The stated purpose of the Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal is awarded “To honor those whose dedication to the spirit of learning and teaching in the field of agricultural engineering had advanced our agricultural knowledge and practice, and whose efforts serve as an inspiration to others.”

Likenesses of Daniel Massey and Harry Ferguson, co-founders of Massey-Ferguson, Inc., appear on the front of this gold medal. The other side depicts a montage of symbols significant to the agricultural engineer. The inscription on the back of the medal reads, “For advancement of engineering knowledge and practice in agriculture.”

Established in 1965, the endowed award is named for Daniel Massey, pioneer inventor and agricultural machinery manufacturer, and Harry Ferguson, inventor and ardent exponent of agricultural mechanization.

Previous Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal Award Winners

1965 Rudolph H. Driftmier
1966 Mack M. Jones
1967 Price Hobgood
1968 Frederick C. Fenton
1969 Ervin W. Schroeder
1970 No recipient
1971 Arthur W. Farall
1972 G. Edwin Henderson
1973 Dennis L. Moe
1974 Frank B. Lanham
1975 Frank W. Peikert
1976 Carl W. Hall
1977 S. Milton Henderson
1978 William E. Splinter
1979 William J. Promesberger
1980 Donald B. Brooker
1981 Francis J. Hassler
1982 Gustave E. Fairbanks
1983 No recipient
1984 No recipient
1985 No recipient
1986 Gordon L. Nelson
1987 Mark E. Singley
1988 Michael O’Brien
1989 Roger R. Yoeger
1990 Edwin J. Monke
1991 Gerald W. Isaacs
1992 George B. Blum, Jr.
1993 No Recipient
1994 Donald M. Edwards
1995 No recipient
1996 Larry J. Segerlind
1997 Joe Ross
1998 James R. Gilley
1999 No Recipient
2000 Robert M. Peart
2001 Carroll E. Goering
2002 Mark D. Schrock
2003 Glenn J. Hoffman
2004 Carl J. Bern
2005 James H. Young
2006 Gajendra Singh
2007 David H. Vaughan
2008 Larry F. Huggins
2009 R. Wayne Skaggs
2010 Robert J. Gustafson
2011 Scott A. Shearer
2012 Scott Osborn
2013 R. Paul Singh
2014 David D. Jones
2015 Glenn Brown
2016 D. Raj Ramam
2017 Ann D. Christy
2018 Fedro S. Zazueta
2019 Paul R. Weckler

Mary Leigh Wolfe, ASABE Fellow, is the recipient of the 2020 Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal Award for significant contributions to continuous improvement of global engineering education through leadership and service in curriculum development, implementation, and program accreditation.

Wolfe is a professor in the biological systems engineering department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), in Blacksburg. There her research and teaching have focused on hydrologic modeling, nonpoint source pollution control strategies, and decision support tools for nonpoint source pollution control and watershed management.

Wolfe has been involved in education in agricultural and biological systems engineering for over three decades. Her accomplishments and contributions range from course and curriculum development in her department to curriculum development, accreditation, and continuous improvement of education globally. Wolfe served as head of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering from 2009 to 2018.

Wolfe has also been involved in the accreditation of educational programs for nearly 30 years. Beginning as an ABET Program Evaluator in 1990, through service on the Engineering Accreditation Commission and Board of Directors, and culminating with service as ABET President in 2018-2019, she has evaluated ABE programs, led multi-disciplinary ABET visit teams, edited accreditation statements, and promoted continuous improvement of educational programs inside and outside the US. Wolfe has been a leader in two EU-US Atlantis Program projects funded by the US Department of Education and the European Commission. She was co-PI for the first project (2006-2008), “Policy Oriented Measures in Support of the Evolving Biological Engineering Studies in USA-EU”, and US project director for the subsequent project (2009-2015), “Transatlantic Biosystems Engineering Curriculum and Mobility”. The overall project goal was to contribute to the structural development and globalization of the emerging discipline of Biosystems Engineering.

A 45-year member of ASABE, Wolfe has contributed on a number of ASABE committees. She was Society President 2015-2016 and remains active in a number of ASABE committees.

Wolfe is author or coauthor of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and other publications. Throughout her career, Wolfe has received many awards including three Outstanding Faculty Awards from the Virginia Chapter of Alpha Epsilon and was named Distinguished Alumna of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech in 2019. She has been inducted as a fellow of ABET, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and ASABE. She also received a Dean’s Award for Outstanding Service from the College of Engineering from Virginia Tech and a USDA Secretary’s Honor award.