

# COVID-19 Exceptional Effort Awards

This series of NDSU Extension awards recognizes the exceptional and innovative efforts of Extension personnel to overcome the challenges our communities and stakeholders have faced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020. Your collective efforts, across our system, has enabled the university to continue to carry out its land-grant mission of teaching, research, and extension through this extraordinary time. These awards provide public recognition of the accomplishments of individuals, teams, and units.

## ELIGIBILITY

All NDSU Extension specialists, agents, parent educators, nutrition education assistants and support staff, are eligible for nomination. Nominations are encouraged from the entire system and the award categories are intentionally broad with the goal of recognizing individuals, teams, units, and collaborative efforts.

## HOW TO NOMINATE

Any NDSU Extension staff member can nominate by completing the simple nomination Google form found [here](#). Nominations are limited to 300 words and must describe clearly why the nominee or nominees merit recognition (please note you can nominate other individuals or teams OR nominate yourself or your team). No supplementary materials or letters of support are required, but photos would be appreciated for posting to SharePoint (not required). The deadline for submission of nominations is August 15, 2021. Nominations will be evaluated by a central review committee that will seek to balance recognition across NDSU Extension. Awardees will be notified during the Extension Connection call on September 16, 2021, at 3 PM.

Individual and team awardees will receive a certificate and recognition, and their 300-word nomination will be posted to our NDSU Extension SharePoint site. One winner in each category will also receive a program award of \$250 for an individual or \$500 for a team that can be spent on NDSU eligible expenses (travel, supplies, equipment, etc.).

PLEASE SUBMIT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH NOMINATION. THERE IS NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS ALLOWED. MONETARY AWARDS WILL BE DEPENDANT ON THE NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS IN EACH CATEGORY.

## **AWARD CATEGORIES**

- **Excellence in Innovative Program Delivery Award**  
Recognizes individuals or teams who developed and implemented innovative ways to safely reach their audience with research-based education and information.
- **Excellence in Remote Instruction Award**  
Recognizes an individual or team who made exceptional efforts to successfully transform educational offerings into engaging and accessible remote teaching platforms while maintaining an exceptional standard of quality.
- **Excellence in Community Response to COVID-19 Award**  
Recognizes an individual or team who made exceptional efforts to assist their community, broadly defined, in respond to a need resulting from COVID-19 and/or imposed restrictions.
- **Exemplary Collaboration Effort Award**  
Recognizes a unit that has gone above and beyond expectations to support NDSU Extension in navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Impact can be extension-wide, multi-disciplinary, or focused on a specific program or county.
- **Exemplary Support Staff Award**  
Recognizes individuals who provided exemplary support for NDSU Extension personnel navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Exemplary Support for Partner Organization Award**  
Recognizes NDSU Extension personnel who went above and beyond to support a partner organization in fulfilling its mission during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- **Extension Pivot Award**  
Recognizes an individual or team who pivoted quickly and effectively to continue educating and serving North Dakotans when the guidance came to close offices and stop in-person meetings.
- **Extension Impact Award**  
Recognizes an individual (faculty or staff) or team who demonstrated innovation and resilience to successfully carry out impactful Extension efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.