2017 O.W.L. Award Winner

Dr. Mindy Brashears, Animal and Food Sciences
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Biography
Mindy Brashears is a professor and Director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University. Her research focuses on interventions in pre-and post-harvest environments and on the emergence of antimicrobial drug resistance. Her interests are primarily in meat and poultry products, with some work on spinach as well. Her work has resulted in the commercialization of pre-harvest feed additives that reduce E. coli and Salmonella in cattle. She also leads international research teams to Mexico Belize and Argentina to improve food safety and security in those sectors and to set up sustainable agriculture systems in impoverished areas. She teaches courses in food microbiology and food safety and offers industry training in food sanitation, recalls and food security. She holds a B.S. in food technology from Texas Tech and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in food science from Oklahoma State University.

Nomination by Katelyn Ortega
I have known Dr. Brashears since 2010, my junior year of high school, when I competed in my first agriscience competition. I was able to work in Dr. Brashears' lab researching antibiotic resistance in beef cattle. I began at Texas Tech in the fall of 2011 as an undergraduate student assistant in her lab, and I continued under Dr. Brashears as a master's student, and am currently one of her PhD students. Dr. Brashears has shown tremendous efforts in food safety as a world-renowned scientist, and a recent inductee into the National Academy of Inventors. She is constantly expanding her reach across the globe in the name of food safety and food security. Dr. Brashears is always encouraging her students to reach into the deepest depths to find novel solutions or a better understanding of issues at hand. She can be found out in the field along-side her students or speaking at conference

to rooms of hundreds of people. She is a bright example to women everywhere who wish to pursue their dreams of being scientists, and it has been an honor to work under her leadership.

Nomination by Erin Castelli
Mindy is easily recognized as an outstanding leader, professional, professor, and mentor. I tremendously admire Mindy for her exceptional qualities as a leader and as a visionary being constantly involved in projects that create an impact in the community at Texas Tech University and internationally. She has a big heart and wanting to spread awareness of Food Safety/Food Security to the people in need especially in underdeveloped countries such as Honduras and Costa Rica. Mindy is a perfect example of someone who supports diversity and equity. Her group of collaborators is characterized for being highly diverse with different ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds, and yet the work environment in her lab and among her group is to be admired. Mindy values everyone and always makes sure we understand that!