



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Davis College

Plant & Soil Science™

Department of Plant and Soil Science

M.S. 2122

Lubbock, TX 79409-2122

May 16, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Catherine Simpson for the Davis College Teaching Award. Dr. Simpson has exemplified the values we strive for in our teaching and student success since she joined our department in September of 2019. She has shown remarkable dedication to her students and has carried a substantial teaching and graduate advising role in our department, ensuring that our students have an excellent experience here at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Simpson is a talented and ambitious teacher. Since 2020, she has taught 600 students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, with several of her courses having an integral lab component. She is an innovator, involving her classes in the Innovation Hub competition and encouraging them to create marketable projects. She strives to teach through hands-on activities and consistently receives very strong evaluations (average for all questions over all years: 4.60). Some examples of her students' responses include the following:

*"Professor Simpson presented the material in a manner that was efficient and easy to understand. It was also very applicable to hands-on situations that might be encountered in the professional arena. I enjoyed the problem solving situations she offered as a learning tool and appreciated the access to loads of additional information. I truly enjoyed her class!"*

*"I completely enjoyed Dr. Simpson's course. She does a great job with presenting the material for the course and also provides additional resource for those wanted to do some additional research on the topics being discussed."*

*"Loved how the iHUB competition was part of the class assignments. Hope to see more PSS classes continue this practice."*

Talented teachers also instruct outside the classroom. Dr. Simpson has a talented and highly-productive lab group who have benefited from her mentorship. She meets with her on-campus students once per week, has regular full-lab meetings, offers a special problems course titled "Preparing for Horticulture Professions" for her students in the fall, holds a writing group twice per month, and serves on outside student committees. Her devotion to her students in and out of the classroom is admirable, and her students truly appreciate her efforts.

I highly recommend Dr. Catherine Simpson for this teaching award because of her diligence and dedication to students, commitment to research, and advising excellence. I believe that she is well deserving of this award and will represent Texas Tech University well. If you have any questions about this letter or her abilities or accomplishments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Glen L. Ritchie, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science