Science Societies

Top graduate students honored with 2026 Mott Award

April 30, 2026



Congratulations to the students who are recipients of this year's Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science. This annual award recognizes top-notch graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in crop science disciplines. Departments select students based on academic achievements, research and teaching contributions, leadership accomplishments, service activities, and personal qualifications. Multiple students from one school may be recognized as these students represent their departments.

The award is named for the first CSSA President, Gerald O. Mott, who trained 75 graduate students during his 45-year career at Purdue University and the University of Florida. Many of his students have become eminent forage scientists in the United States and Latin America. The award is offered by CSSA.



Gourav Chahal
Auburn University



Diana Camarena Onofre
California State University, Fresno



Karamvir Kaur
Clemson University



Preetaman Bajwa
Cornell University



Venkata Naresh Boddepalli
Iowa State University



Sourajit Dey
Kansas State University



Smruthi Sagarika Mahapatra
Mississippi State University



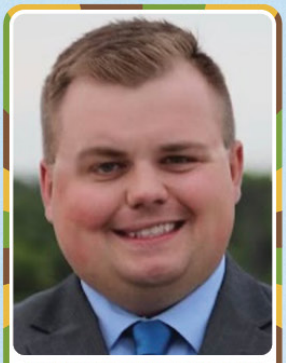
Safal Adhikari
Montana State University



Sittal Thapa
North Dakota State University



Gayatri Sharma
North Dakota State University



Cameron Matthews
North Dakota State University



Binod Pokhrel
Oklahoma State University



Josie Rice
Oklahoma State University



Maliheh Shaltouki Rizi
Purdue University



Vera Vukovic
Purdue University



Sowmya Koduru
Southern Illinois University



Mandeep Singh
South Dakota State University



Mukesh Chaudhary
Tennessee State University



Ryan C. Hamberg
Texas A&M University



Jonah VanRoekel
The Ohio State University



Gabriela Mengez
University of Arkansas



Nkem Joseph Nwosu
University of Florida



Suraj Melkani
University of Florida



Kelvin Dodzi Aloryi
University of Florida



Ujjwal Sigdel
University of Georgia



Navdeep Singh Sidhu
University of Idaho



Jung Woo Lee
University of Illinois



Maria Magdalena Ricciardi
University of Kentucky



Navjot Singh
University of Minnesota



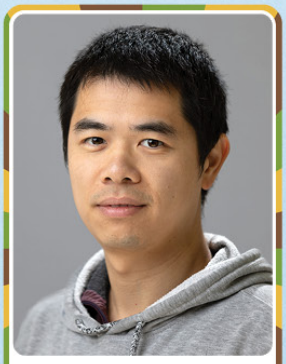
Akashdeep Kamboj
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Ophelia Tsai
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Juma Bukomba
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Yizhou Mao
University of Wisconsin–Madison



Olanrewaju Adeyemi
Utah State University



Ranadheer Vennam
Virginia Tech



Faishal Khan
Washington State University

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