POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 0001-3188

TITLE: Assistant Professor – Tomato Breeder – This professorship is supported by the Paul DiMare Endowment

LOCATION: Gulf Coast Research & Education Center
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
14625 CR 672
Wimauma, FL 33598

SALARY: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

POSITION OPEN TO:
Formal review of applications to begin February 2, 2007 and will continue until the position is filled.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position with an 80% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 20% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service) appointment, available at the University of Florida’s Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC). The assignment may change in accordance with the needs of IFAS and the unit. Tenure will accrue in the Horticultural Sciences Department. The appointee will develop an independent, nationally recognized tomato breeding and genetics program with an emphasis on creating cultivars that have outstanding yield, horticultural characteristics, flavor, and disease and pest resistance. The appointee will conduct the research program with strong extramural funding, and is expected to publish research in peer-reviewed journals and participate in the graduate education program. The appointee will partner with the existing tomato breeding program (which has focused on long term, high risk problems) to efficiently move valuable germplasm into finished cultivars. This new position is part of a statewide team of research and extension positions whose goal is to maintain and enhance the viability of the Florida tomato industry. Tomato is the most important vegetable crop in Florida and the Florida industry produces about 50% of all tomatoes harvested in the U.S. for the fresh market. Extension duties include training of extension agents, commercial growers, and other industry workers through participation in formal extension programs, personal contacts, newsletter articles, fact sheets, and the GCREC website focusing on tomato variety selection and evaluation.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS: A Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and/or Genetics, or in Horticulture or Agronomy with a specialization in plant breeding, is required. Experience with tomatoes and cultivar development is desirable, as is experience in the use of molecular markers to screen for traits of economic importance. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, working cooperatively
with others, and procurement of extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system and have a commitment to IFAS' core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Gulf Coast Research & Education Center, a unit in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida, is located about 20 miles southeast of the greater Tampa metropolitan area. The center serves one of the most important tomato production regions in the U.S. GCREC facilities include a new $16 million complex of offices, labs, walk-in growth rooms, and state-of-the-art greenhouses. Adjacent to this complex is a large block of land (several hundred acres) that is available for field trials. GCREC’s main building has a 500-seat auditorium and work space for 20 faculty and their support staff and graduate students. The University of Florida is a Land-Grant institution with an enrollment of approximately 48,000 students on the Gainesville campus (150 miles north of GCREC) and a member of the Association of American Universities. IFAS includes 20 academic units, 5 interdisciplinary centers, 14 research and educational centers throughout the state, and Cooperative Extension units in each of Florida's 67 counties and the Seminole Tribe. IFAS, one of the nation's largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension, the Dean for Research, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested persons are requested to submit the following items: (1) A letter of application discussing career goals and satisfaction of the stated qualifications; (2) A detailed curriculum vitae; (3) Official academic transcripts from all institutions attended (transcripts must be sent directly from the Institution to the address below); and (4) Three letters of recommendation (letters must be sent directly from the person writing the recommendation to the address below). Nomination of candidates is encouraged. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Refer to Position # 0001-3188

RETURN INQUIRIES TO:
Dr. Craig K. Chandler
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida
Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
14625 CR 672
Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-4136
FAX: (813) 634-0001
E-mail: ckc@ufl.edu

The "government in the sunshine" laws of Florida require that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application/nomination and reference, except transcripts, be available for public inspection. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation. The University of Florida is an Equal Employment Opportunity Institution.