Outstanding Doctoral Mentor Award
Dr. Jeffery Turner

Dr. Jeffery Turner is a professor in the department of Marine Biology for the College of Science and Engineering. He has been selected as the 2020 Outstanding Doctoral Mentor Award winner.

Dr. Turner has been an exceptional mentor and the many students he has instructed. Described as a role model scientist and teacher, Dr. Turner keeps his students enthusiastic about research and learning, despite the stress associated with rigorous graduate work. His teaching methods inspire students in the fields of biology and microbiology, where he constantly relates curricula with real life, showing students the practical application of their knowledge.

Dr. Turner has previously been recognized as a remarkable mentor in the Honor's Program and the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology for his guidance of authentic student research. His students say he has inspired the lives and careers of many students at A&M-Corpus Christi.

Besides his teaching, research and mentorship, Dr. Turner has worked to bridge the gap between community colleges and four-year institutions, evidenced by collaborative work with Del Mar College. Dr. Turner has worked tirelessly to provide a more seamless transition for students moving from community college to university.

He also initiated a multi-discipline art project involving TAMU-CC art and marine biology graduate students. The project was titled Coastal concerns: A collaboration between art and science students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The individual projects were displayed at the Texas State Aquarium for World Oceans Day in an effort to educate the public about the importance of conservation. He was also able to engage young middle and high school students in the STEM teen science cafe at the Texas State Aquarium by leading an interactive presentation about marine microbiology.

Doctoral student Lee Pinnell say Dr. Turner's leadership has “made me a considerably better scientist and has provided me with a great example of how to effectively lead.” Another student indicated that “Dr. Turner is a model and selfless educator who is always working towards the betterment of his students through pragmatic lessons and curricula. Through his teachings, he is preparing his students to be productive members in the workforce as well as experts in their fields.”

Dr. Turner was nominated by students Nicole Powers, Lee Pinnell, Paxton Bachand and Hailey Wallgren.