



Mark R. Wilkins, PE, professor and department head, Kansas State University, is being honored for his contributions to the practice of bioprocess engineering, advancing the quality of education, and service to the society.

Wilkins is a professor and department head of the Carl and Melinda Helwig Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Kansas State University. He leads the department's three undergraduate programs, two graduate programs, and research and extension efforts. He also conducts research on processing biological materials to produce fuels, biochemicals, and bioplastics.

Wilkins has contributed to the practice of bioprocess engineering. Through his work in conversion of citrus processing waste to ethanol, pretreatment and enzymatic hydrolysis of switchgrass, conversion of syngas to alcohols, production of alcohols from carbon dioxide and hydrogen, production strategies for xylanase and lignin-degrading enzymes using recombinant fungi, utilization of corn ethanol coproducts to produce succinic acid and bioplastics, and utilization of lignin for production of bioplastics. Wilkins has advised nine PhD and nine MS graduates. He has been awarded more than \$16 million in research funding as a primary investigator or co-primary investigator. Recently, Wilkins's work has focused on efforts to produce more valuable products from coproducts of the corn ethanol industry, namely corn kernel fiber and corn distillers' oil. He is developing scalable processes to produce succinic acid and bioplastics from these coproducts through fermentation. In recognition of his work in this area, the University of Nebraska awarded Wilkins the Nebraska Corn Checkoff Presidential Chair in 2018.

A 24-year member of ASABE, Wilkins has served as a member and leader on a number of ASABE committees. Wilkins has served as ASABE Meetings Council chair, an associate editor for ASABE journals, and as a chair of the former Biological Engineering Division. Wilkins has also served as an ABET program evaluator for a number of years and was recently named as a delegate to the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission. Wilkins also maintains membership with the International Bioprocessing Association and serves on a number of editorial boards.

Wilkins is author or coauthor of 89 peer-reviewed articles and three book chapters. He also holds two US patents. Throughout his career, Wilkins has received a number of awards. Most recently, he received a 2019 ASABE Leadership Citation, Outstanding Associate Editor recognition, and a Superior Paper award. He received the 2012 Gale A. Holloway award for Professional Development, also from ASABE.