

# COVID-19 Exceptional Effort Awards

This series of ISU Extension and Outreach-level awards recognizes the exceptional and innovative efforts of faculty, staff, and volunteers to overcome the challenges our communities and stakeholders have faced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020. This collective effort, 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 ISU Extension and Outreach faculty, staff, councils, and volunteers, county and university, are eligible for nomination. Nominations are encouraged from the entire system (program units, county services, councils, and operations). The award categories are intentionally broad with the goal of recognizing individuals, teams, units, and collaborative efforts.

## HOW TO NOMINATE

Any ISU Extension and Outreach faculty, staff, councils, and volunteers can nominate by completing a simple [nomination form](#). Nominations are limited to 500 words and must describe clearly why the nominee or nominees merit recognition. No supplementary materials or letters of support will be accepted. The deadline for submission of nominations is December 11, 2020. Nominations will be evaluated by a central review committee that will seek to balance recognition across ISU Extension and Outreach. Awardees will be notified in January 2021.

Individual and team awardees will receive a certificate and formal public recognition, and their 500-word nomination will be posted to MyExtension. One winner in each category will also receive a program award of \$250 for an individual or \$500 for a team that will be placed into an ISU account and can be spent through the normal ISU financial process. The funds can be spent as other ISU funds.

PLEASE SUBMIT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH NOMINATION. THERE IS NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS ALLOWED. ONE TO THREE MONETARY AWARDS PER CATEGORY WILL BE GIVEN.

## 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 Team or Unit Effort Award**  
Recognizes a unit that has gone above and beyond expectations to support ISU Extension and Outreach in navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Impact can be extension-wide or focused on a specific program or county.
- **Exemplary Support for Staff or Colleagues Award**  
Recognizes individuals, colleagues, councils, or volunteers who provided exemplary support for ISU Extension and Outreach faculty or staff navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Exemplary Support for Partner Organization Award**  
Recognizes ISU Extension and Outreach faculty and staff 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 lowans 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.