



**NOMINATION FOR  
National Distinguished Service Ruby Recognition  
Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta Chapter–Texas**

**Nominee's Name:** Edward G. Smith, Ph.D.  
**Title:** Director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
**Address:** 7101 TAMU  
**City, State Zip:** College Station, TX 77843-7101  
**Phone:** 979-845-7967  
**E-Mail:** [egsmith@tamu.edu](mailto:egsmith@tamu.edu)

**Position and Dates of Employment, Texas AgriLife Extension Service:**

May 2005–present	Director
Sept. 2004–May 2005	Interim Director
2001–2004	Associate Director for Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
1988–2001	Distinguished Roy B. Davis Professorship
1982–1987	Extension Economist-Grain Marketing and Policy
1980–1981	Extension Associate
1977–1980	Terry County Extension Agent and Agriculture Program Leader
1977	Gaines County Extension Agent-Agriculture
1975–1976	Gaines County Assistant County Extension Agent-Agriculture

**Education:**

Ph.D. Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, 1982  
M.S. Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, 1975  
B.S. Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, 1973

**Outstanding Professional Accomplishments:**

- State Visionary Leadership Recognition, Epsilon Sigma Phi, 2009.
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Southern Association of Agricultural Economics, 2009.
- Secretary of Agriculture appointee, 10-member Commission on the Application of Payment Limitations for Agriculture per Section 1605, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, 2002.
- Cooperator of the Year, highest award of the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, 2002.
- State Distinguished Career Service, Epsilon Sigma Phi, 2001.
- Distinguished Service Award, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, 1998.
- Distinguished Policy Contribution Group Award for the Agricultural and Food Policy Center, American Agricultural Economics Association, 1997.
- Outstanding Rice Economics Research/Education/Service Contribution (team award), Rice Technical Workshop Group Economics and Marketing Panel Award, 1996.
- Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence–Partnerships, 1994.
- Extension Director's Special Recognition, 1994.
- Outstanding Extension Professional, Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas, 1993.
- Deputy Chancellor's Award in Excellence–Research, 1992.
- Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award–Extension, 1991.
- Deputy Chancellor's Award in Excellence–Extension, 1990.
- Superior Service Award, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, 1989.
- Superior Service Award, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, 1987.
- Quality of Communication Award for "Policy Tools for U.S. Agriculture," American Agricultural Economics Association, 1987.
- Distinguished Extension Programs–Groups for "Making Policy Work for Farmers," American Agricultural Economics Association, 1983.

### **Outstanding Programmatic Accomplishments:**

Dr. Smith has dedicated his career in service to agriculture and the Texas and national land-grant university systems. As an economist and extension educator, he earned a reputation for his ability to understand the problems affecting farmers and to articulate the underlying issues to federal policy makers. Along with these insights, Dr. Smith provided visionary options and analysis of consequences to aid the decision-making of all concerned. Mr. Steve Verett, executive vice president of Plains Cotton Growers, observed that, "From a cotton producer's perspective, Ed is someone that we know has a level of knowledge and expertise that allows him to be sensitive to the nuances of the issues we face."

His former supervisor and fellow economist, Dr. Roland Smith, wrote that "Ed has the remarkable ability to determine the needs of the people he serves and to relate to all levels of clientele ranging from the large cooperative CEO to the part-time farmer." He has given many hundreds of presentations; written 226 bulletins; contributed to 50 proceedings, papers, and books; developed 12 computer-decision aids; published 17 journal articles; and served as lead author on 38 policy reports and other publications. From 1982 to 2001 he received \$7,485,318 in grants and other support.

As an administrator and agency director, Dr. Smith has improved AgriLife Extension's accountability and program planning by refocusing on strategic goals and measurable objectives, with an emphasis on making economic impacts. He also streamlined the number of associate director positions from six to three, releasing resources that he redirected to program support and strengthening the agency as a model of administrative efficiency in state government. Under his leadership, AgriLife Extension has maintained a competitive budgetary position with funders, despite the current recession. He oversees an annual budget of \$145 million and a workforce of 1,900, aided by more than 100,000 Extension-trained volunteers, all effectively aimed at achieving the extension mission to benefit Texas and beyond.

Regarding Dr. Smith's broader influence, Dr. Ronald Brown, executive director of the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors, wrote, "Dr. Smith is the E. F. Hutton of the southern region—when he speaks, others listen! He is a leader in standing up for legislation, policies, and regulations that benefit Texas, the southern region, and the nation." Dr. Smith represented the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED) in giving testimony about the federal Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. He was a catalyst, after many years of level federal funding, in the national extension system's effort to seek and receive a five percent raise in pass-through formula funds. Because other federal monies are accessible only through competitive grants, these additional formula funds will bring greater stability extension programs nationwide. Most recently, Dr. Smith was elected president of ASRED.

Dr. Tim Cross, dean and extension director at the University of Tennessee, wrote that "Dr. Smith is often a voice of reason among his administrative peers, bringing his policy and economics skills to bear on issues facing extension and other land-grant university administrators. His views and thoughts are respected, benefitting the agricultural economics profession and the entire land-grant system."

### **Support Statement (approximately 75 words):**

Dr. Smith is now director of the world's largest cooperative extension agency but he had his start as an assistant county extension agent. He advanced because of his dedication, his expertise and uncanny insights into solving problems, and his leadership in innovative programming and organizational excellence. He is an exemplary extension professional, recognized by other leaders across the United States, and very deserving of this award.