Michael L. Pate is the 2019 recipient of the SMV Technologies Ergonomics, Safety, and Health award for his significant contributions to improving agricultural safety and health for vulnerable workers, vocational agriculture, youth, and professional groups.

Pate is the Nationwide Insurance associate professor of agricultural safety and health at Penn State University in University Park. In this position, he is responsible for providing outreach programming to reduce injuries involving hazards of production agriculture and biorenewable industries. He also conducts research in agricultural safety and health and develops and delivers agricultural safety and health curriculum for the biorenewable systems undergraduate major.

Pate is a member of the Safety in Agriculture for Youth (SAY) project, a USDA-NIFA sponsored project that focuses on spreading safety and health curriculum to vocational agriculture teachers. Pate’s work in this group has led to improvements in the effectiveness of teaching safety and health programs, thus improving safety for high school students working in and learning about agriculture. This type of safety education has a great impact on overall safety and health in agriculture by targeting individuals before they even begin their careers. Pate also serves as a principle investigator of the Agricultural Safety Education Initiative Project through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health funded High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety.

A 10-year member of ASABE, Pate has been a contributing member on numerous committees including the ASABE Ergonomics, Safety, and Health Technical Community oversight committee, several Education, Outreach, and Professional Development committees, and on the Meetings Council.

Pate is author or coauthor of 25 peer-reviewed articles and coauthored Agricultural Mechanics and Technology Systems. Throughout his career, Pate has received numerous awards including recognition as a co-author of the Transactions of Education Theodore E. Batchman Best Paper award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in 2019. In 2016, he was coauthor of the Distinguished Research Poster Presentation from the Western Region of the American Association of Agricultural Education and received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Educator award. He was named the Teacher of the Year in 2016 by Utah State University Collegiate FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America). He also received two ASABE Outstanding Reviewer awards.