

Dr. Laura Fischer, Assistant Professor
Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award
Bernie E. Rushing Jr Faculty Distinguished Research Award
Davis College Research Award
USDA Early Career Teacher Award

Laura Fischer joined our faculty in January 2021. Dr. Fischer received her Ph.D. from our department in 2017, and we were excited to have her join our department as a tenure-track professor of agricultural communications. At each stage of her journey, she has demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to the discipline, department, and college. Her record of teaching, research, and service is admirable. Dr. Fischer's appointment encompasses teaching courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level, participating in scholarly efforts, advising ~40 undergraduate and ~8 graduate students a semester, and contributing to service at TTU, our national professional organizations, and beyond.

Dr. Fischer's research has been supported by both industry partners (e.g., National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Texas Department of Agriculture, US Forestry Service) and federal agencies (e.g., USDA-NIFA, NOAA, EPA), with overall awards of more than \$1.9 million. Additionally, her 30+ peer-referred journal articles have been published in a variety of journals including the *Health Communication*, *Journal of Agricultural Education*, *Journal of Applied Communications*, *Journal of Applied Communications Research*, *International Journal of Risk Reduction*, and *Weather, Climate, and Society*. Her scholarship has been presented at the local, regional, and national levels. To date, she has co-authored 49 peer-refereed conference manuscripts and 69 poster abstracts. Notably, in 2023, she co-authored 7 published journal articles, which was half of our department's reported publications for the year. Her research efforts have earned a variety of awards including the *Journal of Applied Communications* – Article of the Year (2020) and Article of the Year Runner Up (2016); 8 outstanding and distinguished manuscript awards at the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE), Western AAAE, Southern AAAE, and the National Agricultural Communications Symposium; 8 awards for outstanding research and innovative posters; and 2 distinguished awards for work presented at university and college-level. She strives to be an engaged scholar, where her research is applicable to the academy, industry and its practitioners, and other benchmark scientists within the scientific community.

She brings a variety of personal strengths that are foundational for her success. She has a personal desire to serve our students to help them become the best versions of themselves. She does more than most professors for her students and advisees. She serves as a coach and mentor creating positive learning experiences to inspire, motivate, and work together to solve communication problems. Her effectiveness as a high-quality teacher is not only reflective in her high course evaluations (averages higher than the department, college, and university means) and teaching awards (e.g., President's Excellence in Academic Advising, New Faculty, 2024; Mortar Board Apple Polishing Award, 2022; Outstanding Faculty, TTU Ag Council), but also in mentoring her students to earn awards for their research at regional and national conferences. In support of her students, she has secured an USDA Higher Education Challenge grant to support and mentor undergraduate researchers through research projects.

Dr. Fischer has been recognized by numerous honors and awards. A few of her early career distinctions include:

Selected Honors and Awards

- ~ President's Excellence in Academic Advising, New Faculty, 2024
- ~ President's Leadership Institute Graduate, 2024
- ~ Davis College Scholar, 2024
- ~ Outstanding Innovative Poster, 2024, National Agricultural Communications Symposium*

- ~ First Runner Up, Outstanding Research Poster, 2024, National Agricultural Communications Symposium*
 - ~ Second place presentation, Davis College Poster Competition*
 - ~ Second Place People's Choice Research Poster, 2023, National AAAE*
 - ~ Apple Polishing Award, 2022, TTU Mortar Board
 - ~ New Faculty Award, 2022, TTU Alumni Association
 - ~ Distinguished Manuscript, 2022, Western Region AAAE*
 - ~ First place presentation, Media & Communications Division, 2022 Arts & Humanities Conference TTU*
 - ~ Distinguished Poster, 2022, Western Region AAAE*
 - ~ Third Place Poster, 2022, Davis College Graduate Student Poster Competition*
 - ~ Third Place, 2022, Humanities and Fine Arts, Graduate Student Poster Competition 2022*
 - ~ Outstanding Research Paper, 2022, Association for Communication Excellence*
 - ~ First Runner Up People's Choice Poster, 2022, National Agricultural Communications Symposium*
 - ~ Outstanding Faculty for Spring 2021, TTTU CASNR Agricultural Council
 - ~ Distinguished Poster Design Award, 2021, Western AAAE Conference*
 - ~ First Runner Up Research Paper, 2021, National Agricultural Communications Symposium*
 - ~ First Runner Up Innovative Poster, 2021, National Agricultural Communications Symposium*
 - ~ Journal of Applied Communications, 2020, Article of the Year
- * Co-authored w/ graduate or undergraduate advisee

As you can see from her accomplishments, Dr. Fischer is much deserving of these awards.