

J. Creighton Miller, Jr. Distinguished Educator Award **Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences**

Background: The teaching award of the Southern Region was the L. M. Ware Distinguished Teacher Award from 1958 to 2005. At that time, the Southern Region lost funding for the award from Dr. Ware's endowment. Dr. Jeannie P. Miller came forward and established an endowment to assure a perpetual source of funds. The award was renamed in honor of her husband, Dr. J. Creighton Miller, Jr. Dr. Miller was a past recipient of the L.M. Ware Award.

Donor: Endowed by Dr. Jeannie P. Miller, wife of Dr. J. Creighton Miller, Jr.

Award: Plaque and \$200

Description: The award recognizes an educator who has had a distinguished and outstanding teaching career in horticultural science for a period of 10 or more years. The primary emphasis of this award is on excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Eligibility: The nominee must meet the following criteria.

- 1) Must be an active member in good standing in Southern Region ASHS.
- 2) Actively engaged in teaching for 10 years or more in horticultural science-classroom teaching and advising.
- 3) Nominees are considered actively engaged in teaching if a substantial portion of their current effort is involved in the activity, regardless of their appointment.
- 4) Not a previous recipient of the Miller Educator Award, or former L.M. Ware Distinguished Teacher Award.
- 5) Institutions may nominate only one candidate per year.

Nomination Packet: The nomination packet should be prepared as follows:

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) Letter of Nomination (limited to 4 pages).

The letter should indicate the reason for nominating this individual. The letter should identify the major contributions on which the nomination is based and explain why the nominee is especially qualified to receive the award. Each of the following criteria should be addressed in the statement:

- a. Content and nature of courses taught, with emphasis on organization, innovative teaching materials, and ability to communicate with students.
- b. Impression on students by mastery of the subject, teaching techniques, attitude, and vision. Summaries of student comments should be included if available, as well as a list of selected former students who have achieved leadership positions in their chosen fields.
- c. Graduate students directed by nominee and graduate committee activities, if applicable.
- d. Extracurricular activities, such as student advisor or coach.
- e. Leadership in horticultural science teaching, the profession, and the industry as a teacher at the undergraduate and/or graduate level.

- 3) Nominee's Biographical Data. This information should be provided on the following items in the order listed:
 - a. Name of nominee
 - b. Current position (title, rank, department or unit)
 - c. Number of years in this position
 - d. Number of years at present institution
 - e. Degrees held (institution and date)
 - f. Employment history (previous positions, years; list most recent first)
 - g. Honors, awards, and recognitions, especially any related to teaching
 - h. Membership in professional and honorary societies (note offices held)
 - i. Involvement with graduate student training
 - j. List of articles and books published and professional accomplishments **within the last five years** (if there are particularly significant accomplishments before the last five years, those should be included in the letter of nomination). Include total lifetime publication numbers by category
- 4) A maximum of 5 letters of support, including at least one from another institution, and at least 2 from former students.
- 5) Packets of nominees not selected for the award in the year of initial nomination shall be kept on file for automatic reconsideration one additional year from initial application.

About the Award Namesake

Dr. J. Creighton Miller, Jr.

Dr. Miller has been a Professor of Horticulture at Texas A&M University since 1972 and has served as an active member of the teaching faculty since 1975. He is Past-President of the Southern Region and is an ASHS Fellow. His primary contributions have been in the research arena, but he is a dedicated teacher as well, having taught six different courses over his career. His outstanding teaching has been recognized by the Southern Region with the L. M. Ware Distinguished Teacher Award and by the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University with the Association's Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching.