

2024 National agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awards

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Mr. Elias Quiñonez

*College of Agricultural Sciences
Colorado State University*

Mr. Elias Quiñonez has been a pivotal force in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station. His innovative initiatives, closely aligned with agInnovation's goals to foster rural development and bridge divides among marginalized populations, have set a national standard for inclusive agricultural education.

Through strategic recruitment, expanding undergraduate research opportunities, and preserving historical narratives, Mr. Quiñonez has developed programs that enhance diversity within Colorado State University and contribute to building a more equitable agricultural workforce across the nation.

Mr. Quiñonez's project portfolio reflects a deep understanding of the complex challenges faced by underrepresented populations in agricultural sciences. His work addresses the needs of both urban and rural communities and various ethnic and cultural groups, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to DEI. By strategically leveraging resources from the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, industry partners, and government agencies, he has crafted a multifaceted strategy that can be emulated nationwide.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in advancing DEI in the agricultural experiment station ecosystem, Mr. Elias Quiñonez has been selected as the individual winner of the National agInnovation 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award.