

Reichelderfer Award Nominations

Nomination process:

Nomination may be made by either the graduate student's advisor or mentees who have benefited from the guidance of the graduate student. **However, preference will be given to packages that include both types of letters.** All graduate students mentored by Entomology faculty are eligible for this award.

Packages should be sent to umdentomology@umd.edu during the open application window. Nomination must include:

1. Letter or letters of nomination that explain the mentorship role of the graduate student and attest to how mentees have benefited from this mentorship
2. A current, unofficial transcript of the graduate students being nominated
3. A current CV of the graduate students being nominated

Packages will be evaluated by a faculty committee. If a committee member has a student nominee for a particular cycle, they will not participate on the committee that cycle. Packages will be evaluated based on:

- Evidence that mentorship has had an impact on one or more mentee (see below)
- Evidence that the graduate student took an active leadership role in mentoring one or more trainees
- Academic record: **Students must be in good academic standing to receive this award.** Other evidence of academic success, such as grades in classes or presentations and publications will be considered only as "tie breakers" and will not be the primary factor in evaluation.

Suggestions for Mentee nomination letters

We realize that many mentees may have little to no experience writing letters of support. We therefore offer a few suggestions here:

1. The committee will make its best effort to evaluate the *sincerity of the letter* in making their suggestions. Therefore, we highly recommend submitting open and honest attestments from mentees – in their own words.
In addition to this, the committee will focus on (1) the efforts of the mentor on behalf of the mentee(s) and (2) the impact of these mentoring efforts.

Ways to address (1) mentoring effort include (but are not limited to):

- a. Has the mentor directly provided research and/or career guidance?
- b. Does the mentor provide training and/or skill building opportunities?
- c. How has the mentor served as a role model or inspiration?

Ways to address (2) impact include (but are not limited to):

- d. Has the mentor influenced your research and/or career trajectory?
- e. Has the mentor advocated for you?
- f. How has the mentor contributed to your development and growth?
- g. How has the mentor invested their time and effort towards your success?