



McLawrence receives 2018 Excellence in Research Lab Support Award

Writer: Adam Russell, 903-834-6191, adam.russell@aq.tamu.edu

Contact: Dr. Anil Somenahally, 903-834-6191, anil.somenahally@aq.tamu.edu

VERTON – Javid McLawrence, a research assistant at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Overton, was honored with the 2018 Excellence in Research Support - Lab Award in the soil and crop department of Texas A&M during the AgriLife Conference in College Station.

Dr. Anil Somenahally, Texas A&M AgriLife Research soil scientist, Overton, said McLawrence has shown outstanding commitment and excellence in support of collaborative research projects and student thesis projects at the center.

“He has made many impressive achievements, which include a co-authorship in a high-impact journal article, several conference presentations, setting up new laboratory methods, maintaining laboratory equipment and providing data analysis support,” Somenahally wrote in his nomination letter. “In my opinion, his most impressive achievement has been his commitment and efforts to improve our center capabilities to support novel research applications.”

Somenahally said McLawrence saved the center \$40,000 by reviving surplus equipment, including an organic carbon analyzer which has been used to complete soil carbon pool analyses for ongoing research.

McLawrence's laboratory support was instrumental in the completion of several research projects, five publications and several grant proposals, Somenahally said. He also supervises undergraduate and graduate students and visiting scholars and provides necessary training for successful completion of their work.

McLawrence also maintains two long-term research sites related to studying soil organic carbon at the center.

Somenahally and the center's awards committee noted McLawrence consistently went beyond the call of duty to perform tasks that contributed to student and research project successes.

"His diverse skill sets have been particularly beneficial in supporting many multidisciplinary projects at our center," Somenahally said. "His impressive personality and work commitment and engagement in diverse research projects shows he is a dedicated and talented researcher."

McLawrence graduated with a master's degree in soil science from Stephen F. Austin University and has been at the Overton center since 2015.

McLawrence said he appreciated the recognition by AgriLife and his colleagues at the Overton center.

"It's an honor to receive this award," he said. "I've learned so much during my time here and am happy my projects allow me to be outside and in the lab. I enjoy my work and working with the staff here at the center and appreciate everyone's willingness to help each other accomplish their goals."