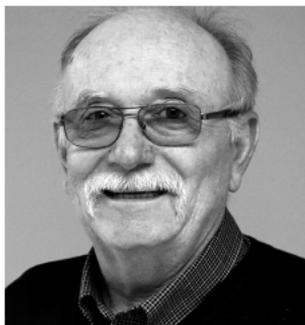


2018 ASABE Fellow



Michael D. Boyette, PE, Philip Morris Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, is being honored for his practical application of agricultural and biological engineering to the postharvest handling of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Boyette has conducted comprehensive extension and research in sweetpotato storage led to his development of the negative horizontal ventilation system, significantly improving storage conditions of the crop. As a result, sweetpotatoes can now be stored and sold year-round, leading to tremendous economic advantage for producers. In North Carolina, sweetpotato acreage has tripled since the early 1990s, and more than 95 percentage of the sweet potato storage in the United States employ negative horizontal ventilation system. The system is also employed in several sweetpotato producing regions around the world.

Throughout his career, Boyette's pragmatic research approach has led to the creation of effective solutions that work within the constraints common to postharvest processing—a limited season with short payback periods, difficult environments, and often a high potential for human error.

A 32-year member of ASABE, Boyette has provided extensive leadership in the ASABE AGCO National Student Design Competition committee and has served as an advisor for the ASABE 1/4-Scale Tractor Student Design team at North Carolina State University. Boyette has long been involved as a leader within the ASABE North Carolina section. He has also served as an associate editor for the ASABE Processing System Technical Community. Boyette maintains memberships with the American Society of Engineering Education, American Society of Horticultural Science and the Multistate Research Coordinating Committee and Information Exchange Group SERA5: Sweetpotato Collaborators.

Boyette is the author or coauthor of more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles and extension publications. A highly valued member of the NCSU Biological and Agricultural Engineering faculty, Boyette is also a founding member of the North Carolina State University Academy of Outstanding Faculty Engaged in Extension. In 2003, he was named the Phillip Morris Professor at North Carolina State University. He was recognized by the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission for his long record of work for the industry and received the National Research Impact award by the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group for his exceptional achievements in postharvest engineering. Boyette has taught Senior Design at NCSU for nearly 20 years and is beloved and respected mentor to undergraduate and graduate students.