



TEXAS TECH™

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2025

TO: Administration, Deans, Chairs, Faculty

FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, President

Ron Hendrick, Provost & Senior Vice President

Joseph A. Heppert, Vice President for Research & Innovation

RE: Presidential Departmental Excellence in Safety Award

The Offices of the President, Provost and Vice President for Research & Innovation are pleased to recognize the [Department of Biological Sciences](#) as the 2024 recipient of the [Presidential Departmental Excellence in Safety Award](#).

This annual \$25,000 award honors departments and academic units that demonstrate a strong and sustained commitment to advancing safety culture across campus. The funding supports continued improvement and innovation in departmental safety programs.

The Department of Biological Sciences exemplifies these values through a comprehensive and proactive approach to safety. Notable efforts include:

- Requiring the development and submission of field safety plans for all field operations
- Providing safety training for all Teaching Assistants
- Integrating biosafety education into microbiology courses
- Enhancing the reporting process for safety concerns and incidents to Environmental Health & Safety

Through these initiatives, Biological Sciences not only strengthens its own safety practices but also serves as a model for the broader campus community.

We extend our sincere thanks to the faculty, staff and students of the Department of Biological Sciences for their outstanding contributions to campus safety.

We also thank all applicants for this year's award. Your dedication to building a safer Texas Tech community is deeply appreciated. We look forward to continuing to support the advancement of a positive safety culture through this award and other ongoing initiatives.



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