

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM (DGRP)

2019-2020 SUMMARY REPORT

RECRUITING AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The DGRP restructured the application process for the fourth cohort of students coming into the program in Fall 2020. Previous DGRP cohorts entered the program as mid- to late-career WSU students. With the restructure, the fourth cohort admitted six new WSU students and three first year WSU students. The DGRP also implemented the requirement that WSU and PNNL advisors both serve as thesis committee members for their student.

DGRP application two-stage approach:

1. WSU and PNNL co-advisors' applications were reviewed by the DGRP Review Committee based on strength of the collaboration and proposed student project.
2. Successful applicants submitted a student application that included the student's CV and graduate application material for review.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **Application:** Moved to online form for new application submission.
- **Institutional Transition Form (ITF):** Required form for students starting with 2020 cohort to assist administrators at WSU and PNNL in planning for students to transition to PNNL.
- **Exit Survey:** The DGRP will email each graduate an online exit survey to collect feedback on program strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- **Withdrawal Survey:** The DGRP will email a brief withdrawal form to any student who exits the program.

MARKETING AND EVENTS

Increased marketing efforts for the DGRP were undertaken in 2019-2020 including:

- Creation and expansion of DGRP website: overview, guidelines, forms, students, FAQs, and contact form.
- Meeting with all WSU-PNNL Joint Institute Co-Directors to discuss application restructuring process.
- Creation and distribution of DGRP brochures.
- News: "[PNNL-WSU research has potential for high impact on crop production and yields](#)" (December 2019)

The DGRP had two program events during the 2019-2020 academic year:

- **2019 Cohort Welcome Event:** In October 2019, the DGRP welcomed its third cohort of students. This reception event was held following the WSU-PNNL Quarterly Partnership Meeting.
- **2019 DGRP Student Gathering:** In November 2019, the DGRP held its first gathering for current students to network with their peers and provide feedback on their DGRP experience.