

**Dr. Lindsay Kennedy, Assistant Professor of Practice
President's Excellence Award in Academic Advising**

I believe Dr. Lindsay Kennedy is deserving of consideration for the President's Excellence in Advising Award. Dr. Kennedy has been a member of our agricultural communications faculty since 2015; she first joined us as an instructor and after earning her Ph.D. in August 2018, she transitioned to Assistant Professor of Practice in 2019. In this role, Dr. Kennedy has a large teaching and outreach appointment that emphasizes academic advising and student mentoring.

Dr. Kennedy has made a special effort to foster strong, trusting relationships with students at both the undergraduate and graduate level. This effort has made her an effective faculty adviser in our agricultural communications program. While faculty advising is an important part of our department's culture, her industry experience and professional network have made her a valuable mentor to students seeking advice related to career opportunities, internships, and all the big life decisions that affect students at this stage of their lives.

Dr. Kennedy serves as a mentor to many students both in our agricultural communications program, but also in our college and university. Her enthusiasm for high-impact learning experiences and programming, such as her field-based photography course, the Matador Institute of Leadership Engagement (MILE) Program, the Bridge Adventure Program, and the Adventure Media course, allow her to connect with students outside of the classroom in immersive learning environments. It is this personal attention to student development that makes Dr. Kennedy a valuable member of our team. The following student comments attest to Dr. Kennedy's commitment and care to student well-being and development:

- *"Dr. Kennedy's advising and mentorship have been integral in helping me maximize my college experiences and education. She always does whatever she can to help her students succeed."*
- *"As my adviser, Dr. Kennedy gives me confidence that my academic path is aligned with my career interests. I also know she genuinely cares about me as a person."*
- *"As a mentor, Dr. Kennedy created a safe environment for me to authentically express myself and further discover my interests and purpose."*

It is evident that empowering students to make informed decisions about their academic and professional pursuits through personal and professional development is a priority for Dr. Kennedy. As the MILE Program director, she leads this competitive three-semester professional and leadership development program that is made up of 14 selected students representing the different Davis College undergraduate academic departments. Coordinating a program like MILE calls for a special combination of experience and talent, and Dr. Kennedy is perfect for this position. Her experience participating in and designing leadership programs allow her to use the MILE program for significant impact to student participants.

As the first to have the professor of practice title in our faculty, Dr. Kennedy has been able to contribute to the mission of the university with a unique appointment that emphasizes the importance of quality academic advising. Even with no formal research appointment, Dr. Kennedy is also an active collaborator on federal, state, and privately funded projects, many of which focus on student experiences and high-impact learning opportunities.