

Edwards Receives Regional Award

Dr. Craig Edwards, associate professor in agricultural education, recently was named the Southern Region Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator during the Southern Region American Association for Agricultural Education Conference in Little Rock, Ark.



The award recognizes individuals for their achievements and competencies as members of the agricultural education profession. Applicants' teaching, research, scholarly and service activities were considered for the award.

"I was flattered and honored, as well as surprised (to receive this award)," Edwards said. "Several colleagues/friends of mine have received this award previously; so, to be considered in the same company as them is very rewarding."

Jim Leising, professor and head of the Oklahoma State University Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and 4-H Youth Development, recommended Edwards for the award. He said Edwards has made significant contributions to the department and college in teaching, research and service.

"His course syllabi are exceedingly clear and focused, and lectures are based on sound theory and filled with student application assignments and opportunities," Leising said. "His class organization and preparation is wonderful, and student work samples and portfolios reflect rich learning experiences."

Edwards has high expectations for his students' work through class assignments and discussions. In turn, he hopes they learn more about themselves in the process.

“High expectations for students fomented by rigorous learning opportunities are essential to the professional growth, development and early-career induction of all educators, including secondary agricultural education teachers,” Edwards said. “Knowing full well the achievement of ‘perfection’ as it relates to any task or objective will always elude mere humans; it is in the pursuit that we discover excellence in ourselves and in others.”

Agricultural education research is another area where Edwards has excelled throughout his career. He has published 18 peer-reviewed articles in journals and 28 refereed papers in proceedings. In addition, he has received more than \$220,000 in extramural research funds within the last two years.

“I hope my line of inquiry and that of like-minded colleagues is creating a sustained professional dialogue and concomitant scholarly interest, especially as it relates to important research priorities, supporting as well as demonstrating the value of school-based agricultural education in the 21st century,” Edwards said.

Edwards has taught agricultural education at the collegiate level for more than seven years. He began his career at OSU in August 2002.

For more information about the department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development, call Leising at (405) 744-8036.

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