and career goals.

He has B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

Excellence in Extension Early Career Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 10 or fewer years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.

Austin Award (continued)

■ Rachel Richman

Senior Lecturer
Microbiological Sciences

“Rachel has a passion for advising students and empowers them to not only persevere and graduate but also to go on to successful careers.”

Rachel Richman joined NDSU as a senior lecturer in 2003.

Richman is the official adviser for 21 undergraduate microbiology majors, but she unofficially advises many more students, including those from other majors. She advises the Microbiology and Biotechnology Club and supervises the graduate teaching assistant in the capstone course.

She also teaches the microbiology capstone and the nonmajors’ introductory microbiology courses.

Her advisees say she spends as much time as needed to help them determine the courses they need to take to graduate and makes sure they stay on track. She also is knowledgeable about career opportunities and is proactive in keeping up with curriculum and policy changes that affect students’ academic plans. Many graduates use her as a reference.

Richman holds a B.S. degree from the University of Texas and an M.S. degree from the University of Minnesota.

■ Meagan Hoffman

Associate Professor,
4-H Youth Development Specialist
North Dakota Center for 4-H Youth
Development

“Dr. Hoffman embodies the mission of NDSU Extension and North Dakota 4-H, as she cultivates opportunities to empower youth to thrive as productive, confident, contributing and caring citizens.”

Meagan Hoffman joined NDSU Extension as an assistant professor and 4-H youth development specialist in 2016. She became an associate professor in 2021.

Working in collaboration with teammates and partners, Hoffman continually disseminates science-based information and provides hands-on learning opportunities for citizens across North Dakota. Her team offers monthly webinars addressing timely topics including a “How To” series about working with youth and topics on substance misuse prevention.

Dr. Hoffman delivers exceptional educational outcomes through several collaborative grants focused on empowering rural communities in North Dakota and South Dakota by promoting rural prosperity and rural wellness among youth and adults.

She holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

■ Thomas Peters

Associate Professor,
Extension Sugarbeet Agronomist
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Peters has reshaped the way Extension education occurs by providing producers an improved interactive and educational experience that results in real changes by real people.”

Tom Peters joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension sugarbeet agronomist and weed control specialist in 2014. He became an associate professor in 2020.

Peters develops and delivers educational programs focusing on weed management in sugarbeet. He has transformed the emphasis from a series of discrete farming operations in fields that will be planted to a holistic assessment of weed management including crops, tillage, and past, present and future pesticide use. He uses initiative and foresight to plan for the future.

His leadership on creating awareness around Palmer amaranth control resulted in 7,892 stakeholders attending NDSU Extension facilitated meetings on the topic and awareness growing from 46% to 95%.

He holds a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota, an M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 11 or more years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.

Excellence in Extension Early Career Award (continued)

■ Travis Prochaska

Extension Crop Protection Specialist
North Central Research Extension
Center

“Known around Minot as the “bug guy,” Dr. Prochaska is instrumental in helping farmers and citizens in our region identify and control both good and bad insects.”

Travis Prochaska joined NDSU Extension as a crop protection specialist in 2016.

Prochaska delivers educational topics developed with input of area clientele (Extension agents, farmers, horticulturists) based on issues that arise during the growing season or based on past history. His main program areas focus on plant diseases and insects.

The Good Bugs Workshop, led by Prochaska, along with a team from NDSU Extension, the USDA-NRCS and The Xerces Society, has worked to expand knowledge to area growers on how beneficial insects could be utilized as part of the integrated pest management toolbox.

He holds a B.S. degree from Concordia University, Nebraska, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

■ Ellen Bjelland

Extension Agent
Ward County

“Ellen does some of her best work in collaboration with others, as she helps them learn, grow and have fun.”

Ellen Bjelland joined NDSU Extension as an agent in 1998.

In 2009, she worked with a diverse community coalition to initiate the Valley City Community Gardens. Since then, the gardens have provided thousands of pounds of produce to individuals and families in need, created a place for working with school children to grow and harvest produce, and increased local intake of vegetables.

During the pandemic, Ellen embraced change and transitioned her programming to online platforms. She hosted participants from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin for a six-session Purposeful Retirement book club that received praise for its insightful discussions.

She holds a B.S. degree from NDSU and an M.A. degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

■ Mark Boetel

Professor, Extension Entomologist
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Entomology)

“Dr. Boetel responds quickly to producers with research-based recommendations and is recognized across the U.S. as the best Extension educator for sugarbeet entomology issues.”

