



APLU's Academic Programs Section Announces Winners of 2018 Innovative Teaching Award

Washington, DC— The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Board on Agriculture Assembly Academic Programs Section today named University Tennessee's Dr. Francine Hollis as a winner of its 2018 Innovative Teaching Award. In its fifth year, the awards are intended to bolster innovation in the post-secondary teaching of agriculture and related fields.

The awards program encourages new faculty to expand their scholarship of teaching and learning by creating projects with more senior faculty from other institutions. This supports institutional collaboration and the adoption of innovative teaching and learning experiences for students at more institutions. Awardees share \$3,000 to use on classroom aids, travel, or other project needs in the future.

“For junior faculty involved, this may be the first monetary award they receive, which, when combined with the mentoring by working with senior faculty on the project, should boost their abilities in the classroom,” said Wendy Fink, APLU Director of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources and Executive Director of the Academic Programs Section.

Dr. Francine H. Hollis, an Assistant Professor and Assessment Coordinator in the Department of Food Science at The University of Tennessee, will collaborate with Dr. Cheryl Rock at California State University on a project entitled “Deciphering Food Laws and Regulations: An Interactive Course Module Approach to Enhance Student Learning and Understanding.” The overall goal of this project is to ensure that students play an active role in the learning process. Dr. Hollis and Dr. Rock will develop and implement interactive course modules into their respective food laws and regulations courses. The interactive course modules will be used to promote student autonomy, enhance critical thinking skills, and enable students to better communicate information regarding food laws and regulations.

The APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly Academic Programs Section hopes these awards serve as a basis for continued innovation in agricultural education and as motivation to seek additional funding from other sources for continued innovation.

The full list of winners follows below:

- *Deciphering Food Laws and Regulations: An Interactive Course Module Approach to Enhance Student Learning and Understanding*

- Francine H. Hollis, Assistant Professor and Assessment Coordinator, The University of Tennessee
- Cheryl Rock, Assistant Professor of Food Science, California State University, Long Beach
- *Developing and Diffusing a Cross-Disciplinary, Multi-Institutional University Entrepreneurial Leadership Graduate Course*
 - Matthew M. Mars, Assistant professor, Agricultural Leadership and Innovation, The University of Arizona
 - Jeni Hart, Professor, Higher Education, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Associate Vice Provost for Advanced Studies, University of Missouri-Columbia
- *Increased Minority Success and Representation in Forensic Science through Collaborative Teaching Efforts*
 - Trevor Stamper, Clinical Assistant professor, Department of Entomology, Purdue University
 - Krystal Hans, Assistant Professor, Delaware State University
- *Integrative Use of an Incubator Farm Class Project to Enhance Student Engagement in Learning Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems*
 - Xin Zhao, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida
 - Derek Farnsworth, Assistant Professor, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida
 - Jacqueline Ricotta, Professor, Department of Plant Science, Delaware Valley University
- *Using YouTube Videos to Teach Techniques in Plant Propagation*
 - Mark Bridge, Professor and Director, Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center, Cornell University
 - Nick Menchyk, Assistant Professor, Department of urban Horticulture and Design, Farmingdale State College

Past winners can be [viewed here](#).

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. With a membership

of 237 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement. Annually, member campuses enroll 4.8 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.3 million degrees, employ 1.3 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$44.9 billion in university-based research.

APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) promotes agriculture in all of its phases (food, environment, agriculture, natural resources, and international) in state universities and land-grant colleges. In addition, it provides leadership in communicating about university-based programs and priorities with the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and private organizations. The Academic Programs Section ensures developing human capital in agriculture, food, natural resources and related areas is a preeminent concern of land-grant and state university systems and its federal partners. APS is comprised of administrators of academic programs at colleges of agriculture.