

# THE SLICE

EXPLORING FUTURE  
MANAGEMENT OF THE  
**SUWANNEE  
RIVER BASIN**

CENTER FOR RURAL  
ENTERPRISE ENGAGEMENT  
**INSIGHT SUMMIT**

**STATE OF THE  
SCIENCE MEETING**

**UF|FEAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Center for  
Public Issues Education

**SPRING 2023**



# Exploring Future Management of the Suwannee River Basin

by Sydney Honeycutt

Through a three-year interdisciplinary project, researchers and local stakeholders have been working to understand future climate and land use scenarios in the Suwannee River Basin and Estuary.

Encompassing over 11,000 square miles in the southeastern United States, the Suwannee River Basin supports diverse ecosystems and communities. The Ecological and Economic Impacts of Land Use and Climate Change on Coastal Food Webs and Fisheries project funded by the National Academies of Science (NAS) explores the complex dynamic between human and natural systems in the region, informing the development of future management practices.

“This project was set up to try to understand how we can better manage the Basin in the face of climate change to protect and sustain natural resources,” said Micheal Allen, director of the UF/

# Center for Rural Enterprise Engagement Insight Summit

by Michaela Kandzer  
& Kaelyn Nelson

PIE Center partner program the Center for Rural Enterprise Engagement (CREE) hosted the sixth annual Insight Summit to educate professionals in the agriculture and natural resources sectors on new media marketing strategies.

While previously held in person, the Insight Summit was offered as an asynchronous course for the first time during fall 2022. Participants received access to interactive learning modules, monthly live sessions, worksheets, guides and a private Facebook group to collaborate with peers.

“This year’s Insight Summit focused on changes to social media strategy needed to market effectively in the new online environment, including new research on supply chains, online selling and cybersecurity,” said Lauri Baker, CREE co-founder and UF

associate professor of agricultural communication.

Ninety percent of participants felt “very knowledgeable” in terms of new media marketing after completing the course. Participants reported that they felt more comfortable developing a brand voice, creating visually appealing

content and selecting appropriate social media platforms.

Many participants expressed positive feedback on the self-paced component of the Insight Summit.

“Offering Insight Summit as a virtual course with live sessions proved to be an effective learning format for participants,” said Cheryl Boyer, CREE co-founder and professor at Kansas State University. “Attendees expressed great feedback related to engagement and experience.”

For more information about the 2022 Insight Summit, scan the QR code below:



IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station and principal investigator for the project.

Through extensive data synthesis on ground and surface water dynamics and coastal food webs, the project team is examining potential changes in water quality and quantity with implications to agriculture and natural resources in the Basin. Based on these changes, economic analyses will predict impacts to local industries such as tourism, recreation, fisheries and shellfish aquaculture.

“We hope this project will develop best management practices that people can use to maintain productive natural resources and agriculture that are so important to the region’s communities.” Allen said.

An integral aspect of the project has been the input of an advisory committee

comprised of local stakeholders from various sectors. The project team meets with the committee biannually to receive feedback on the project’s development.

**“ We hope this project will develop best management practices that people can use to maintain productive natural resources and agriculture that are so important to the region’s communities.**

– Micheal Allen

“The advisory committee has been invaluable in directing our focus toward important issues in the region,” said Angie Lindsey, UF associate professor of family, youth and community sciences and PIE Center affiliate faculty member. “By using direct input from stakeholders,

we have been able to understand needs in the community and identify ways the project can address them.”

The project team will meet with the advisory committee in June 2023 to receive feedback on scenario development and discuss efforts to disseminate findings to the public.

“As we begin to develop outreach materials for this project, the committee will help us connect with community members and other opinion leaders to reach target audiences,” Lindsey said. “Ultimately, we hope to disseminate results and scenarios with recommended practices to preserve natural resources and industries in the region.”

For more information about the project, visit <https://piecenter.com/2020/10/06/nas-suwannee/>.

## 2023 State of the Science Meeting

PIE Center student fellows and graduate assistants had the opportunity to present research at the State of the Science meeting, held March 6-7 in Gainesville, Florida.

Hosted by the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS), the 2023 State of the Science meeting focused on the agricultural impacts of climate uncertainty. The event included an evening reception and poster session, followed by a one-day meeting where scholars highlighted current findings, resources and upcoming projects.

During the poster session, several graduate students shared research supported by the PIE Center and its partner programs. Students were able to showcase their work and receive feedback from researchers in various disciplines.

PIE Fellow Andres Manrique, doctoral student in the University of Florida department of Environmental Health, received the distinguished poster award for his research related to dust exposure and heat-related illness among crop farmworkers in Florida. Manrique collaborated on the project with Salvatore Milletich, Tracy Irani and Tara Sabo-Attwood.

To learn more about the 2023 State of the Science meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/3ZmzSAW>.



PIE Center graduate research assistant Cheng-Xian Yang presents his research during the poster session at the State of the Science meeting,



PIE Fellow Andres Manrique (L) poses with SCCAHS outreach core director Tracy Irani (R) after receiving the distinguished poster award at the State of the Science meeting.

# Student Spotlights

Meet the PIE Center's undergraduate student workers who are graduating this spring.



**Kaelyn Nelson**

**HOMETOWN:** Gainesville, FL

**MAJOR:** Agricultural Education & Communication

**MINOR:** Leadership Development

**FAVORITE PROJECT:** Creating a video archive for the PIE Center and shooting video.

**HOBBIES:** Anything creative – making jewelry, music and songwriting, photography and freelance video.

“ The PIE Center has provided so many learning opportunities and has allowed me to develop my communication skills in the real world. I also enjoy working with everyone here because each person is so supportive and friendly.



**Katie Sadler**

**HOMETOWN:** Mayo, FL

**MAJOR:** Agricultural Education & Communication

**MINOR:** Leadership Development, Extension Education

**FAVORITE PROJECT:** State of the Science: Climate Impacts on Agricultural Health and Safety.

**HOBBIES:** Cooking, working out, fishing, watching sunsets and spending time with friends and family.

“ Working at the PIE Center is like working with a second family. I have received multiple opportunities to step out of my comfort zone to do research, help coordinate events and publish newsletters. I am so thankful that the PIE Center has been a part of my undergraduate experience.



**Rachel Stormant**

**HOMETOWN:** Jacksonville, FL

**MAJOR:** Agricultural Education & Communication

**SPECIALIZATION:** Communication & Leadership Development

**FAVORITE PROJECT:** Going to Cedar Key to record interviews and video; taking pictures at different events.

**HOBBIES:** Traveling, all types of photography and reading books.

“ Working at the PIE Center has allowed me to improve my graphic design and videography skills in an extremely fun and welcoming environment. I have learned about different forms of communication that I will be able to carry with me into my higher levels of education.



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