OSU names executive associate dean

Staci Simonich will oversee academic departments, experiment stations

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

Staci Simonich, a professor of environmental and molecular toxicology and chemistry at Oregon State University, has been appointed executive associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

CORVALLIS, Ore. — For the first time, a woman is taking on the key role of executive associate dean at Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Staci Simonich, a professor of environmental and molecular toxicology and chemistry at the college, will begin her new job April 15, replacing Bill Boggess, who is shifting into a senior advisory position. She was appointed following a six-month national search.

As executive associate dean, Simonich, 52, will oversee academic departments and branch experiment stations operated by the college, leading strategic initiatives for teaching and research — namely, balancing agricultural competitiveness and food innovation with marine conservation and sustainable working lands.

"This is an exciting time to be joining the College of Agricultural Sciences," Simonich said. "The diversity of the work there in balancing conservation and production is remarkable."

Simonich will report directly to Dean Alan Sams, who said the position is critically important to the future of the college.

"We are all excited about the vision, experience and passion Dr. Simonich brings and feel fortunate to have her joining the (leadership) team," Sams said. "It is particularly significant that she will be the first woman to hold this position in the college's history."

The College of Agricultural Sciences has approximately 2,800 enrolled students with 250 faculty and an annual budget of $155 million.

Simonich also previously served as associate vice president for research operations and integrity at OSU, and was an associate department head in environmental and molecular toxicology. Her published research has focused on how natural vegetation absorbs pollutants from the atmosphere, including the now-banned pesticide, DDT.

Growing up in Green Bay, Wis., Simonich was a first-generation college student in her family. She earned her doctorate in chemistry from Indiana University in 1995, and began her career in the private sector working for Procter & Gamble, makers of a wide variety of consumer products.

Simonich said she was drawn to Oregon, and especially intrigued by the research taking place at OSU. She has been with the College of Agricultural Sciences 19 years.

"I think we're a very innovative college," she said. "I'm really excited, not only what we've done in the past, but some of the new things we're doing now that are very exciting."

Simonich pointed to the Global Hemp Innovation Center and Staterra Center as examples of pioneering new research led by OSU.

The Global Hemp Innovation Center combines more than 40 faculty from 19 academic disciplines to study new varieties and uses for industrial hemp nationwide, while the Staterra Center has been described as the "Disneyland of sustainable agriculture," studying how solar installations can benefit farmland and boost production.

"I want to make sure that we are continuing to navigate that balance between conservation and production that we have in the state and the college, and that we remain a trusted source to embrace those different perspectives," Simonich said.

Simonich said she is excited and humbled to help lead the college. She will also earn her master's degree in business administration from OSU in June.

"I'm really excited to take on this new challenge, and serve my excellent colleagues in the college," she said.

Top NW corn yield 339 bushels an acre

National winners average 383-plus bushels per acre

ONLINE
www.ncga.com

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

With yields over 300 bushels an acre, several Northwest farmers were tops in their states in the annual National Corn Growers Association contest.

Across the nation, farmers from 46 states had 7,454 entries, according to the association.

Of the state winners, 27 growers — three from each of nine classes — were national winners.

The average yield among national winners was more than 383 bushels per acre — more than the 2019 U.S. average of 168.0 bushels per acre.

The highest yield entered was 616 bushels per acre.

In the Pacific Northwest, according to the association, winners were:

• Nolan Mills of Boardman, Ore., placed first in the state in the Conventional Irrigated Class with a yield of 329 bushels per acre. He used Pioneer P1366AM.

• Jessica Wiley of Boardman, Ore., placed second in the state in the Conventional Irrigated Class with a yield of 326 bushels per acre. She used Pioneer P1366AM.

• Dean Harris of Umatilla, Ore., placed first in the state in the Strip-Till Irrigated Class with a yield of 330 bushels per acre. The hybrid used was Pioneer P1366AM.

• Eti Ena of Boardman, Ore., placed second in the state in the Strip-Till Irrigated Class with a yield of 317 bushels per acre. The hybrid used was Pioneer P0589AM.

• Miranda Taylor of Boardman, Ore., placed third in the state in the Strip-Till Irrigated Class with a yield of 280 bushels per acre. The hybrid used was DEKALB DKC62-08.

