



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Davis College

Plant & Soil Science™

Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

Department of Plant and Soil Science

M.S. 2122

Lubbock, TX 79409-2122

May 15, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

We were blessed as a department in 2023 to have an exceptional research year by our standards, and the nomination for the research award from the Department of Plant and Soil Science was extremely competitive. Therefore, I am pleased to unreservedly recommend Dr. Katie Lewis for the Davis College Research Award. Dr. Lewis was recently granted promotion to Professor and is a leader in not only research, but throughout the department and college.

Here are the obligatory stats for Dr. Lewis:

- **\$2.1 million** in grant funding credited directly to her program in 2023
  - Grants included a *USDA-NIFA initiative*, *USDA-FSA grant*, and a *USDA-NRCS Climate-smart grant*, all of which are highly-competitive.
- Graduated three M.S. students (**Nick Boogades, Rebekah Ortiz, and Hector Valencia**) in 2023
- Katie currently advises **three Ph.D. students** and **four M.S. students**
- **Eight refereed publications in 2023**, including **four with current or recently graduated students**, and four of which were in journals with impact factor greater than 5.0
- She and her students presented **27 posters and oral presentations in 2023**, and her students **won multiple graduate awards** for their work

Dr. Lewis is widely recognized as a national leader in soil fertility research, and I suspect there are not five faculty members in our college with comparable accomplishments in 2023. However, raw statistics only tell a summary of the value that our researchers provide. They do not describe that Dr. Lewis is a talented communicator, leader, and scientist who consistently leads our department in research accomplishments. She is also a motivated teacher who cares about her students and their growth in soil sciences.

In 2023, she also advised the Tech Agronomy Club, led the Crop Science team, and was the superintendent of the Texas FFA Agronomy CDE, none of which was compensated beyond the personal benefits of seeing students find a path to plant and soil sciences. She also taught both an undergraduate soil fertility course and a graduate plant nutrient management course in 2023, with excellent reviews.

Dr. Lewis is a leader in the department and college in research, and her accomplishments exemplify our missions of research, teaching, outreach, and engagement. She is a leader in the community, among our students, and in our professional societies. If I may provide additional information, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Glen L. Ritchie, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science