



Evangelyn C. Alocilja, professor, Michigan State University, is being honored for pioneering work in nano-biosensors for agriculture and food systems, global engagement on affordable diagnostics for sustainable health, and biosystems engineering education.

Alocilja is a professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University (MSU). She contributes to the department through her teaching, research, and other service. Her research and patent accomplishments at MSU are prolific. Alocilja has mentored undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral, and visiting scholars, and has been successful in entrepreneurship endeavors. Her record of securing competitive grants for her program has contributed to on-site biosensing applications in various scenarios, from food safety to the environment and human health.

Throughout Alocilja's career, she has focused on bringing nanotechnology-enabled biosensors into agriculture and food systems, and to the intersection of health, agriculture, food, and the environment. Her contributions to global research and outreach led her to establish the Global Alliance for Rapid Diagnostics (GARD). GARD comprises GARD-Research, GARD-Academy, GARD-Innovation Challenge, and GARD Forum; with worldwide membership. Alocilja also leads faculty in developing the current MSU biosystems engineering program and in forming the biomedical engineering concentration. She led development of an entrepreneurial engineering course that is now part of the university-level entrepreneurship and innovation minor for any undergraduate program at MSU. She has mentored 153 undergraduate students, 24 high school students, and 5 high school teachers. She has served as research advisor to 40 graduate students and 32 visiting scholars and postdocs.

Alocilja is a 31-year member of ASABE. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors, and a faculty fellow on entrepreneurship at the Eli Broad College of Business. Alocilja also maintains membership with several other professional societies.

Alocilja has authored or coauthored 150 peer-reviewed journal articles and proceedings, 2 books, 13 book chapters, 63 archived papers, and has given over 300 presentations. She has received numerous awards including the American Society for Engineering Education award for Excellence in Teaching Materials and Methods in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Balik Scientist award from the Philippine Government, and the 2013 Outstanding Alumni award from Silliman University in the Philippines. MSU has recognized her with several awards including the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty award, Innovator of the Year award, Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year award, and Withrow Teaching Excellence award.