

NACTA Teaching Award of Merit for Faculty: This award recognizes excellence in on-campus teaching that aims to transform lives through innovation in teaching, discovery-driven education experiences, exceptional student engagement, and imparting skills relevant to the workforce.

Dr. Jennifer Thomson, Assistant Professor in the PSPP department: Dr. Thomson continuously adapts and innovates in her courses to foster learning, enhance critical thinking and stimulate creativity and engagement. Dr. Thomson engages students in Principles of Genetics and Animal Breeding, Advanced Animal Breeding, and Research Methods through real-life scenarios and experiential learning. Her dedication to providing new educational opportunities for her students is inspiring.



NACTA Teaching Award of Merit for Graduate Students: This award recognizes excellence in on-campus teaching that aims to transform lives through innovation in teaching, discovery-driven education experiences, exceptional student engagement, and imparting skills relevant to the workforce.

Justin Gay and Bryce Currey, PhD students in the LRES department: Justin served as TA for three years in Environmental Biogeochemistry. He formalized the greenhouse experiment portion of the lab, developing a poster session for students to share results and synthesize the material. Bryce developed and managed the labs for ENSC 426 and 429R, integrating his PhD work to introduce the students to advanced and open-source remote sensing software and putting the proprietary software into perspective.



Marley Manoukian, an MS student in the ARS department: Marley served as a teaching assistant for two years for ANSC 202, taking the lead in Fall 2020. She not only taught a lab section each week, but she was also responsible for each lab TA, the lab curriculum, and creating lab materials for each lab as revisions were necessary for Covid safe practices. She also conducted one-on-one instruction with undergraduate students working in Dr. Van Emon's and Dr. DelCurto's lab. Congratulations Marley!



MSU Transformational Teaching Award: This award recognizes on-campus teaching that transforms lives for the better through innovation in teaching, discovery-driven education experiences, exceptional student engagement, and imparting skills relevant to the workforce.

Dr. Michelle Flenniken, Associate Professor PSPP department: Dr. Flenniken teaches large enrollment classes in Genetics and Virology with a highly engaging environment for all students. She employs peer-to-peer interactions and creates an environment where students feel comfortable to 'pass the question back' when she calls on them. Dr. Flenniken is also known for establishing a strong foundation in scientific writing and oral presentation skills in graduate students, reviewing writing and presentation drafts multiple times throughout the course of a semester, guiding learning of the process through peer reviewing, capped off with ample opportunities to practice these skills. From a student comment *"I found your active engagement with the class by asking questions or having us discuss something with the person near us to be really helpful. I also think that this course did a really good job of accommodating an online platform for hybrid class delivery. This class has been really motivating to me and I feel very inspired to continue learning about viruses. Thank you for teaching me this semester!"*



MSU Meritorious Service Award: This award recognizes individuals for their dedication and extraordinary service to the College of Agriculture and the Montana Agricultural Research Station to go above and beyond the service expectations.

Julia Dafoe, Research Associate at NARC: Ms. Dafoe is recognized for her exceptionally hard work at becoming more than just a support person for one research program. She is currently the research associate on the project *Adding Value to Montana Beef Cattle*. She is the steward of over 100 years of paper and digital records from the entire Beef Cattle Research project from NARC beginning in 1913. Ms. Dafoe has also become a go-to member for several safety-related procedures for the livestock crew and the cattle themselves. She has shown leadership in executing, mentoring and maintaining safe working areas and procedures for both the livestock and employees, all the time engaging other employees, students, community members



along other faculty members with collaborative research projects in a courteous and professional matter that increase MSU's reach throughout the beef industry in Montana.

Impactful Outreach and Community Engagement Award: This award recognizes individuals who have made especially significant outreach and engagement contributions to benefit the many diverse communities and populations of Montana.

Dr. George Haynes, Professor in the DAEE: During his 26 years at MSU, Dr. Haynes' outreach and engagement programs have addressed a myriad of issues critical to Montana's agriculture including early childhood services, outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, children care markets, poverty, family-owned business resilience, eating disorders, small manufacturing sector, home care, tribally-defined assets and consumer sentiment, youth suicide prevention, on-line financial education for chronically ill rural women, and intervention for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. All of this Montana-centric projects directly impacted Montanans over the last quarter century. Collaborators speak highly of the partnerships he has garnered, expanding extension's and his impact. Dr. Haynes is a truly stellar extension specialist whose exceptional outreach programs have enriched the people of the State of Montana and, of course, burnished the reputation of the MSU extension service over the past three decades.



Excellence in Research and Discovery Award: This award recognizes scientists who are national leaders in their area of research and whose research has made substantial contributions in moving forward their profession and improving the economy, society, and quality of life beyond the contribution to academia.

Dr. Lisa Rew, Professor LRES department: Dr. Rew has established an internationally renowned research program in weed ecology and mountain invasion ecosystems. Her combination of basic and applied research demonstrates her ecological aptitude as a scientist as well as her ability to recognize relevant needs in weed management and formulate research questions that further the management of invasive plants across a variety of agricultural and ecological systems. Her 78 journal articles span research on butterfly habitat, biology of *Bromus sterilis*, spatial pattern of nonindigenous plants, invasion process and susceptibility to invasion. Representing a culmination of her combined research efforts, the sampling strategy she proposed has become the backbone to the Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN) plant surveys that has been repeated three times over ten years in ten mountain regions of the world. The data collected provide the basis of seven MIREN publications, including one in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Rew's work is well respected, and she is recognized as a national and international leader in her field.

