

Department of Animal Sciences Colorado State University

2020 Spring Awards (Spring Branding Banquet)

Typically the Department of Animal Sciences recognizes outstanding students and alumni during an annual Spring Branding Awards Banquet. This event was not held in 2020; however, we feel strongly that it is important to still recognize our students, particularly during this unique and challenging time.

Therefore, earlier this spring we asked for nominations from our students and faculty for the following 17 awards. With almost 900 students in 2 majors across the department, we were fortunate to have received numerous nominations and have very close voting in many categories. Below we recognize the winners of each award. Full-time students in good academic standing majoring in Animal or Equine Sciences were eligible to be nominated for these awards by faculty, students, and/or self-nomination. Voting was done by faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences. A video announcing these award winners is posted on the Department of Animal Sciences social media website.

Congratulations to the following award winners!

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- 1) The **Early Impact Award** recognizes Freshmen or Sophomore-level students who have made an impact in the Department during their relatively short time at CSU. Students receiving this award excel in and out of the classroom by participating in extracurricular activities, succeeding in the classroom, and serving as ambassadors to their peers.

Animal Sciences Early Impact Award Winner:

Alexandra (Lexie) Miller

The nomination statement for Lexie read “Academically, Lexie is an excellent student who is double majoring in Animal Sciences and Agriculture Business. She has taken some very rigorous courses throughout her tenure at Colorado State University and, in every case, she has met the challenge. And, Lexie has also been very active outside of school. She is currently an active member of Ag Ambassadors and Collegiate Farm Bureau and a member of the CSU Animal Science Meat Evaluation Judging Team and Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team, and is a 4-H project leader.”

Equine Sciences Early Impact Award Winner:

Nareida Arroyo-Ramirez

The nomination statement for Nereida read “Nereida embodies the principles of community. Her positive and welcoming attitude make everyone feel welcome. She is a stranger to no one and works incredibly hard in and out of the classroom. Nereida's natural leadership style, combined with her commitment to inclusive excellence, serves as an example for all and helps advance the

principles of community. I personally saw Nereida reach out to a struggling student. The kindness that Nereida showed made a difference in her fellow Ram's experience."

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- 2) The **Ram Pride Award** recognizes students who best embody making everyone welcome in the department, across varying identities and backgrounds, and pays attention to building a community where all feel welcomed. This student embodies the spirit of CSU and the Ram Family.

Animal Sciences Ram Pride Award Winner:

Bella Pulido

The nomination statement for Bella read "Bella embodies the ram pride award. Last summer she helped the department student success team with summer orientation where she created a welcoming and inclusive setting for all new equine and animal science majors. However, I also witnessed this talented individual connect with a variety of students representing several backgrounds and identities sharing her stories and experiences while getting to know them. Bella is a Department of Animal Sciences Steward, former Ag Ambassador and member of the Herd. Most days you will find Bella's smiling face at the front desk in the student success center welcoming and helping all stakeholders or providing a tour to a prospective student."

Equine Sciences Ram Pride Award Winner:

Bailee Jones

The nomination statement for Bailee read "Bailee is always so friendly, bubbly, and welcoming to all. She is a ray of sunshine in every room and so good at making friends regardless of where she is. We will be walking across campus and 5 random people from varying departments will call out "Hey Bailee!"

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- 3) The **Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher** recognizes a student who best exemplifies undergraduate research, including those who are working on an undergraduate research project and/or an honor's thesis.

Animal Sciences Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Winner:

Jordan Marsh

The nomination statement for Jordan read "Jordan is an impressive student across the board (4.0 GPA, presidential ambassador, etc.) and she is a participant in the CSU honors program. Prior to her senior year she has participated in several research projects (including with the breeding/genetics group, and the nutrition group). And, in her senior year she is providing the lead in development of a set of national animal welfare-based standards (guidelines) for sheep producers in relation to the production of wool."

Equine Sciences Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Winner:

Gwyneth Knott

The nomination statement for Gwyneth read "Gwyneth has the qualities necessary as a researcher: she critically thinks, asks complex questions, and has an inquisitive attitude."

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- 4) The **Graduate Student Spur of Excellence Award** recognizes a graduate student who is dedicated to not only his or her own education, but to supporting undergraduate students in their quests for knowledge.

