

Water Institute

570 Weil Hall
PO Box 116601
Gainesville, FL 32611-6601
352-392-5893
352-392-6855 Fax

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Dear UF Faculty Members:

As many of you know, faculty at UF have been working over the past several years to create a campus-wide Water Institute. This idea has now become a reality with the establishment of the UF Water Institute, approved by the faculty senate and UF President Machen, and sponsored by a \$1.2 million endowment donated by the Progress Energy Foundation.

Since taking the Director position on May 15th 2006 I, along with Water Institute Research Coordinators Kathleen McKee and Mark Newman, have been informally meeting with both internal and external stakeholders to promote grassroots support and interest in the Water Institute. If we have not yet gotten around to scheduling a meeting with your department, group or center, please be assured that we are very interested in doing so. Please contact me at wgraham@ufl.edu so that we can arrange a time.

We are anxious for the Fall semester to start so we can kick-off formal strategic planning for the Institute! An on-line survey is currently being developed to gather formal input from UF faculty on strategic focus areas for the Water Institute, as well as preferred forms of collaboration, communication and governance. The survey is scheduled for release by the end of August 2006. Once the results of this survey have been analyzed, a one day strategic planning retreat will be held near Gainesville (in late September or early October 2006) to provide faculty a chance to further participate in the development of the Institute's strategic plan. A similar survey and one-day forum will be conducted with external stakeholders. In late 2006 an internal Opportunity Fund RFP will be released to help jump start new Water Institute strategic initiatives. The first Progress Energy Water Summit will be planned for Spring 2008.

To date over 100 faculty members from the Colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Business, Design Construction and Planning, Engineering, Health and Human Performance, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences and Veterinary Medicine have registered to actively participate in the Water Institute. If you are interested and have not yet done so, please go to <http://www.waterinstitute.ufl.edu/expertise.html>, and follow the directions. It will take less than 5 minutes and you will then be formally affiliated with the Water Institute. You will begin receiving regular communications from us on opportunities to become involved in Water Institute programs, including the strategic planning survey that will be released at the end of August.

The Water Institute is grateful to the Civil and Coastal Engineering Department for generously providing space for the Water Institute offices. As of August 25th the Water Institute will be located in 570 Weil Hall. For more information about Water Institute activities see our website at <http://waterinstitute.ufl.edu>. You can contact us at 352-392-5893 after August 25th!

We look forward to working with you!



Wendy Graham
Carl S. Swisher Chair in Water Resources
Director University of Florida Water Institute

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