TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College
Plant & Soil Science™

May 17, 2024

Dear Davis College Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend that Dr. Lindsey Slaughter, an associate professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, be considered for *The Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award*. This award recognizes members of the TTU faculty who have obtained distinction for outstanding teaching and outstanding contributions related to excellence in teaching, and I believe Dr. Slaughter exemplifies the teaching mission we have as faculty members. Her innovative teaching has expanded the reach of our soil science program, and I believe she is a strong candidate for this award.

Dr. Slaughter participated in the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center as both a participant and as a mentor, and her resultant teaching style is unique and innovative. In 2020, she accepted a challenge issued during her TLPDC fellowship to move her course delivery methods away from PowerPoint lectures and toward engaged "chalk talks" combined with active learning techniques and supported by handouts that list important points and figures for students to study. Students responded positively to this change, as evidenced by the following representative evaluation comments, one from a face-to-face student and one from an online student:

> *"She has such passion for her field of study that you cannot help but to intrigued by her lectures. I also think that the handwritten notes every day helped me retain the information more effectively, rather than staring at PowerPoint slides."*
> *"I thought the note delivery method of writing notes versus copying from a powerpoint was very effective for my learning style... Overall Dr. Slaughter is very knowledgeable and effective at communicating this challenging information."*

Dr. Slaughter observed that students visibly take more notes and are more engaged in the classroom, and her success with this delivery method encouraged the department to invest in large Wacom touchscreens with styluses for our primary classrooms, allowing all of our faculty members to innovate in their instruction. The touchscreens allow all students, both in the class and at-a-distance, to see clear notes, diagrams, and examples described in real time. As a result, our classrooms are highly sought after, and her example has led several members of our department to reduce their reliance on PowerPoint and increase the interactivity of their classes.

Despite her evident skills in the classroom, Dr. Slaughter is eager to continue to improve. She continues to grow her pedagogical techniques and skills and is developing techniques for further increasing engagement and incorporating more active learning experiences for distance courses. She has strived to increase the reciprocity and interactions among students in the classroom, allowing students to network and develop connections that will benefit them throughout their lives.

In the past five years, she has taught a total of eighteen face-to-face course sections, ten laboratory sections, and five course sections at-a-distance. These course sections represent five separate courses ranging from introductory to advanced: PSS 1100 (Freshman/Transfer Seminar); PSS 2432 (Principles and Practices in Soils); PSS 4331 (Soil Microbial Ecology); PSS 6331 (Advanced Environmental Soil Science); and PSS 6332 (Advanced Soil Microbial Ecology). She has taught 445 students in the past five years.

Dr. Slaughter has been recognized for her accomplishments in teaching by the Davis College, receiving the Davis College Teaching Award in 2023 in recognition for her work. She has rapidly become a leader in our soils teaching cluster and recently took responsibility for the award-winning TTU Soil Judging Team after the departure of another faculty member in 2020.

Because of her accomplishments, Dr. Slaughter was nominated for the Texas Tech Teaching Academy in 2024. We are grateful for her accomplishments and leadership in the department related to instruction, and the Department of Plant and Soil Science has found success as a direct result of her leadership in this area.

Respectfully,

Glen L. Ritchie, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science