D. Raj Raman, PE, Morrill Professor, biological systems engineering, Iowa State University, is being honored for steadfast leadership in developing and overseeing ASABE-related educational programs and in developing and delivering core courses.

At Iowa State University (ISU), Raman maintains an internationally-recognized research and teaching program in agricultural and biological systems engineering. He focuses on perennial groundcover approaches to soil and water conservation challenges. He also devotes time to administrative work in the department and works on undergraduate and graduate recruitment, committee leadership, and membership and staff supervision.

Raman has made major programmatic impacts while being an engaged and highly respected instructor for Iowa State students. He was instrumental in the development of ISU’s biological systems engineering degree program, beginning with developing a new undergraduate agricultural and biological engineering program and seeing it through to accreditation. He has developed and taught courses across the curriculum, from first-year engineering problem-solving and computing, to capstone design. Raman also directed summer research programs including National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), enrolling over 220 students, including two sites associated with large transdisciplinary research efforts at ISU.

Raman is a highly respected instructor and has consistently scored very high in student evaluations. In collaboration with Dr. Amy Kaleita, he has codeveloped and deployed a hybrid-flipped model that is working very well in both entry engineering courses as well as an advanced core numerical methods course. He has also codeveloped a highly effective engineering licensure preparatory course that resulted in a fivefold increase in test takers and a pass rate exceeding 80%.

Raman also has a vibrant research portfolio, recently working closely with Dr. Ken Moore on a transdisciplinary project focused on perennial groundcover. In 2021, that work received a prestigious Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

A 30-year member of ASABE, Raman has served as a member on a number of committees including the Education, Outreach, and Professional Development Engineering and Technology Accreditation committee and the Boyd-Scott Graduate Research award committee.

Raman is author or coauthor to more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceeding papers. Raman has received many awards from universities, national organizations, and from students in his department. He received the ASABE AW Farrall Young Educator award, in 2016, he was selected for the Massey Ferguson Teaching Gold Medal and he was recently invited to the National Academy of Engineering Frontiers of Engineering Education symposium.