

2018 National Experiment Station Diversity and Inclusion Award  
Mentoring@Purdue Team  
Levon Esters and Neil Knobloch, Purdue University

Following a national solicitation for nominations and a rigorous evaluation, the first National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award was given in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 2, 2018 during the 2018 ESS/AES/ARD Annual Meeting to The Mentoring@Purdue team, led by Drs. Neil Knobloch and Levon Esters. This program originated in 2012 evolving from an experiment station Hatch Project and has led directly to \$2.4 million in external funding to support diversity and inclusion.

The Mentoring@Purdue program has dramatically increased inclusion and mentoring on the Purdue campus and has effectively led to the recruitment of women and underrepresented minorities into graduate programs. The Mentoring@Purdue program extends beyond Purdue by employing an innovative 1862–1890 land-grant university model. This strategy has enhanced the STEM pipeline of talented students of diverse backgrounds through historically black colleges' and universities' (HBCUs) engagement and outreach, peer-to-peer mentoring, critical topic seminars, monthly meetings, and summer scholar programs. The Mentoring@Purdue team now includes 15 future leaders of diversity and inclusion and has impacted over 2,500 student, staff, and faculty participants from Purdue and 7 HBCUs.