



Alicia A. Modenbach, PE

Alicia A. Modenbach, PE, is the 2023 recipient of the A.W. Farrall Young Educator award for her enthusiasm for the discipline, energy and creativity in the classroom, as well as openness and fairness to the students.

Modenbach is a lecturer and student services coordinator in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kentucky (UK). She teaches up to four courses per year as the primary instructor for several courses and as a co-instructor for Biosystems Engineering Design I and II. Modenbach also assists with curriculum development and continuous improvement plans as part of the departmental review and accreditation assessments. She serves as the primary academic advisor for all students in the biosystems engineering program.

Modenbach has provided mentorship to a graduate student through the BIPOC in ASABE mentoring program. She has enhanced undergraduate student educational activities at UK by converting an underutilized space into a workshop for students in biosystems engineering capstone design courses. She has also impacted students on a national level, by collaborating with her peers at multiple universities to develop a new “Shark Tank”-style student competition for students to pitch ideas for a bio-process engineering startup company or product. This includes creating competition rules, rubrics, scoresheets, and evaluating entries of the competition. Additionally, she led a working group under the ASABE Transitioning Food and Agriculture to

Circular Systems Task Force to develop activities to engage the society’s membership in advancing the Circular Bioeconomy Systems initiative launched by ASABE. She also coordinated program development and planning of the CBS event held in conjunction with the 2023 Annual International Meeting in Omaha.

A 19-year member of ASABE, Modenbach has served as a member and leader on a number of ASABE committees. She is currently a member of the ASABE Foundation Board of Trustees, the Kentucky Section, student organizations committee, and the awards oversight executive committee.

Throughout her career, Modenbach has received a number of awards and recognitions for her teaching. She was a Ken Freedman Outstanding Faculty Advisor nominee and Henry Mason Lutes Excellence in Teaching nominee, both through UK. She is also a five-time recipient of the Outstanding Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Teacher in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, as selected by the students. She received the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Division 2020 Early Achievement in Engineering Education award from the American Society of Engineering Education. She also received the 2016 ASABE Gale A. Holloway Professional Development award.