



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College

Plant & Soil Science™

May 16, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Damar Lopez-Arredondo, an assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, for the Davis College Service Award. Dr. Lopez-Arredondo has been in her current position since October 1, 2018. Damar has an outstanding set of accomplishments in outreach and service that I think merit strong consideration for this award.

PSS Service

Dr. Lopez-Arredondo has been actively involved in several service activities in PSS. **During the past two years, she has led a genetics and plant biology research symposium attended by more than 300 students and faculty members and spanned the Davis College and the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Tech.** She also recently served on two search committees for strategic hires in our department, including one committee for another institute within our college.

Within the Institute of Genomics for Crop Abiotic Stress Tolerance (IGCAST), Dr. Lopez-Arredondo is a founding member and has used significant time in setting up the institute. She currently has full oversight of the PDS 1000 gene gun that is used for transformation research among all researchers at IGCAST and other faculty members at Texas Tech University.

Research Community Service

Professionally, Dr. Lopez-Arredondo **served on an NSF grant review panel for the Plant Genome Research Program.** She is also part of a **statewide collaboration with USDA and other researchers to sequence, assemble, and analyze the genome of Pima cotton** to assist with the development of Pima cotton that is resilient to *Fusarium* Race-4. This participation is important, because *FOV-4* has cost producers in California millions of dollars and has been identified in Texas during the past five years.

Damar volunteers as an associate editor for *Frontiers in Plant Science*, a guest editor for *MDPI-Cells*, and serves on the editorial review board for *Frontiers-Synthetic Biology*, *BMC Genomics*, and *Scientific Reports*. She also serves pro bono on the board of advisors for three companies, *FlatLandGenetics*, *HadosBiotech*, and *StelaGenomics*. This level of professional service is both impressive at her career stage and indicative of the value she places on helping others.

For these reasons, I strongly support Dr. Damar Lopez-Arredondo for the Davis College Service Award.

Respectfully,

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