



# Meet Drew Gholson

## **Drew Gholson, PhD**

Assistant Professor & Extension Irrigation Specialist  
Coordinator, National Center for Alluvial Aquifer Research

**Mississippi State University**

[drew.gholson@msstate.edu](mailto:drew.gholson@msstate.edu)

**Drew Gholson** is an Assistant Professor and the Irrigation Specialist at Mississippi State University. He also serves as Coordinator for the National Center for Alluvial Aquifer Research located at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS. He holds a Ph.D. in Soil Science and an M.W.M. in Water Management & Hydrological Sciences from Texas A&M University. His focus is to produce and communicate research directed at the conservation and sustainability of water resources for agriculture. His research and outreach include conceiving, developing, and promoting the adoption of profitable irrigation management strategies that conserve water, maintain soil resources, and improve water quality. He has published 30 peer-reviewed publications and over 100 Extension publications, blogs, podcasts, and videos on topics concerning water quantity and quality. He has procured \$21 million in extramural funding from state commodity boards and Federal and state entities, including USDA-ARS, USDA-NRCS, and USDA-NIFA. In his leadership roles with UCOWR, he supports early career and graduate student mentoring along with building collaborations across institutions.

*“How do you plan on advancing UCOWR’s mission of leading in education, research and public service in water resources?”*

As a graduate student specializing in water resources, my first attendance at a UCOWR conference was inspiring. Unlike previous experiences with other organizations, where I felt my multidisciplinary interests were somewhat marginalized, UCOWR provided a platform perfectly aligned with my diverse focus. UCOWR’s commitment to multidisciplinary approaches in water research, education, and outreach resonated deeply with me and fostered a sense of belonging and engagement that I had not experienced elsewhere.

I will continue to work to increase UCOWR’s efforts of connecting and engaging graduate students studying water resources across their institutions and disciplines. Specifically, I aim to increase opportunities for graduate student attendance at the annual conference and facilitate networking opportunities during the event.

Furthermore, I am committed to expanding UCOWR's membership base by targeting potential new member institutions and enhancing engagement with existing members and delegates. An example of this proactive approach is my collaboration with colleagues at USDA-ARS, through which we successfully facilitated their membership last year via the National Center for Alluvial Aquifer Research. I will work to encourage Federal and other potential affiliate water scientists to find a home with UCOWR where interdisciplinary collaboration is strongly supported.