



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College

Plant & Soil Science™

April 30, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Wenxuan Guo, an associate professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, for the Davis College Graduate Advising Award. During his past seven years at Texas Tech, Dr. Guo has demonstrated exceptional leadership in guiding and nurturing the academic journey of graduate students, resulting in positive outcomes for both his graduated and current students. I think you will find his accomplishments competitive with those of previous recipients of this prestigious award. One page requires me to be concise, so some of his accomplishments are included below as bullets:

- Three Ph.D. and five M.S. graduates in the past five years
 - Jasmine Neupane is assistant professor at Missouri, a top plant science school
- Six current Ph.D. students with remarkable success
 - Rupak Karn: PSS Graduate Council President – a current finalist for a tenure-track assistant professor position at NDSU
 - Oluwatola Adediji received national Gerald O. Mott graduate award (one of ~20 nationally)
 - Graduate students have authored 12 publications in the Guo lab
 - Eight national graduate poster or presentation awards
- Advised Rupak Karn in re-instituting PSS Graduate Seminar Series
 - Speakers in 2024 included a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Katharine Hayhoe, and five scientists from outside the Texas Tech University system (don't discuss the finances of this with me at this time)

Beyond his academic endeavors, Dr. Guo's commitment to excellence extends to the classroom, where his teaching evaluations consistently surpass departmental, college, and university standards. His ability to inspire and engage students underscores his holistic approach to fostering intellectual growth and academic success among his mentees.

Dr. Guo is an example of a mentor who gets his hands dirty and works closely with his graduate students toward their success. His students are successful because he actively mentors them and expects them to grow as scientists. We are fortunate to have Dr. Wenxuan Guo in PSS, and I highly recommend him for the Davis College Graduate Advising Award.

Respectfully,

Glen L. Ritchie, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science