



Meet the Nominees

ROBERT M. TOBIAS CERTIFICATE

★★★★★ of ★★★★★ ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sherry Hunt

Supervisory Civil Engineer

USDA-ARS Oklahoma and Central Plains

Agricultural Research Center

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Key Cohort REE SES II



Sherry Hunt is a Supervisory Civil Engineer for the Agroclimate and Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit (AHERU) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Oklahoma and Central Plains Agricultural Research Center. She manages 20 scientists and technical support staff at two worksites, Stillwater, Oklahoma and El Reno, Oklahoma. She also serves as the Dam Safety Officer and a tech lead for Partnerships for Data Innovations within her agency. With more than 20 years of professional experience, she is responsible for planning and conducting research to develop basic and applied knowledge for the design and analysis of safe, economical structures and channels for the conveyance, storage, disposal, and measurement of runoff waters and the advancement of cloud-based technologies including low-cost sensors and instrumentation, decision support tools, and computational models to evaluate and manage environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Her research has extended the planned service life of dams throughout the United States and Europe and has preserved millions of dollars in annual benefits these dams provide. Benefactors of her research include emergency managers, city planners, policy makers, farmers, producers, municipalities, dam owners, irrigation district managers, and tourism and recreation lake personnel.

Sherry has made several notable contributions to the engineering and scientific profession. She serves as the co-chair of the Federal Emergency Management National Dam Safety Review Board research work group and as a committee member on World Bank funded dam design and construction projects for the U.S. Departments of State and Treasury. Prior to her position as a research engineer, she served as a design engineer for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Oklahoma state office in Stillwater, OK where she was tasked with designing new and rehabilitated dams. Her achievements have merited many awards over the years, most notably, as a science and environment category finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals in 2021. In addition, she was recognized with the Terry L. Hampton Medal from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials and the G. B. Gunlogson Countryside

Engineering Award and the Gale Holloway Professional Development Award from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE). She is also an ASABE Fellow. Sherry graduated with a Bachelor and Master of Science in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK and a Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado.