

## ESP Early Career Recognition Award



**Applicant Name:** Michael W. Potter, CEA-H  
**Applicant Address:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Svc.  
9020 Airport Road  
**Applicant City State Zip:** Conroe, TX 77303  
**Applicant Phone Number:** (936) 539-7822  
**Applicant Email:** [mpotter@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mpotter@ag.tamu.edu)  
**Chapter (Find your Chapter & Click):** Texas/Alpha Zeta  
**South Region:** South  
**Have Dues Been Paid for the Current and Previous Year?** Yes  
**Year Initiated into ESP?** 2013

### **Describe Your Education (150 Words Maximum)**

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas. Master of Science in Agriculture, August 2004  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Dec. 2000

### **Enter Employment History (150 Words Maximum)**

**County Extension Agent-Horticulture.** Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Montgomery County),  
Conroe, Texas. September, 2012 - present  
**County Extension Agent - Horticulture.** Texas AgriLife Extension (Nueces County), Robstown, Texas.  
November, 2006 - 2012  
**Agriculture Demonstration Assistant.** Texas Cooperative Extension (Nueces County), Robstown,  
Texas, February, 2001 - 2006  
**Farm/Greenhouse Assistant.** Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas. September, 1999-  
December, 2000  
**Horticulturalist/Production Manager.** Fox Tree and Landscape Nursery, Corpus Christi, Texas.  
September, 1997 - March, 1998  
**Biological Aide.** USDA APHIS, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. August, 1994-July, 1997.

### **Enter Your ESP Membership & Involvement (150 Words Maximum)**

Mr. Michael W. Potter has been a member of ESP-Alpha Zeta Chapter for one year after transferring from the County Extension Agent – Horticulture position in Neuces County to the CEA-H position in

Montgomery County. Since SE District 9 is heavily involved in ESP, it was a natural progression for Mr. Potter to join ESP.

### **Enter Your Professional Accomplishments (150 Word Maximum)**

Michael W. Potter as CEA-H in Nueces and now in Montgomery County contributed to numerous new articles including: "Conroe Courier Gardens"(2012-present); "Caller Times Tip of the Week"(2006-present); "Agents Notes" in the Gazette (2006-present); "The Green EDGE," blog for Nueces Co. (2009- present); "Lawns" for Corpus Christi Garden Council (2011); "Community Garden Program", compilation (2010); "Nueces Master Gardener Policy & Procedures" (2009); and "A Case Study of Limited Resource Youth Audiences About Gardening & Healthy Eating Towards Families" Master's Thesis, (2009). Mr. Potter's professional organizations include: Epsilon Sigma Phi (2013-present); Texas Co. Agricultural Agents Assoc. (2006-present); and National Assoc. of Co. Agricultural Agents (2006-present). His certifications, awards and recognitions include: Texas AgriLife Extension, Career Ladder Level II (Sep. 2013); NACAA- Communication Award, Team Newsletter, Regional Finalist (2011); TCAA - Early Career Agent - District 11 (2011); Superior Service Award, Volunteerism (2010); TCAA Communications Award, Computer Generated Presentation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2008); Corpus Christi Fire Dept., Citizen's Certificate of Merit (1999); USDA – Certificate of Merit (1993)

### **Enter your Program Accomplishments (400 Words Maximum)**

Mr. Potter as CEA-H has given over 240 oral presentations over the past 7 years. His clientele groups included: master gardeners; garden club & plant society members; Water Conservation boards; school groups; church groups; professional landscape, turf & irrigation associations; parks & recreation; county & municipal employees; botanical gardens & historical parks; HOAs & neighborhood associations; service clubs and Extension support groups, among others. Of Mr. Potter's 240+ talks, 38% related to insect identification & control as well as IPM, 28% related to landscape principles & practices including Xeriscaping, EarthKind and CEMAP, 15% related to spring & fall garden preparation relating to vegetables, fruits & herbs, 10% related to all aspects of disease identification & control, 5% related to water harvesting, conservation, & water quality, and 4% related to Extension outreach & careers in horticulture. Mr. Potter has facilitated a number of educational series' and conferences including master gardener & master naturalist trainings, turf grass conferences, landscape conferences, grounds maintenance seminars, native plant seminars, and aquaponics workshops. Mr. Potter has sought and received grants totaling \$56,200 in support of Extension-related activities.

Mr. Potter has served as an advisor for numerous Extension-related support groups including master gardener associations, master naturalist associations, horticulture program area committees, TCAA, Horticulture Professional Development Conferences, Texas Grow Eat Go program pilot committee, SE Texas Grounds Maintenance Conference and others. He is active in non-Extension support groups as well including the City of Conroe Water Advisory Committee, member (Sept. 2012- present); City of Corpus Christi Lindale Community Gardens, construction and maintenance chair (2011-present); Chef's Tour, coordinator (2010-12); City of Corpus Christi Water Advisory Board (2010-present);

Gardens at Cole Park, Landscape Design chair (2010-present); City of Corpus Christi Stormwater - Keep the City Sparkling, outreach education chair (2007-present); Beautify Corpus Christi Association, board member (2006-present); Xeriscape Corpus Christi, steering committee (2006- present); and City of Corpus Christi Landscape Ordinance Revision Committee, chair (2006-present).

Mr. Potter actively seeks opportunities to advance his level of knowledge and skills by attending over 80 organized professional development opportunities including those relating to horticulture subject-matter training on all levels, Extension reporting in interpretations, HR-related online trainings and trainings related to managing volunteers.

### **Summary Statement for Award Presentation (75 Words Maximum)**

Michael W. Potter has served as County Extension Agent – Horticulture for the past seven years, six in Nueces County and one in Montgomery County. Mr. Potter has outstanding programs in pest identification & control, landscape horticulture, soil & water management and edible plant culture. He serves a diverse audience base from one-shot programming efforts geared to meet the needs of homeowners to conferences & seminars that target master volunteers, professional associations and the green industry alike.

**Chapter Recognition Contact:** Vincent J. Mannino,  
County Extension Director – Fort Bend County  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
1402 Band Road, Suite 100  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
Ph. 281-633-7038

**Chapter Recognition Contact Email:** [vmannino@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:vmannino@ag.tamu.edu)