• Vern Frederickson of Boardman, Ore., placed first in the state in the No-Till Irrigated Class with a yield of 319 bushels per acre. The hybrid used was Pioneer P1366AM.

• Kristen Corpus of Irrigon, Ore., placed third in the state in the Conventional Irrigated Class with a yield of 316 bushels per acre. The hybrid used was Pioneer P1151.

• Billy Wilde of Grand View, Idaho, placed first in that state in the Strip Till Category with a yield of 304 bushels per acre. He planted Pioneer P0157R.

• Nicole and David Hults of Gooding, Idaho, were second and third, respectively, in the Strip Till Category with 259 and 246 bushels per acre. They planted DEKALB DKC49-73RIB and DKC54-38RIB, respectively.

Nolan Mills

• Mike Moyle of Star, Idaho, was first in his state in the Conventional Irrigated Class with 280 bushels an acre. He planted Pioneer P1055AM.

• Kay Hults of Wendell, Idaho, was second in the Conventional Irrigated Class with 279 bushels an acre. She planted DEKALB DKC52-61RIB.

• Richard Dale Cowger of Twin Falls, Idaho, was third in his state in the Conventional Irrigated Class with 270 bushels an acre. He planted DEKALB DKC49-72RIB.

• J. Cory Aeschliman of Colfax, Wash., was first in his state in the Conventional Non-Irrigated Category with 119 bushels per acre. He planted DEKALB DKC27-54.

• John Aeschliman of Colfax, Wash., was first in his state in the No-Till Non-Irrigated Class with 121 bushels an acre. He planted DEKALB DKC27-55RIB.

• Shawn Christian Clausen of Warden, Wash., was first in the state in the Strip Till Category with 319 bushels an acre. He planted DEKALB DKC54-38RIB.

• Jeremy Tittle of Prosser, Wash., was second in the state in the Strip Till Category with 315 bushels an acre. He planted DEKALB DKC62-06.

• Boe Clausen of Warden, Wash., was first in the state in the Conventional Irrigated Category with 339 bushels an acre. He planted Pioneer P9998R.

• Scott Gross of Warden, Wash., was second in the state in the Conventional Irrigated Category with 323 bushels an acre. He planted DEKALB DKC49-72RIB.

• Gerrit Hank Wisse of Eltopia, Wash., was third in the state in the Conventional Irrigated Category with 308 bushels an acre. He planted Pioneer P0157R.

According to the association, agronomic data gleaned from the contest revealed the following:

• Average planting population for the national winners was 39,009 seeds per acre, compared to 33,785 for all entrants.

• National winners applied an average of 323.6666 pounds of nitrogen, 102.4814 pounds of phosphorus and 210.9259 pounds of potassium per acre.

• Average commercial nitrogen use per bushel of yield was 0.89 pounds for the national winners and 0.87 pounds for all entrants.

• Some 33% of national winners applied trace minerals, compared to 8.8% of all entrants.

• 40% of national winners applied manure, compared to 7% of all entrants.

The national corn yield contest began in 1965 with 20 entries from 3 states. At that time, the highest overall yield was 218.9 bushels per acre, while the national yield average was in the mid-60-bushel-per-acre range.

The winners were recognized Feb. 28 at the 2020 Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas.

FSA adds flexibility in response to pandemic

Capital Press

USDA's Farm Service Agency is making changes to farm loan, disaster, conservation and other programs to make it easier for customers to conduct business during the coronavirus pandemic.

FSA is relaxing the loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need.

The agency announced on March 26 its service centers will remain open but by phone appointment only.

Program delivery staff will continue to be in offices and will be working with producers by phone and using email and online tools whenever possible.

FSA staff is available to continue helping producers with program signups, loan servicing and other actions.

"We recognize that farm loans are critical for annual operating and family living expenses, emergency needs and cash flow through times like this," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said.

"FSA is working to find and use every option and flexibility to provide producers with credit options and other program benefits," he said.

The agency will be accepting additional forms and applications by facsimile or electronic signature.

Some services are also available online to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the https://www.farmers.gov/ portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track USDA program applications and payments.

Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents.

Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at: https://www.farmers.gov/