POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 00037379
REQUISITION # 518986

Title: Center Director and Professor

Location: Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Immokalee, Florida

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Review Date: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit materials by January 17, 2022. The position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression. We particularly welcome applicants who can contribute to such an environment through their scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and professional service. We strongly encourage candidates belonging to historically underrepresented groups.

If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 352-392-2477 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or visit Accessibility at UF.

The Center Director is the administrative head of the University of Florida/IFAS, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) located in Immokalee and provides leadership and support for the teaching, research, and Extension programs essential to the agricultural, natural resource conservation, environmental, and consumer interests of the area. The Center Director is responsible for promoting and overseeing the development of proactive programs addressing the present and future needs of the surrounding agricultural, natural resource, and urban communities. SWFREC programs seek to improve the viability of regional agricultural economies, protect and enhance natural resources, and encourage positive interaction at the urban-agriculture interface.

The Center Director facilitates and supports the teaching, research, and Extension programs of the faculty. In particular, the Center Director is expected to lead the effort to address clientele needs through visionary and proactive Extension programming and scientifically recognized research efforts.
The Center Director is responsible for sound management of SWFREC, budgetary and personnel resources, and for development of short- and long-term goals involving programs, equipment, physical plant and personnel. The Center Director is responsible for developing stakeholder relationships and implementing a strategic plan for strengthening the teaching, research, and extension activities at the SWFREC to increase its impact in the region. The Center Director will maintain liaison with local, state, and federal agencies and will interact with UF/IFAS administration, county Extension faculty, other UF faculty and staff, and agricultural and environmental leaders in accordance with the Center’s mission and goals.

The Center Director is expected to use appropriate communication and management skills to promote teamwork among faculty, students and staff and be able to delegate responsibility and make timely decisions. The Center Director is responsible for evaluation of SWFREC faculty programs and initiation of tenure and promotion actions in consultation with appropriate department chairs. The Center Director will co-supervise any State Specialized Agents (SSA) and Regional Specialized Agents (RSA) housed at the Center with the District Extension Director. The Center Director reports administratively to the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and programmatically to the Deans for Academic Programs, Research, and Extension.

The Center Director must take an active role to develop and maintain goodwill for the Center among various diverse internal and external stakeholder groups. Strong ties must be developed and maintained with organizations and public agencies, including commodity organizations and both local and statewide agriculture, natural resource, and regulatory governmental agencies. A good working relationship must also be maintained with private entities, including agricultural producers, members of agricultural industries, various agriculture and horticulture clientele groups, environmental organizations, and consumers. The Center Director will collaborate with UF/IFAS Department Chairs, other UF/IFAS Research and Education Center directors, district Extension directors, county Extension faculty and other UF units in program development, implementation and evaluation.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Required:**

An earned Ph.D. (foreign equivalent acceptable) in a field including but not limited to agriculture, environmental horticulture and/or natural resources. The candidate is expected to have experience in conducting teaching and research programs with academic credentials equivalent to the rank of professor. Experience with extension activities is also required. The candidate should have demonstrated strong professional leadership and support of faculty, staff, and student development. Effective communication, interpersonal, and administrative skills are essential. Candidates should also have experience in obtaining extramural support from commodity and industry groups or governmental agencies such as USDA. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to UF/IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** The Southwest Florida Research and Education Center ([https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu)) is situated on 320 acres and is located one mile north of Immokalee and approximately 35 miles southeast of Fort Myers, and is 40 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, which has internationally recognized tourism beach destinations (Sanibel, Captiva, and Marco islands). The Center faculty consists of a range of academic disciplines supporting research and Extension programs in precision agriculture, citrus and vegetable horticulture, irrigation, pest management, sugarcane, natural resource economics, and water quantity and quality. The SWFREC supplies decision-makers with
specific knowledge to protect, sustain and enhance agriculture, human and natural resources through nationally and internationally recognized research, Extension, and teaching programs.

The University of Florida (http://www.ufl.edu) is a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, and Space-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 57,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (http://ifas.ufl.edu) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (http://cals.ufl.edu), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (http://research.ifas.ufl.edu), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu), the College of Veterinary Medicine (http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu), the Florida Sea Grant program (http://www.flseagrant.org/), and encompasses 16 on-campus academic departments and schools, 12 Research and Educational Centers (REC) located throughout the state, 6 Research sites/demonstration units administered by RECs or academic departments, and Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties (counties operate and maintain). The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. UF/IFAS employs over 2,300 people, which includes approximately 990 salaried faculty and 1,400 permanent support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. UF/IFAS, one of the nation’s largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

Nominations
Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:

Please refer to Requisition # 518986
Dr. Micheal Allen
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida
Nature Coast Biological Station
552 1st Street
Cedar Key, FL 32625

Telephone: 352-325-6077
Electronic Mail: msal@ufl.edu

Application Instructions

Individuals wishing to apply should go online to https://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/en-us/job/518986 and submit:

▪ A formal letter of application which includes a brief statement of the applicant’s administrative philosophy and ideas on the role of a Center Director of an off-campus Research and Education Center,

▪ A statement of contributions to diversity, addressing past and/or potential contributions to diversity through administration, research, teaching, Extension, and/or service,

▪ A current curriculum vitae which includes service, consultancies, and a complete list of grants and publications, and

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

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Three (3) names and contact information of references who can assess the candidates qualifications for this position

Selected candidate will be required to provide an official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the US. The University of Florida is a public institution and subject to all requirements under Florida Sunshine and Public Record laws.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The University and greater Gainesville community enjoy a diversity of cultural events, restaurants, year-round outdoor recreational activities, and social opportunities.