POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT #0001-3382

Title: CENTER DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR

Location: MID-FLORIDA RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER (MREC)
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS)
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
APOPKA, FLORIDA

Salary: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Position Open To: Review of candidates will begin on January 2, 2007 and continue until position is filled

More Information: A detailed position prospectus is available at http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/special/MRECcdsearch/

We are seeking an innovative unit leader with broad programmatic vision and enthusiasm for leadership. The Center Director is the administrative head of the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC) and provides leadership and support for the MREC campus multi-disciplinary research, teaching, and extension programs essential to the agricultural, natural resource conservation, environmental, and consumer interests of the area. MREC programs seek to improve the viability of regional agricultural economies, protect and enhance natural resources, support sound urban and rural landscape practices, and encourage positive interests at the urban-agricultural interface.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The Center Director plays an active leadership role with the faculty to develop modern, innovative, and proactive research, extension, and teaching programs at the Center addressing the present and future needs of the surrounding agricultural, natural resource, and urban communities. The Center Director reports administratively to the Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and programmatically to the Deans for Academic Programs, Research, and Extension. The Director cooperates with UF/IFAS Deans, Department Chairs, other UF/IFAS Research and Education Center Directors, District Extension Directors, County Extension faculty, and other UF units in program development. This position strengthens and maintains strong ties and goodwill with agricultural commodity and support organizations, regulatory agencies, environmental groups, local and statewide governmental agencies, members of urban and rural clientele groups, and consumers. The Director will maintain interaction and cooperation with the teaching program at Hillsborough Community College in Plant City continuing an essential and strong component of the UF/IFAS statewide teaching program. The Director will continue to work with the UF College of Pharmacy as facilities and campus host for their degree program.
The Center Director practices sound management of resources of the MREC, including budgetary and personnel management, and develops short- and long-term goals involving programs, equipment, physical plant, and personnel. The Director is instrumental in obtaining financial support, including gifts and endowments, for research, teaching, and extension programs at the MREC. The Center Director uses appropriate communication and management skills to promote teamwork among faculty and staff and to delegate responsibility and to make timely decisions. The Center Director plays the lead role in recruiting and hiring faculty members. The Director is responsible for evaluation of MREC faculty programs and initiation of tenure and promotion actions in consultation with appropriate department chairs.

**BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:** An earned Ph.D. in a field related to agriculture or natural resources with experience in conducting major research, extension and/or teaching programs with academic credentials equivalent to the full professor required. The candidate should have demonstrated strong professional leadership, communication, interpersonal, and administrative skills. Candidates should also have experience in obtaining competitive extramural support for programs as well as support from commodity and industry groups. The candidate must show strong commitment to extension, research, and teaching. Previous administrative experience is desirable.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** The MREC, located in Apopka, Florida, is 15 miles northwest of the Orlando metropolitan area and 30 miles from the Orlando International Airport. MREC is 95 miles from the main UF campus at Gainesville. This close proximity allows easy participation in UF/IFAS administrative meetings and other main campus activities. MREC is central to large concentrations of Florida’s diversified ornamental plant and landscape industries producing nursery and indoor and foliage plants. In addition there are nearby fruit and vegetable production operations and many small, diversified farms. Center personnel include 14 faculty and 45 supporting staff, excluding part-time and grant-funded personnel and students. Currently, the interdisciplinary MREC faculty has members specializing in agricultural economics, entomology, landscape ornamentals and indoor foliage plants, landscape ecology, molecular biology, plant breeding, plant pathology, vegetable culture, and viticulture. More information on the MREC, UF/IFAS, and the region can be found at [http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/special/MRECcdsearch/](http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/special/MRECcdsearch/)

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:** Interested individuals should provide: (1) a formal letter of application which includes a brief statement of the applicant’s leadership skills and vision, administrative philosophy, and ideas on the role of an off-campus UF/IFAS Research and Education Center, (2) current curriculum vitae which includes a biographical sketch, leadership roles, service, consultant roles, and a complete list of publications, and (3) completed letters of reference from at least three individuals. The mailing address for applications is listed below. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

**APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

Center Director for Mid-Florida Research and Education Center Search
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
IFAS Office of Human Resources
University of Florida
P.O. Box 110281
2038 McCarty Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-0130

Email: ewallace@ufl.edu

*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*

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NOMINATION PROCEDURES: Individuals wishing to nominate candidates should do so by contacting the Search Committee Chair by facsimile, e-mail, or telephone no later than 1 November, 2006.

PLEASE SEND NOMINATIONS AND INQUIRIES ABOUT POSITION TO:

George J. Hochmuth
Search Committee Chair
Associate Dean for Research
1022 McCarty Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone: 352-392-1784
Fax: 352-392-4965
Email: hoch@ufl.edu

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