

NCWSS 2023 Candidate Slate

Vice President

Mark Bernards, Western Illinois University



Mark Bernards is a Professor in the School of Agriculture at Western Illinois University (WIU). He earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State University, and M.S. and B.S. at Brigham Young University. Prior to joining WIU in 2011, he worked as an Extension Weed Specialist for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mark teaches Principles of Crop Science (AGRN 176), No-tillage Farming (AGRN 370), Integrated Pest Management (AGRN 373), Crop Ecology and Management (AGRN 377), and Weed Science (AGRN 479) each year. In addition, he advises the WIU Agronomy Club, coaches the WIU Weed Science team that competes in NCWSS contests, and the WIU Crop Science team that competes in SASES-sponsored (student organization of ASA-CSSA-SSSA) contests.

Mark directs agronomy operations at WIU's Agricultural Field Laboratory where he conducts research on weed management in corn, soybean and pennycress. One of his most significant contributions has been mentoring undergraduate students in conducting research projects on WIU's farm. Many of those students have presented their research at NCWSS and ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meetings, and several have continued their education and earned graduate degrees in weed science or agronomy. Mark has published with excellent collaborators in the NCWSS and graduate students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Mark attended his first NCWSS in 2001 and loved it. He has served on the Board of Directors as WSSA rep and as chair of the Resident Education committee. He has also served as a state director on the Strategic Planning Committee, poster/paper judge, and session moderator. Mark's service in the WSSA includes terms on the WSSA Board of Directors as NCWSS rep and as the Constitution and Operating Procedures chair, in addition to serving on subject matter committees and as a paper/poster judge.

NCWSS 2023 Candidate Slate

David Nicolai, University of Minnesota



David Nicolai is a University of Minnesota Extension Crops Educator located at St. Paul, Minnesota. In his role, he is responsible for identifying needs and opportunities for agronomic education by coordinating with subject matter experts, including University faculty and industry experts, to develop and deliver curriculum for non-credit agronomic extension education programs.

In addition to delivering educational programs for crop producers, he has developed and executed ag professional educational programming plans for Ag Research Updates, Field Schools, Crop Pest Management Short Course, and other specific Minnesota crop ag professional workshops. David has had past employment and weed science experience in both industry (Regional Agribusiness Cooperatives) as well as academic (University of Minnesota) programs.

David has a bachelor's degree in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota, and a master's degree in Agronomy (Weed Science focus) from North Dakota State University. He has been with the University of Minnesota as an Extension Educator-Crops since 2004. From 1986 to 2004 David served as an Agronomist in the Technical Services department of Cenex/Land O Lakes and Agrilance corporate offices. At Agrilance, Dave specialized in developing and implementing agronomy training programs throughout a 15-state area for over five hundred local and corporate agronomists at Ag Dealerships. More recently, David has served on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Certified Crop Advisors. David is a Past-President for the Minnesota Association for Extension Ag Professionals.

David has been an active member of the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) for over 25 years and served in many capacities including the Board of Directors, State Director, Chair of the Resident Education Committee, Chair of the Student Poster Contest, Local Arrangements Committees, and volunteer for the Summer Student Contests. During his time employed in Industry, David chaired the Industry Committee developed and began the first North Central Industry Breakfast event which has become an annual education opportunity at all in-person North Central Weed Science Society meetings for many years. David is also a member of WSSA.

NCWSS Proceedings Editor

Karla Gage, Southern Illinois University Carbondale



Karla Gage is an Associate Professor of Weed Science and Plant Biology in the Schools of Agricultural Sciences and Biological Sciences at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). She completed her BS and MS degrees in Biology at the University of Memphis. She completed her PhD in Plant Biology with a focus on Weed Ecology at SIUC in 2013. In 2012, she was hired to manage a non-profit organization, the River-to-River Cooperative Weed Management Area, which coordinates invasive species control across Federal, State, and private lands in the southernmost 16 counties of Illinois. She joined the faculty at SIUC as assistant professor in 2015 and enjoys teaching and research in applied management of agricultural

systems. Her program focuses on integrated weed management strategies and control of herbicide-resistant weeds. She has graduated 10 MS students, and currently advises or co-advises 9 MS students and 3 PhD students. Her lab is supported by 2 research staff members. She has mentored 28 undergraduate researchers and currently works with 9 undergraduate students. She has 22 published papers, 3 book chapters, and has authored or co-authored 69 conference proceedings. She has served as a reviewer for several journals and currently serves as Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Agronomy*.

Karla joined the North Central Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of America in 2007. She and her lab attend the NCWSS conference annually to present their work. She is active in the Women in Weed Science group and served on the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in 2017 and serves as chair of the LAC in 2022. She has also served as WSSA chair and co-chair for the Integrated Weed Management section, and she has been involved in the WSSA Standardized Plant Names Committee (P23) for 2 years. Karla lives in Carbondale, Illinois, with her husband and 12-year-old twins and enjoys hiking and botanizing in the Shawnee National Forest.

NCWSS 2023 Candidate Slate

Mithila Jugulam, Kansas State University



Mithila Jugulam is a Professor (Weed Physiology) in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University (KSU). She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Agriculture in India. She worked as a Scientist with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) before obtaining her Ph.D. degree and postdoctoral training at the University of Guelph, in Canada. Jugulam's research program is internationally recognized for increasing our understanding of the evolution and fundamental mechanisms of herbicide resistance in weeds. Her research also focuses on the effect of temperature on herbicide efficacy, and identification of herbicide-resistant traits in crops. She is an award-winning teacher with the responsibility to teach graduate and undergraduate courses related to herbicide physiology, and herbicide resistance. She has served as a major/ co-major advisor for 15 MS and Ph.D. students and trained 15 postdoctoral fellows/visiting scholars. Jugulam is the recipient of several awards, including, the Fulbright Specialist Award, Outstanding Researcher award (WSSA), Distinguished Achievement Research Award (NCWSS), Presidential Award of Merit (WSWS); and at KSU-Outstanding Scientist Award- Sigma Xi, and Gamma Sigma Delta, College of Agriculture Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award. Jugulam has authored or co-authored >90 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals with >2000 citations. She was invited to present her research at various institutions in the US and internationally. She is currently on the Editorial Board and reviewer of several international journals. Jugulam is a member of several societies including WSSA, IWSS, WSWS, NCWSS, ACS and served on the Board or committees of these societies.