Mark Boetel joined NDSU as an Extension entomologist and assistant professor in 1999 and became an associate professor in 2006 and professor in 2012.

In addition to his program aimed at developing and implementing insect pest management in sugar beets, Boetel provides expertise on managing insect pests in corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and rangeland; and provides educational programming on ticks, mosquitoes and home/garden pest management.

Boetel led the creation of the sugarbeet root maggot degree day model to help growers predict the onset of sugarbeet root maggot. This enables growers to be proactive with most effective and environmentally beneficial targeting of post-emergent insecticide applications.

Boetel holds B.S. and M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from South Dakota State University.

AGSCO Award (continued)

■ Kurt Froelich

Extension Agent
Stark-Billings County

“Kurt has an innate ability to build trusted relationships with local farmers, ranchers, and 4-H youth, and he uses those relationships to guide program development and deliver high-impact Extension programming.”

Kurt Froelich joined NDSU as an Extension agent in 1985.

Froelich delivers excellent educational outcomes through several platforms, including community events, daily interactions with farmers and ranchers, the county fair and 4-H. He is well connected to his community and devoted to serving them. He has a passion for delivering education to 4-H youth and volunteers, making a significant contribution to the needs of our future North Dakotans.

Froelich helped create the North Dakota Public Leaders 4-H Showmanship Event where state legislators and dignitaries are paired with 4-H members who provide showmanship instruction. The event has created lasting connections between 4-H youth and local leaders.

He has B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from NDSU.

■ Kari Helgoe

Extension Agent
Pembina County

“Kari’s leadership, passion and deep dedication to improving the lives of North Dakotans shines bright, and she generates respect and collaboration wherever she goes.”

Kari Helgoe joined NDSU as an Extension agent in 2012.

Helgoe is a powerful facilitator. Working with the Rendezvous Region Tourism Council, Helgoe was instrumental in building a cohesive regional tourism brand through education, marketing and amenity enhancement to strengthen the region’s tourism economy. This effort has now expanded to a larger regional effort, enhancing community pride, protecting assets and identifying new tourism opportunities.

Most recently, she worked with a team of local leaders and businesses to bring the Growing Leaders short course to Cavalier. Because of the course, there has been an increase in civic engagement at the local and state levels.

Helgoe holds a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota.

■ Naeem Kalwar

Extension Soil Health Specialist
Langdon Research Extension Center

“Naeem’s Extension soil health program fosters a relationship between Extension agents, growers and ag professionals that is hands-on and supports crop production success for generations to come.”

Naeem Kalwar joined NDSU as an Extension soil health specialist in 2012.

Kalwar works specifically to address the critical issue of soil health and the need for its improvement. His programming helps Extension agents and growers understand the causes of declining soil health and create individualized action plans for improving the health of the soil.

He collaborates with Extension specialists, Extension agents and producers to conduct field trials and demonstration plots; leads train-the-trainer events; and hosts various county meetings, crop tours and workshops. He recognizes the importance of face-to-face education and one-on-one correspondence with clients and also makes use of a variety of written, video and web-based platforms to deliver programming to meet the needs of his audience.

Kalwar earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Sindh Agricultural University, Pakistan, and an M.S. degree from the University of Guelph, Ontario.

Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by professional staff on and off campus. The recipient must have at least three years of continuous service in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

AGSCO Award (continued)

■ Frayne Olson

Associate Professor,
Extension Crops Economist
Department of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics

“Dr. Olson well represents the NDSU Extension team’s continued success in providing cutting-edge information.”

Frayne Olson joined NDSU in 1987 as a farm management specialist. In 2008, he became an assistant professor and Extension crop economist/marketing specialist. He was promoted to associate professor in 2015. Since 2016, he also has served as director for the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives.

Olson has developed well-respected educational programs in crop marketing and price risk management in North Dakota and specialized programs addressing emergency issues. He combines current information available through the NDSU Commodity Trading Lab, interactions with industry partners, and expert analysis to help farm/ranch managers, agricultural lenders and agribusiness leaders understand current crop market dynamics and make more informed marketing decisions.

He writes a Weekly Crop Market Update sent every Sunday evening to Extension county agents and specialists, and marketing club facilitators. This update highlights current news events impacting U.S. agriculture and provides a summary and analysis of current market prices. Olson has prepared more than 311 weekly updates and 151 special market updates since 2015.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

■ Jennifer Carney

Director of Student Services
Department of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics

“Jennifer builds a strong foundation for students and helps them get the best start on their college career.”

