



Early Career Awards

A.W. Farrall Young Educator Award

Paul Davidson

Paul Davidson is the recipient of the 2020 A.W. Farrall Young Educator award for outstanding contributions in engineering education and dedication to mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students.

Davidson is an assistant professor in agricultural and biological engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In this role, he teaches courses in agricultural and biological engineering and technical systems management (TSM). In addition, he oversees the TSM program, providing the lead in curriculum development and advising. Davidson is a faculty mentor for Engineers Without Borders, advising and traveling with student teams to locate and access new drinking water sources in small mountainous communities in Guatemala. Davidson has also led a study abroad program to South Africa since 2015. In 2017, he received USDA funding to expand the program to include a biological component, initiating the Wildlife Engineers Co-managing Agriculture and Nature (WE CAN) program for underrepresented minority undergraduate students.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he conducts research on improving and maintaining surface water systems by reducing the transport of nutrients, pathogens, and pesticides from agricultural and urban systems to waterways. Davidson's expertise led to him being involved in regional multi-state efforts to reduce nutrient runoff to surface water systems, as well as state efforts through the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Policy

Working Group and the Illinois Nutrient Monitoring Council.

A 16-year member of ASABE, Davidson is a longstanding member of the Natural Resources and Environmental Systems Drainage Group. He is also a member of the Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and the Water and Environment Federation. He is the Illini Ag Mech Student Club faculty advisor and he helped found and serves as the faculty advisor for Illini Urban Farmers.

Davidson is author or coauthor of 18 peer-review journal articles, 3 book chapters, and more than 25 conference presentations. Throughout his career, Davidson has received a number of awards. Most recently, he received the College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Faculty award for Excellence in Teaching in 2020. He also received the North American Colleges of Teachers in Agricultural Educator award. In addition, he has received several Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign teaching excellence awards. He has also been placed on the List of Teachers listed as Excellent at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign several times.