

15TH ANNUAL

# FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION RESEARCH AWARDS CEREMONY

*PROGRAM*

5:30 p.m.  
Poster Session

6:00 p.m.  
Awards Ceremony

VP Promise Award

Awards of Excellence for Graduate Research

Richard Jones Outstanding New Faculty Research Award

Plant Breeding Innovation Award

High Impact Research Publications

Research Service Award

Diversity Difference Maker Award

Large Grant Leadership Award

Culture of Nomination Award

AAAS Fellows Recognition

Reception to follow in the Galleria



The natural resources research theme of this year's Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Research Awards Ceremony couldn't be more timely.

We're at a worldwide inflection point that demands unprecedented increases in agricultural productivity. Robust natural resources research can help prevent us from destroying our planet in our rush to feed it.

Lost in our name is that we are also an organization dedicated to natural resources science. Tonight's program highlights how we're responding to the need for a convergence of our agriculture and natural resources work.

This moment of challenge is also a moment of tremendous opportunity. The DeLuca Preserve, the UF artificial intelligence initiative, a wave of talented faculty hires, and new or expanding collaborations with organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Solutions from the Land and the Nature Conservancy are new fuel for the innovation engine that can propel our natural resources research to higher impact.

Collaboration begins in-house. It's encouraging to see in these awards so many examples of teams assembled across departments and disciplines. In this fashion, our scientists will be able to achieve the breakthroughs necessary to protect profit for producers and protection for the planet.

### **Scott Angle**

*UF/IFAS Senior Vice President for  
Agriculture and Natural Resources*



We have some of the best minds in research gathered together tonight, and this event is a celebration of your successes from 2021.

The theme of tonight's ceremony is "natural resources research," and celebrating the big developments that have unfolded in the past year, particularly the donation of the 27,000 acre DeLuca Preserve in southern Osceola County. This donation from the DeLuca family is one of the largest gifts of real estate ever to any university in the entire nation!

The UF/IFAS Research Dean's Office and the UF/IFAS Senior Vice President's Office provided \$689,000 to jumpstart research at the Preserve, and one of the videos we'll watch tonight will highlight some of those projects.

Thank you for joining us this evening, and for your contributions to science!

### **Robert Gilbert**

*UF/IFAS Dean for Research and Director  
of the Florida Agricultural Experiment  
Station*