**Autumn ACREE** is a doctoral student in Soil Science (College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources). She was nominated by Professor David Weindorf, who had this to say:

*Miss Acree has published three papers in high impact factor international journals with two additional papers currently submitted. She served as a production assistant on the nationally acclaimed documentary film “Between Earth and Sky – Climate Change on the Last Frontier”. She is now the lead coach of the TTU Soils Judging Team which has advanced to national competition twice under her leadership. She is confident and flexible in a wide variety of situations from soil sampling/fieldwork under arduous conditions to presenting research results at top national/international meetings. You will not find a more deserving, hardworking, and honorable young professional the world over.*

**Moamen ELMASSRY** is a doctoral student in Microbiology (College of Arts & Sciences). He was nominated by Professor Michael San Francisco, who wrote:

*He has 15 refereed manuscripts to his credit including one in Science under “Working Life-Career stories: What I Learned from Teaching”. He is currently translating three tomes written in Arabic into English for the Remnant Trust. He is truly a broad-minded individual and a world-wide thinker.*

In the essay, the candidate states:

*The focus of my dissertation is the pathogenic bacterium... This pathogen causes a significant burden on the healthcare system due to its high antibiotic resistance and ability to cause numerous forms of infections in immunocompromised patient populations.*

This is a timely research endeavor in view of the current pandemic virus. His work is published in the journal of American Society of Microbiology.

**Hui WANG** is a doctoral student in Industrial Engineering (Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering). He was nominated by Professor Weilong Cong, who had this to say:

*Since he joined TTU in the Fall of 2015, he has a total of 45 academic publications or submissions, including 14 journal papers and 3 conference proceedings as first author, with over 500 Google Scholar citations. 27 of these 45 papers are publish or accepted in peer-reviewed journals. This is a remarkable achievement for a PhD student.*

One of the recommendation letter (from China) states:

*As the group leader of LAMOST tracking control system, Hui devoted himself to the running, maintenance, and improvement of LAMOST. He worked very hard and often worked the whole night on the debugging of the telescope control system. Besides his hardworking attitude, Hui ... proposed some great ideas for improving LAMOST. ... Because of this idea, he won a dedicated research fund of totally 630,000 Chinese Yuan from National Development and Reform Commission of China to achieve it.*
Richard VELASCO is a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction with STEM emphasis (College of Education). He was nominated by Professor Rebecca Hite who wrote: 

*Richard is a bright star, harnessing his passion and drive for research by leading several research efforts as my graduate research assistant in the college of education. These projects include community-engaged research studying the impact of university-led STEM clubs, exploring the affordances of a state-wide education policy leadership program, and understanding K-12 STEM teacher leadership in policy.*

Mr. Velasco received two Bachelor of Arts degrees in 2007 from the University of Guam: one in Mathematics and the other in Secondary Education. He taught Mathematics in Guam at the middle-school level for 8 years and at the Pullman Washington high school for 3 years. He is the recipient of the 2014 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, awarded in 2016 by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation. He came to Texas Tech in 2019. In 2019-2020 he was a semi-finalist for an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship in Washington, DC.