

Great Plains CESU Graduate Student Award

The Great Plains CESU (GP CESU) Graduate Student Award seeks to recognize the outstanding accomplishments by graduate students involved in research projects funded through the GP CESU funding agreement.

AWARD

The winner of the award will be presented at the annual GP CESU meeting held early Spring Semester. If available, the Awardee will have the opportunity to give a presentation of the project they worked on or present a research poster to partners. The Awardee will also receive a formal letter of recognition from the GP CESU Director, and the project will be featured in our Spring Newsletter.

CRITERIA

Nominees must be in the latter portion of their graduate program or may have graduated in the last academic year prior to nomination.

The criteria used to select award recipients are broad and flexible, but generally fall into the following categories:

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Nominations can come from either the academic partner or the federal agency. Nominators must submit all the required information (*see second page*) in electronic format to the GP CESU Director and office, by the annual deadline.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

After receipt of the materials, the GP CESU will ask for a letter of support for 2-3 finalists. Nominations from academic advisors will be asked for letters from the collaborating federal agency partner and vice versa. All nominations are reviewed and evaluated by the GP CESU Director.

Graduate Student Award Nomination Form

The Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (GP CESU) Graduate Student Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments by students involved in projects funded through the GP CESU funding agreement. Nominations may be submitted by the student's academic advisor or any representative of the federal agency (e.g., GP CESU technical representative, park/management unit manager, etc.) that collaborated on the student's project.

1. Student Information

- Name of student nominee.
- Mailing address, phone number, and email address.
- Degree program and current status (years in program or graduation date).

2. GP CESU Project Information

- Project title.
- Time frame in which the project was completed.
- Names and contact information for the university partner and federal GP CESU collaborator.

3. A description of the student's accomplishments in 500 words or less. The Student Award recognizes outstanding contributions "above and beyond" the standard expectations for a student project. The criteria used to select the award recipient are broad and flexible, but generally fall into the following categories:

- The student has delivered an outstanding service or product, including innovative and impactful research project, a well-written thesis, or other research or outreach product.
- The student's work has had a direct and exceptional impact on federal agency resource management.
- The student's work is of exceptional educational value to the federal agency and/or the general public.

4. Nominator Information

- Name of nominator.
- University or federal agency that nominator represents.
- Mailing Address, phone number, and email address.

Letters of support: Following receipt of the information above, the GP CESU will select 2-3 finalists, and we will ask for a letter of support or endorsement for the student from the academic advisor or a representative of the collaborating federal agency (*see #2 above*). If the nominator is the academic advisor, we will seek a letter from a representative of the federal agency involved in the project. If the federal agency is nominating the student, we will seek a letter from the student's academic advisor. Please provide this information, including email address.

Nominations should be sent in electronic form to the current Director and the Office Contact:

Director: Paul Hanson phanson2@unl.edu

Adm. Support: Barb Biffle bbiffle2@unl.edu