

# University of Florida Water Institute

## 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

### Introduction

Florida's burgeoning population, and the vulnerability of its water resources to climate and other human-induced environmental change, make the state a unique living laboratory in which to develop new knowledge and test solutions to global water issues. In recognition of the importance of water issues, and the need to address them in an interdisciplinary manner, the University of Florida (UF) established a campus-wide, interdisciplinary Water Institute in 2006. Since its inception, the UF Water Institute has emerged as a leader in coordinating interdisciplinary research, education and outreach programs. This strategic plan outlines the UF Water Institute vision, mission, core values, goals, strategies and metrics designed to address emerging water challenges and opportunities over the next five years. Appendix A contains a listing of internal and external Water Institute stakeholders who contributed to this strategic planning effort.

### Vision

To be a global leader in developing innovative knowledge and solutions for a sustainable and equitable water future.

### Mission

To build a diverse community that conducts interdisciplinary research, education and outreach to understand and solve complex water challenges.

### Core values

- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Excellence & Integrity
- Discovery & Innovation
- Interdisciplinarity & Collaboration

### Goals

1. **People:** Increase the number and diversity of faculty, staff, students and stakeholders engaged in Water Institute programs
2. **Knowledge:** Bring together teams to produce high-impact interdisciplinary water research and education programs that address state, national and global water issues
3. **Action:** Inform water-related decisions, actions and policy development through actionable research, expert assistance, stakeholder engagement and outreach

## Strategies

Strategies	Goal		
	1	2	3
1. Publish, implement, evaluate and update the Water Institute Inclusion Diversity Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Action Plan	X		
2. Provide engagement and mentoring opportunities for undergraduate, graduate students and post-doctoral associates, with special programs for underrepresented groups	X		
3. Nominate Water Institute affiliate faculty, students and staff who make outstanding contributions to water-related research, extension or education for state, national and international awards	X		
4. Strengthen the Water Institute Graduate Fellows program by securing continued support from the UF Graduate School and increased funding from external sources	X	X	
5. Host state, national and international events and working groups that promote networking opportunities, coproduction of knowledge, stakeholder engagement and visibility for the Water Institute community	X	X	X
6. Enhance external collaboration by leveraging Fulbright and other visiting scholar programs to bring national and international experts to participate in Water Institute programs	X	X	
7. Form and nurture interdisciplinary teams to write proposals, conduct research projects, produce synthesis papers, and develop new courses/curricula in emerging, high-priority areas	X	X	X
8. Coordinate and facilitate efforts to disseminate new knowledge and data-driven solutions to water users, water managers and policy makers			X
9. Increase the visibility and impact of the Water Institute and its affiliate faculty, staff and students by promoting its water-related research, extension and education contributions and related programs via innovative communication strategies	X	X	X

## Measures of Success

Metric	Strategy	Goal		
		1	2	3
1. Number of IDEA action plan metrics achieved	1	X		
2. Number and diversity of new faculty, staff and stakeholders engaged in Water Institute programs	1,4,5,6	X	X	
3. Number and diversity of undergraduate students, graduate students, post-doctoral associates and interns engaged in Water Institute programs	2,4	X	X	
4. Number of faculty, staff and students who receive awards through Water Institute efforts	3	X		
5. Number and diversity of graduate students funded by Water Institute programs	1,2,4	X	X	
6. Number UF graduate fellowships allocated to the Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program	4	X	X	
7. Amount of grant or donor funding obtained for the Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program to supplement the UF contribution	4	X	X	
8. Number of state, national and international events and working groups hosted	5	X	X	X
9. Number and diversity of attendees, and attendee satisfaction, for events and working groups hosted by the Water Institute	1,2,5	X	X	X
10. Number and diversity of external (national and international) scholars active in Water Institute programs	1,2,6	X	X	
11. Number and value of interdisciplinary water-related grants and contracts received by Water Institute and its Affiliate Faculty	7		X	X
12. Number of expert-assistance projects for water managers and policy makers coordinated by the Water Institute	7,8		X	X
13. Number of Water Institute facilitated outreach products, presentations and workshops delivered to water users, water managers and policy makers	7,8		X	X
14. Analytics from websites, social media platforms, blogs and communications about UF Water Institute programs and opportunities	9	X	X	X
15. Number of media and national and international news stories about Water Institute research findings, educational programs, and translational/actionable science	9	X	X	X

## **Appendix A: Contributors to the Water Institute 2022-2026 Strategic Plan**

### **Internal (UF) Stakeholders:**

#### Water Institute Staff:

Carton de Grammont, Paloma

Graham, Wendy

Schlatter, Karen

#### UF Faculty:

Albertin, Andrea (UF/IFAS Extension)

Allen, Micheal (Nature Coast Biological Station)

Angelini, Christine (Env Engineering Sciences)

Angelo, Mary Jane (Environmental Law)

Annable, Michael (Env Engineering Sciences)

Ash, Kevin (Geography)

Bartels, Wendy-Lin (Nat Res Leadership Inst)

Brenner, Mark (Geological Sciences)

Cohen, Matt (Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sci)

Denslow, Nancy (Aquatic Toxicology)

Irani, Tracy (Family, Youth & Community Sci)

Kadyampekeni, Davie (Soil & Water Sciences)

Kaplan, David (Env Engineering Sciences)

Laughinghouse, Dail (Agronomy)

Lusk, Mary (Soil & Water Sciences)

Martin, Jonathan (Geological Sciences)

Migliaccio, Kati (Ag & Bio Engineering)

Muñoz-Carpena, Rafael (Ag & Bio Engineering)

Reddy, Ramesh (Nat Resources & Environment)

Reisinger, AJ (Soil & Water Sciences)

Sabo-Attwood, Tara (Env & Global Health)

Southworth, Jane (Geography)

Whiles, Matt (Soil & Water Sciences)

### **External Stakeholders:**

Armstrong, Brian (Southwest Florida Water Management District)

Asefa, Tirusew (Tampa Bay Water)

Bartlett, Drew (South Florida Water Management District)

Blalock, Adam (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)

Dix, Nicole (Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve)

Henderson, Holly (Duke Energy)

Lewis, Beth (The Nature Conservancy)

Marzolf, Erich (St. Johns River Water Management District)

Pettit, Christopher (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services)

Rains, Mark (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)

Sherwood, Edward (Tampa Bay Estuary Program)

Shinn, Charles (Florida Farm Bureau Federation)

Thomas, Hugh (Suwannee River Water Management District)

Wraithmell, Julie (Audubon Florida)