

For Immediate Release

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## **McCarl Receives Presidential Award**

Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor of Agriculture Economics, Bruce A. McCarl is the 2009 recipient of the Texas A&M University Presidential Award of Excellence for Faculty Service to International Students.

The award was presented to McCarl at the spring dinner meeting Thursday (April 16) by the Texas A&M University International Board. The award was created by the executive committee of the board in 2005 in response to the university's challenge to create a more welcoming environment for international students by integrating them more fully on campus and by increasing the international awareness of Texas A&M students, officials note.

Herb Goodman, Chairman of the International Board, said that each year the nominations have grown and show that Texas A&M is aware of the needs of its international students as they adapt to a new country, new state and new university.

"We have had a very good response this year in terms of nominations for this award and all the nominees were outstanding," Goodman said. "There seems to be strong interest in bringing recognition to faculty for their service to international students."

According to one of his nominators, Dr. McCarl strives to prepare students to be members of a global community. Both domestic and international students leave his classes with an increased awareness of the global cross-cultural scope of economic analysis, agricultural concerns, economic issues and scientific contributions. But he is not only concerned with making sure his students are taught well in the classroom. One of his international students said Dr. McCarl does not hold students at arm's length, but he integrates them into the Aggie family.

McCarl's nomination packet is filled comments from his current and former students telling of his integrating them into the campus and community, his encouragement, providing flexible work hours, sending them to conferences, his sensitivity to religious beliefs, as well as academic support, occasional financial help and then assistance after graduation in securing positions.

A former student said that he felt respected, welcomed, accepted, and challenged to always do his best. He said Dr. McCarl is a role model against which he is constantly checking himself.

The award includes a check in the amount of \$2,000 for the recipient. In addition, the recipient has the opportunity to serve as “an agent for change” by having authority to designate a \$1,000 cash award to a departmental, college or university effort/activity that facilitates international student integration into the fabric of the campus or local community.

Receiving special recognition as 2009 finalists for the award were Tazim B. Jamal, Associate Professor in Recreation, Park and Tourism Science and G. Gale Wagner, Professor of Veterinary Pathobiology. Previous recipients of the award are David A. Bessler in 2006, Lloyd W. Rooney in 2007, and Kirk O. Winemiller in 2008.