Sreekala Bajwa, ASABE Fellow, is the recipient of the James R. and Karen Gilley Academic Leadership award for her exemplary leadership in cultivating excellence, collegiality, partnership, empowering faculty to succeed, and elevating the department’s reputation.

Bajwa is the vice president, dean, and director of agriculture at Montana State University in Bozeman. There she provides leadership to, and administers all functions of the Montana State University college of agriculture and the Montana Experiment Station that has seven research centers across Montana. Previously, she served as the department chair of the agricultural and biological engineering department at North Dakota State University (NDSU). As department chair at NDSU, Bajwa provided leadership to establish a new Center for Digital Agriculture and Big Data. During her tenure as chair, the agricultural and biological engineering department’s research productivity tripled in terms of grant funding, refereed publications, graduate student enrollment, and industry collaborations. She led the development of a new major and minor in precision agriculture in collaboration with two community colleges, with a strong industry partnership component. A hallmark of her leadership has been the numerous partnerships she developed with industries and universities across the world, commodity boards, state/federal/local agencies, and economic development corporations. Bajwa has been an effective communicator, successfully leading the department with a shared vision, building capacity, and creating a diverse and nurturing environment for faculty and student success.

A 23-year member of ASABE, Bajwa has been extensively involved in numerous ASABE committees. Currently, she is a trustee on the ASABE Board of Trustees and an associate editor for the Information Technology, Sensors, and Control Systems technical community. Bajwa was involved on the planning committee for the ASABE Global Food Security Conference and the Global Water Security Conference. Bajwa also serves as an ABET professional evaluator and she is a mentor for uCo-deGirl, a STEM mentorship program for middle and high school students.

Bajwa is author or coauthor of 76 peer-reviewed articles. She has also made more than 200 invited speeches, keynote addresses, and other presentations. Bajwa was inducted as an ASABE Fellow in 2017. She was the Mevlana scholar to Odokuz Mayis University in Samsung, Turkey in 2018 and received the Ozbun Economic Development award for Unmanned Aircraft Systems research in 2016.