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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Stetson University Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience Receives \$185,000 from Florida Sea Grant

Funding will enhance economic value of natural landscapes through flood avoidance, pollinator habitat maintenance, water storage and more

DELAND, Florida, Feb. 12, 2020 – The [Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience \(IWER\)](#) at [Stetson University](#) will be making an environmental difference in Volusia County thanks to a \$185,000, two-year [Florida Sea Grant](#).

Florida Sea Grant is a university-based program that supports research, education and extension to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunities for Floridians.

IWER is partnering with the [East Central Florida Regional Planning Council](#); Thomas Ruppert, the Florida Sea Grant program's coastal planning specialist; and [Volusia County](#) to implement a landscape conservation and resilience planning project.

"The joint project provides an opportunity to develop robust recommendations for land conservation in Volusia County that account for the economic value of natural landscapes including environmental planning for flood avoidance, pollinator habitat maintenance, water storage and purification, and carbon sequestration," said [Jason Evans, PhD](#), interim executive director of IWER and associate professor of environmental science and studies at Stetson.

Grant funds will be used to employ a post-doctoral resilience modeling specialist who will implement geospatial modeling approaches for examining the landscape with mapping techniques through a partnership with [Stetson University's Brown Visiting Teacher-Scholar Fellows Program](#).

"I believe the Florida Sea Grant demonstrates that IWER is recognized as a leader in resilience planning, research and implementation," said Evans. "Having resilience planning experience and the ability to conduct a project of this magnitude in Volusia County are important aspects of the grant."

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 385 Best Colleges, 2020 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

Contact: Sandra Carr
Media Relations

P: 407-256-5090

E: scarr3@stetson.edu