

2021-2022 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement

Faculty Recipient Professor Adler Dillman, Nematology

Dr. Dillman is currently an Associate Professor of Nematology. Since joining UCR in 2017, he has established a stellar record of supporting undergraduate students in research and creative activity. He has mentored 44 undergraduate students in various cutting edge research projects in his laboratory, where research focuses on understanding how pests and parasites manipulate host defenses for parasitism using modern genetics and genomics tools. 19 of Dr. Dillman's students have contributed to 9 scientific publications, many presentations at conferences and society meetings, and are engaged at every level of the research process. Dr. Dillman encourages his undergraduate students to push themselves and take full advantage of training opportunities in service of their longer-term career goals, like REUs in Computational Entomology and other competitive scholarships and honors. Dr. Dillman has also been proactive in efforts to support and increase diversity in scientific research. Many of the students who work in Dr. Dillman's laboratory go on to graduate school and medical school, and they attribute their career progression and success to his guidance and support. His students note that Dr. Dillman was "the most influential professor I have ever met," and fostered confidence in their sense of belonging in academia. His support is attributed as one of the main reasons for his students' successes in medical school, graduate programs, and beyond.