Jennifer Carney joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2009. She became a transfer coordinator in 2011, a degree and records analyst in 2014 and director of student services in 2019.

Carney’s impact on the department can be seen in her willingness to help students and faculty alike. She keeps her calendar up-to-date so students can easily make appointments with her, but she has an open-door policy and will help a student or faculty member, even if they do not have an appointment.

As an advisor to incoming freshman and transfer students, she is committed to building a strong foundation for her advisees. Her advice sets them on a solid foundation for their college career by helping them understand degree requirements and select courses, and she relays information to other advisors in the department.

She earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and an M.Ed. from NDSU.

■ Roger Egeberg

Software Developer
Agriculture Communication

“For more than 40 years, Roger has guided NDSU Agricultural Affairs through an era of incredible technological change.”

Roger Egeberg joined NDSU in 1984 as a programmer analyst II. Throughout his 40 years, his job title has changed, with his most recent title being software developer.

Throughout Roger’s career, he was involved in creating and maintaining several software applications used both internally within NDSU Agricultural Affairs and externally with the general public, primarily farmers, ranchers and others in the agriculture industry. Examples include the Ag Info Center, a publications database, the tree selector tool and the small grains disease forecasting system.

Roger’s effectiveness has impacted nearly everyone in NDSU Agriculture and Extension. In addition to software creation, he keeps the servers up and running and investigates new technology, tools and applications to keep NDSU Agriculture and Extension running with the most up-to-date technology.

Egeberg earned a B.S. degree from NDSU.

Moses Award (continued)

■ Peter Hakk

Research Specialist
Department of Plant Pathology

“Peter is an extremely hard-working research specialist who cares deeply about his work and the advancement of the farmers of North Dakota and Minnesota.”

Peter Hakk joined NDSU as a research assistant in 2011 and became a research specialist in 2012.

Hakk manages field and greenhouse research by developing protocols, performing experiments, collecting data and supervising personnel. He analyzes field and greenhouse data, develops and analyzes the annual sugarbeet questionnaire, compiles analyses into reports and assists in dissemination of the reports. He also is responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and inventory of all project machinery, equipment and tools.

Hakk is devoted to the advancement of sugarbeet farmers of the Red River Valley and is responsible for conducting research valued at about \$500,000 annually. His role is critical for the continued success of the \$5 billion total economic activity of the sugarbeet industry in North Dakota and Minnesota.

He has a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

■ Kris Holt

Account Coordinator
NDSU Extension Administration

“Kris is an extremely valuable part of NDSU Extension. She completes high quality work and takes on additional duties when needed.”

Kris Holt joined NDSU in 1997 as an administrative secretary II and became an administrative assistant in 1998. In 2021, she became assistant to the directors and account coordinator.

Holt provides specialized support for NDSU Extension administration. She provides overall management of the family and community wellness program appropriated budgets, monitoring numerous funding streams for Extension to make sure spending fits within policy and payments are processed correctly. She also provides human resource support within Extension administration and other allied Extension programs.

In addition, she has trained many new staff members for NDSU Extension. She plays a vital role in onboarding and provides support and mentoring as they become acclimated. With staff turnover, she takes on additional responsibilities and learns new processes so she can assist until a replacement is found and trained.

Holt earned a B.S. degree from Mayville State University.

■ Scott Hoselton

Director, Core Laboratory Facility
Department of Microbiological
Sciences

“Scott is always learning and expanding his capabilities. He accelerates research by generously sharing his knowledge and expertise with others.”

Scott Hoselton joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2001 and became director of the core microbiology lab in 2022.

Hoselton is responsible for maintaining the core lab facility where people throughout the college can use specialized, cutting-edge equipment and techniques in microbiology and molecular biology without prior knowledge or experience. He brings technical expertise and knowledge that reduces the activation energy for researchers. His work has accelerated research in the department and college by increasing access to specialized equipment and techniques.

Hoselton readily shares his knowledge and experience with people throughout the Agricultural Experiment Station to help others succeed. Scientists often engage Hoselton in method selection/development, experimental design, and data analysis and interpretation.

He has B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

Moses Award (continued)

■ James Hyde

Research Specialist
North Dakota Agricultural Weather
Network (NDAWN)
School of Natural Resource Sciences

“NDAWN’s rapid growth and success over the last five years would have been difficult to achieve without James’ passion, skills, hard work and dedication.”

James Hyde joined NDSU in 2017 as a research specialist and became an instrumentation specialist in 2021.

Hyde’s main duties include doing station maintenance at current and new stations and performing laboratory and technical work in the NDAWN lab. He keeps more than 175 weather stations across North Dakota running through all types of extreme weather and maintains nearly 100% reliability of hundreds of sensors. He uses a wide range of skills including programming, understanding weather sensors, electrical work, skid steer operation, placing equipment on 30-foot towers, cable management and understanding meteorological parameters.

He has helped update the charging regulators and the types of batteries being used. He also helped find better tubing that keeps animals away from the wiring, which lessens instrument failures at the stations.

Hyde has a B.A. degree from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Dongqing Lin

Research Specialist
Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering

“With his can-do attitude, and willingness to work in many different capacities and provide his expertise, Dr. Lin makes significant contributions, not only to the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, but to the mission of the College, the Ag Experiment Station and NDSU Extension.”

Dongqing Lin joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2006.

Lin works closely with supervising faculty on literature review, experimental design, instrumentation, automation and implementation related to soil health and water management of agricultural and biological systems. This includes irrigation and drainage, evapotranspiration, and water and soil quality in farming land.

He participated in the design of an automated drip irrigation system using mulches in watermelon and tomato productions and led the installation of the systems, growing of the vegetables, data collection and quality analysis.

He has a B.E. from Tsinghua University, China, and two M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.

■ Sally Mann

Research Specialist
Department of Plant Sciences

“Sally is one of the hardest working and best technicians in our department. She is always eager to help anyone who needs it.”

Sally Mann joined NDSU as a research technician in 2011 and became a research specialist in 2013.

Mann has been closely involved in all aspects of small-grain breeding and genetics. She prepares fields at various locations for planting. She packages seed for sowing and plants yield trials, segregating populations, observation nurseries, drill strips and disease-screening nurseries. Her work ethic, commitment to durum research and good communication skills have benefited NDSU and producers.

She also takes agronomic and disease resistance notes in the field, practices selection in segregating populations, harvests research plots, and manages students and summer workers during the entire growing season. In addition, she plants and manages the greenhouses, makes crosses and evaluates plants for foliar diseases in collaboration with a researcher at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mann holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by clerical staff on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Julie Bietz

Information Processing Specialist/
Student Services Coordinator
Department of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering

"Julie's collegial and welcoming personality helps students, staff and faculty feel like our department is the place to be."

Julie Bietz joined NDSU as a Bison Connection associate in 2012 and became an information processing specialist/student services coordinator in 2015.

Bietz is the first point of contact for students in the department. She arranges prospective student meetings, tours and on-campus recruitment events. She also coordinates faculty for summer orientation events and fall welcome events. She assists faculty with academic advising and serves as a source of support for students with academic and personal concerns.

In her information processing role, she maintains student listservs for three academic programs, manages student records and services, maintains documents related to course offerings, maintains alumni records, manages student recruiting activities, provides administrative functions for five department student organizations, and provides communication and outreach functions, including social media interaction, the department newsletter and the department webpage.

She received a B.S. from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

■ Blaine Erovick

Distribution Coordinator
Agriculture Communication

"Blaine's customer service is top notch. People can count on him to deliver, literally and figuratively, in a timely and efficient manner with a friendly greeting and smile on his face."

Blaine Erovick joined NDSU in 2018 as part of grounds maintenance and became the distribution coordinator for Agriculture Communication in 2019.

Erovick splits his duties between his distribution role in Agriculture Communication and his delivery role in Print and Copy Services. Blaine maintains the print inventory of NDSU Extension publications, including a large number of 4-H publications. He collaborates with the Agriculture Communication team members and authors to ensure the most up-to-date publications are available. He also packages and prepares all shipping orders using multiple shipping companies and oversees the checkout process for 4-H educational trucks.

In his delivery role for Print and Copy Services, he delivers campus-wide and plans his route ahead of time to ensure delivery is made in order of priority. He also oversees the delivery van maintenance schedule and reports monthly mileage.

Blaine exhibits a high level of customer service and professionalism in both his distribution and delivery roles.

■ Myrna Friedt

Administrative Assistant
Carrington Research Extension Center

"Myrna possesses knowledge across a broad range of subject matter so she can effectively assist with preparing grant applications, project reports and communications for multiple disciplines."

Myrna Friedt joined NDSU in 1999 as administrative assistant at the Carrington Research Center. Prior to that she held summer employee positions in the Agriculture Budget Office (1991) and Faculty Resource Center (1989-1992).

Friedt supports the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center director. She manages the department's budget, empowers program leaders, assists with program implementation and communicates research results. This also includes working with program leaders to compile data, coordinate and publish reports, coordinate field days, and prepare visual communication. She also assists with the department's Foundation Seedstock program to include seed sales, tracking seedstock inventory and certification documents.

Myrna assists program leaders across a variety of subjects and has the breadth of knowledge to effectively assist in preparing research grant applications, project reports, and outreach materials.

She has B.S. degrees from NDSU.

Anderson Award (continued)

■ Karen Jevning

Administrative Secretary
Department of Plant Sciences

“Karen is dedicated to meeting the needs of our current and prospective students and has developed and implemented improvements to processes related to recruitment, orientation and scholarships.”

Karen Jevning joined NDSU in 1996 as part-time student/alumni information coordinator at the Career Center. In 1998, she began working as an information processing specialist III in the Office of Admission. She transitioned to a recruiting coordinator/ employer relations coordinator at the Career Center in 1999. Jevning began her position as administrative secretary in Plant Sciences in 2017.

Jevning provides secretarial support to faculty with a teaching appointment and maintains records related to Plant Sciences courses. She supports faculty with undergraduate advising responsibilities, provides undergraduate students with administrative guidance, prepares and maintains department scholarship information, and supports the department head.

She also provides communication to prospective students and new student orientation and assists with the CAFSNR scholarship recognition luncheon.

■ Edie Nelson

Administrative Assistant
Department of Agribusiness and
Applied Economics

“Edie serves students, faculty, staff and many internal and external stakeholders by providing innovative and efficient support and leadership.”

Edie Nelson joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in Plant Sciences in 2003. In 2008, she worked as an information processing specialist before moving to her current position in 2017 as an administrative assistant in Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

Nelson is administrative assistant to the department chair. In this role she assists with faculty annual reviews; the department’s annual report; faculty and staff awards; promotion, tenure and evaluation documents; position searches; coordinating seminars; and reviewing technical reports. She also takes minutes at faculty meetings.

As office manager, she maintains the workflow and operations of the front office. She also supervises front office staff and is responsible for recruitment, interviewing, supervising and handling performance issues. She monitors training opportunities and ensures cross training among positions.

She has an associate’s degree from North Dakota State College of Science.

■ Sara Schuchard-McGregor

Administrative Assistant
Langdon Research Extension Center

“Sara excels in her performance as the sole office support staff at the Langdon REC and has made significant contributions to the mission of NDSU, the Ag Experiment Station and Extension.”

Sara Schuchard-McGregor joined NDSU in 2012 as an administrative secretary at the Langdon Research Extension Center and became the Center’s administrative assistant in 2021.

Schuchard-McGregor is the only support staff at the Langdon Research Extension Center and is responsible for a wide range of duties including assisting with the Center’s budget and annual fiscal reports; overseeing processes and procedures; purchasing, billing, editing and proofing; records management; human resources assistance and many others. She singlehandedly created a 42-page foundation seedstock QuickBooks manual to share with all the Research Extension Center support staff and the Agronomy Seed Farm and continues to update the manual as needed. She initiated Research Extension Center support staff monthly meetings via Zoom to share ideas, quick tips and collaborate.

Additionally, she plans the Field Days events, workshops, agent trainings and many tours, including outreach with the local elementary school.

She received an MBA from the University of Mary and a B.A. degree from Jamestown College.

Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by support staff in technical and paraprofessional, crafts/trades or services positions on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Chris Anderson

Print and Copy Services Production
Manager
Agriculture Communication

“Chris has adapted to learning new skills as printing technology and needs change. His attention to providing the customer with a positive experience is his top priority.”

Chris Anderson joined NDSU as a press operator in 2006 and became the Print and Copy Services production manager in 2013.

Anderson directs, organizes and plans the daily activities of the production center staff and works closely with customer service staff. He is involved in all the phases of the production of printed materials, including Extension publications, “indestructible” card sets, 4-H literature and much more for a wide variety of projects for the entire NDSU campus.

He works with customers on project details and develops and implements procedures and policies for increasing efficiencies. With his knack for troubleshooting and repairing equipment, he has helped save Print and Copy Services money. He also helps Agriculture faculty and staff get their printing/copying work done as cost effectively as possible, even if that means taking it off campus.

He earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

■ Krista Caldwell

Senior Accounting Specialist
Department of Plant Sciences

“Krista is diligent in everything she does and is always willing to help with additional duties. Krista is an asset to NDSU.”

Krista Caldwell joined NDSU as a senior account specialist in 2018.

Caldwell works for the largest department on the NDSU campus where she is responsible for most invoices and payments. She processes all invoices, approximately 150 each month, and creates invoices for the principle investigators to send out to companies and individuals for work performed, such as testing and analyzing. She is the purchasing card administrator, oversees all motorpool requests along with the department’s monthly and seasonal state fleet vehicles, and inventories the department’s large equipment.

She also assists with the purchases of the large equipment as the liaison between the Plant Sciences department and NDSU Purchasing. She is the primary backup to the accountant and assists faculty with their questions related to all money expenditures.

She has a B.S. degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

■ Diane Pennington

Account Technician
School of Natural Resource Sciences

“Diane is the glue that has held the School of Natural Resources together for years. She is extraordinary in all of her job duties and has the highest level of professionalism.”

Diane joined NDSU in 2003 as an office manager for the Department of Entomology and became an account technician in 2019 for the School of Natural Resource Sciences.

Pennington manages appropriated, grant and local monies for faculty and staff. She assists the director in determining annual budgets, preparing reports, balance sheets, direct payment vouchers to vendors, approving travel expense vouchers and other duties. She ensures records are accurate and in compliance with policies and procedures.

She advises principal investigators on appropriate spending to help them use their money more efficiently and have a better chance at leveraging additional money in the future. Her effective financial management allows faculty to concentrate on their research.

She earned a B.S. degree from Concordia College.

2021 Award Recipients

Larson/Yaggie
Excellence in Research

*Guiping Yan,
Plant Pathology*

Eugene R. Dahl
Excellence in Research

*Marison Berti,
Plant Sciences*

Earl and Dorothy Foster
Excellence in Teaching

*Anuradha Vegi,
Plant Sciences*

H. Roald and Janet Lund
Excellence in Teaching

*Birgit Pruess,
Microbiological Sciences*

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
Excellence in Advising

*Jack Norland,
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Natural Resources Management)*

Excellence in Extension
Early Career

*Julianne Racine,
LaMoure County Extension*

AGSCO Excellence in Extension

*Dean Aakre,
NDSU Extension Center for 4-H
Youth Development*

Charles and Linda Moses
Staff Award

*Collin Auwarter,
Plant Sciences*

Donald and Jo Anderson
Staff Award

*Jerie Little,
Microbiological Sciences*

Rick and Jody Burgum
Staff Award

*Diane Ness,
Agriculture Communication*

2022 Faculty/Staff Award Nominees

**Larson/Yaggie
Excellence in Research Award**

Samat Amat
Venkataramana Chapara
Torre Hovick
Audrey Kalil
Jiajia Rao
Veehsan Rayamajhee
Xin Sun
Alison Ward

**Eugene R. Dahl
Excellence in Research Award**

David Rider
Kendall Swanson
Asunta Thompson

**Earl and Dorothy Foster
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Nonoy Bandillo
Danielle Condry
David Englund
Lauren Hulsman Hanna
Ewumbua Monono

**H. Roald and Janet Lund
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Shawn DeKeyser
Tom Gustad
Jeremy Jackson
Burton Johnson
Zhulu Lin

**William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
Excellence in Advising Award**

Lisa Christenson
Erik Hanson
Matthew Olhoft
Rachel Richman

**Excellence in Extension
Early Career Award**

Meagan Hoffman
Thomas Peters
Travis Prochaska

**AGSCO
Excellence in Extension Award**

Ellen Bjelland
Mark Boetel
Kurt Froelich
Kari Helgoe
Naeem Kalwar
Frayne Olson

**Charles and Linda Moses
Staff Award**

Jennifer Carney
Roger Egeberg
Peter Hakk
Kris Holt
Scott Hoselton
James Hyde
Dongqing Lin
Sally Mann

**Donald and Jo Anderson
Staff Award**

Julie Bietz
Blaine Erovick
Myrna Friedt
Karen Jevning
Edie Nelson
Sara Schuchard-McGregor

**Rick and Jody Burgum
Staff Award**

Chris Anderson
Krista Caldwell
Diane Pennington