Graduate Student Spur of Excellence Award Winner: **Octavio de Almedia Guimaras**

The nomination statement for Octavio read “Octavio has become a key person in our department, including through his support of research activities across several disciplines. But he has also become an asset to our teaching program, including by always being helpful to both undergraduate and graduate students. Octavio balances several roles in the department, but he finds times to help everyone and maintain a friendly and jovial attitude.”

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- 5) The **Unique Educational Journey Award** recognizes a student who has successfully faced and overcome challenges and barriers during their time at CSU.

Equine Sciences Unique Educational Journey Award Winner: **Christine English**

The nomination statement for Christine read “Christine is a great student to have in class and is always helpful to all faculty. She has faced the challenges with going back to school after years out of school head-on, in addition to the challenges of being a single mother while working on her degree.”

Animal Sciences Unique Educational Journey Award Winner: **Huey Yi Loh**

The nomination statement for Huey read “Huey, originally from Malaysia, has worked tirelessly to be able to attend CSU and learn English. She supports herself by working numerous part-time jobs. Learning English as a second language and maintaining a 3.96 GPA is a tribute to her work ethic and ability to thrive in the face of adversity.”

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- 6) The **Friend of CSU Award** recognizes outstanding alumni and terrific industry partners who support the multiple endeavors of CSU faculty staff and students.

Animal Sciences Friend of CSU Winner: **Todd Inglee, CO Beef Council**

The nomination for Todd read “In his role as the head of the checkoff-funded Colorado Beef Council, Todd has been a huge supporter of CSU, and in particular the Colorado Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program. Todd regularly provides programmatic support of BQA efforts. He has also guest lectured at CSU and has several children studying at CSU in the College of Ag”

Equine Sciences Friend of CSU Winner: **Christy Landwehr, CJL Training**

The nomination statement for Christy read “Christy has been a great supporter of our program. She often comes to speak to classes and shares her experiences as a Master Level Riding Instructor and Equine Facility Manager. She also serves on the CSU Equine Sciences Advisory Committee.”

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- 7) The **Outstanding Student Award** recognizes all-around students who excel in and out of the classroom, including those who are most engaged in the department via classroom participation, extracurricular activities, academics and other related areas.

Animal Sciences Outstanding Student Award Winner: **Tori Teegarden**

The nomination statement for Tori read “Tori has been a very visible part of this department, serving at the front desk, helping with research, greeting visitors, etc. She embodies the Ram Family spirit.”

Equine Sciences Outstanding Student Award Winner: **Lillian Esterl-Byrne**

The nomination statement for Lillian read “Lillian is involved with the Stewards and many other extra-curricular programs, events, and activities that go on in the Department. While staying active she maintains a very high GPA and continues to do well in the classroom. She is committed to CSU and wants to help each organization she’s involved in succeed.”

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- 8) The **Ram Alumni Award** recognizes alumni who have made an impact in their respective industries/communities. In doing so, this alum has continued to represent the Ram spirit and bring honor to Colorado State University.

Animal Sciences Ram Alumni Award Winner: **Dr. John Scanga, Meyer Natural Foods**

The nomination statement for Dr. Scanga read “John is a leader in the field of Meat Science and has been a consistent advocate for CSU in all that he does. All 3 of his degrees are from CSU, and he has worked in a variety of positions in the meat industry including as a CSU faculty member and now as Vice President of Quality Assurance for Meyer Natural Foods.”

Equine Sciences Ram Alumni Award Winner: **Cailin Caldwell, Right Horse Initiative**

The nomination statement for Cailin read “From working at the AQHA in Amarillo to the Right Horse Initiative where she currently resides, Cailin has continued to excel and make her impact on the equine industry. She received a BS degree in Equine Sciences from CSU after coming to Colorado from Seattle, Washington.”

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- 9) The **Academic Achievement Award** is limited to Junior and Senior students with a GPA of 3.8 or higher. These students represent some of the best academic records at CSU and have worked hard to earn this nomination.

Equine Sciences Academic Achievement Award Winner:

Tate Thornton

The nomination statement for Tate read “Tate is always there to help and is passionate about her major. She excels in the classroom and within our program, always giving her best. She is always studying, responsible, and engaged. She is an excellent student to be around!”

Animal Sciences Academic Achievement Award Winner:

Jordan Marsh

The nomination statement for Jordan read “Jordan is an impressive student academically; however, she is also a presidential ambassador and college of Ag ambassador and a participant in the CSU honors program where she has participated in several undergraduate research projects. Simply stated, she is organized, passionate, and motivated – Jordan exemplifies academic achievement and is a fantastic student in and out of the classroom.”