



2025 Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award

Sponsored by:
The Southern Rural Development Center

The Southern Rural Development Center is pleased to announce that nominations are being sought for the Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award for 2025. The following provides specific information regarding this important award and the deadline date for nominations to be received. This award honors the work of a "rising star" who has already achieved great things in his/her early career in community development. The award comes with a \$500 stipend.

Eligibility: The nominee must meet the following conditions:

- Be currently employed by one of the 30 Land-Grant Universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region;
- Serve as an administrator, specialist, or agent who has worked in the Extension CD area for 10 years or less;
- Have an impressive portfolio of Extension-related programs and publications

Nomination Process:

1. **Prepare the Primary Letter of Nomination:** A "Primary Letter of Nomination" is required from an Extension educator or administrator in the South (not the nominee) who has an excellent command of the accomplishments of the nominee. This letter should not exceed 4 single-spaced pages in length (using 12-point font and 1" margins) and should represent a concise summary of why the nominee is worthy of the award. The letter will serve as the centerpiece of the nomination process and should offer substantive evidence of the superior work that the nominee has achieved thus far during his/her Extension career. The primary nomination letter should include:
 - A description of the major community development-related achievements of the nominee during of his/her career, with special attention to the significant impact of the person's community development efforts at the local, state, Southern region, national, and/or international levels;
 - Highlights of key community development products that have been developed by the nominee over his/her Extension career (i.e., curricula, fact sheets, websites, newsletters, articles, etc.) that have had an influence in shaping and enhancing community development work in their state, in the Southern region, and/or beyond;
 - Other important and relevant professional activities/committees in which the nominee has been involved that have helped advance Extension community development work at the state, regional, national, and/or international levels.
2. **Assemble Examples of Community Development Products:** The individual who prepares the primary letter of nomination is encouraged to submit up to three community development-related products developed by the nominee that best exemplify the quality of that person's Extension work. **Providing electronic versions of these products would be ideal (i.e., on a CD, or accessible via a web link)**, but if not feasible, the primary nominator may submit a hard copy set of these documents to the SRDC (one copy of the products only). These documents will not be returned.
3. **Obtain Three Support Letters:** Up to three letters from individuals who are knowledgeable of the nominee's Extension community development work, and who can affirm the significance of the person's career achievements



in advancing community development work within various arenas (i.e., state, region, national, international), are strongly recommended. We encourage that letters be drawn from a variety of sources, such as a county Extension educator, an administrator, a colleague affiliated with another land-grant institution, a government agency representative, a policymaker, a community leader, or other appropriate individuals. Select the combination of support letters that makes the strongest case for the nominee’s community development achievement. Each letter is limited to two pages, single space, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.

4. Curriculum vitae: Obtain a curriculum vitae for the nominee to be included in the nomination packet. This document should be no more than 3 pages, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.
5. Submit Entire Nomination Packet: The person preparing the primary letter of nomination assembles all the information/support materials and submits as a single packet to the Southern Rural Development Center.

Submission Deadline: The nomination packet (primary letter, support letters, CD documents/resources) **must be postmarked or emailed no later than Thursday, April 3, 2025**, using the addresses noted below.

Electronic submissions are highly encouraged if feasible.

First Class Mail Address:	Overnight Mail Address:	Email
Southern Rural Development Center Attn: Grace Langford P.O. Box 5187 Mississippi State, MS 39762	Southern Rural Development Center Attn: Grace Langford Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Building, Room 155 255 Tracy Drive Mississippi State, MS 39762 Phone: 662-325-3207	Grace Langford grace.langford@msstate.edu

Announcement of Award: The 2025 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award will be formally announced at the NACDEP (National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals) Conference in June 2025.

Judging Matrix

- Impact of community development work in local community, state, or nation – demonstrates clear, measurable impacts 30 Points
- Achievements - evidence of clear accomplishments and successes, which can include formal awards and recognition. 20 Points
- Community development materials produced (publications, trainings, etc.) 25 Points
- Professional activities, committee service, leadership roles 15 Points
- Overall advancement of the importance of community development efforts within Extension 10 Points

About Bonnie Teater: For 30 years, Bonnie Teater provided valuable support to the Southern Rural Development Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration through her dedication to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region’s Land-Grant Universities. She is currently enjoying retirement in Kentucky.

To learn more: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/bonnie-teater-award>

