Chair's Exemplary Citizenship Medal

Leonardo da Silva Augusto

Submitted on behalf of the IPID Graduate Students

It is the strong and unanimous view of the IPID graduate students that Dr. Leonardo da Silva Augusto is an exceptional candidate for the Chair's Exemplary Citizenship Award. This past year, he welcomed his first graduate student into his lab, a significant milestone in his professional growth, while simultaneously serving on more than a dozen graduate student committees. He currently co-directs the IPID Summer Undergraduate Research Program and is deeply engaged with the High School Alliance Program. He also developed a new grant-writing course that directly enabled two IPID students to secure funding through the UNMC institutional Fellowship. Across all these efforts, Dr. Augusto has consistently demonstrated his dedication to the advancement of students, the department, and his faculty colleagues.

To illustrate the depth of this commitment, we invited students to share their own testimonials about Dr. Augusto's impact on the PMI/IPID department:

"Dr. Augusto championed a class focused on grant-writing skills. While taking the course, I was encouraged to apply for the UNMC fellowship, and with the mentorship he provided, I was able to submit an application I was proud of on extremely short timelines. If Dr. Augusto had not taken the time to develop the class or work individually with each of the students. I doubt my application would have been submitted, let alone funded. Dr. Augusto is changing the system to benefit students for years to come."

"Although Dr. Augusto serves on my committee, his contributions extend far beyond that role. Whenever I need help, whether troubleshooting an experiment, discussing technical details, or understanding a scientific concept, he is always available and willing to help. I am certainly not the only student who has benefited from his guidance; I believe many of the students on the fifth floor of DRC II would agree that Leo consistently makes himself available to anyone who asks. His willingness to support students daily makes him highly deserving of this recognition."

"Dr. Augusto is more than deserving of this award, not only because of his dedication to advancing our department academically, but because of his broader involvement in our community. Wherever you go, there is someone he has personally supported - from his vast involvement in the High School Alliance to agreeing to take on an additional MD/PhD SURP student who had no lab placement just days before her arrival. All of this reflects his genuine passion and dedication, not only to science, but to the people around him."

Sincerely,

Hayden Klaus and Nichole Brandquist
The IPID Graduate Student Representatives
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Shelly Williams

I believe that Shelly Williams should receive this award due to her active involvement in the life of the department. She is engaged in many different lines of service (Blood bank/coagulation/apheresis/tissue typing/ medical review officer), she performs CLIA director duties for Oakview laboratory, she has implemented several new assays in the coagulation (for example DOAC stop lupus testing) and completely redone reporting of complex coagulation algorhythms.

She also actively engaged in teaching residents as well as medical students – she is a co director of teaching block for M1 students.

She established a good rapport with anesthesia and critical care colleagues and trained them ALL on new viscoelastic testing reports.

She constantly strives to improve the department. She would be an amazing recipient of the award.