**Campbell UF CALS Scholarship 2019**

**Applicants are notified of decisions at the end of the summer term and scholarships are awarded for the following academic year.**  
  
Please be prepared to provide the following:

* abstract of your academic research or master's project (2,000 character limit w/spaces),
* a brief statement about your career plans (3,500 character limit w/spaces),
* a pdf of your curriculum vitae/resume, and
* the names and email addresses of two professional or academic references.

You are responsible for contacting two references and asking them to submit a letter by April 1 at <https://bit.ly/2rofamT>. Select individuals who can speak to your accomplishments and professional potential. Letters from friends or relatives are not appropriate. If reference letters are deemed inappropriate or falsified, your application will not be considered. CALS reserves the right to contact references directly to verify information. **Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their references submit letters.** Incomplete applications will not be considered.  
  
Questions? Call 352-392-1963 or email chcarr@ufl.edu.

Hi David. Thanks for sharing your writing with me. My comments are a bit wordy but I wanted to make sure I explained my thought process as best I could. This is a great start to your grant application and if you have any question about my comments or you want another set of eyes to help you edit as this gets closer to being submitted please let me know, I would love to help!

Academic research (2,000 character requirement w/spaces)

Currently: 1,980 (with spaces)

Perennial fruit production in Florida has historically been citrus, but the introduction of citrus greening has encouraged growers to diversify. Conventional and organic citrus farmers are beginning to repurpose citrus orchards to grow peach (*Prunus persica*) tree cultivars bred at the University of Florida. Organic sales are increasing, but high insect pest and/or pathogen activity in the southeastern US has lowered marketable yield for organic peach growers due to a lack of effective organically-approved integrated pest and disease management options. A pilot project conducted by Clemson University researchers demonstrated that manually bagged peaches increased marketable yield in South Carolina. My PhD research program includes three projects designed to help Florida perennial fruit growers: bagging to reduce organic peach insect and pathogen injury; peach fruit quality under different colored light conditions; and cover crop growth and residue degradation rates.

In collaboration with a certified organic grower in central Florida, an on-farm trial to assess the impacts of bagging organic peaches began in 2018. Past research has provided mixed results regarding an increased anthocyanin content of fruit when grown in light filtered by different colors and a second complimentary one-year project will assess peach quality when grown in colored bags. In addition to helping farmers reduce injury to their peaches we plant to investigate the role of cin ingin nutrient release. Bagging is a labor intensive process and introducing cover crop systems increases production costs but before providing any recommendation a financial assessment will be conducted. Our goal is to provide perennial fruit growers with additional pest and disease management strategies and nutrient management options to improve the quality of their peaches and the quality of their land.

Career plans (3,500 w/spaces)

Word count: 3,472 (w/spaces)

As a skilled leader and researcher with a demonstrated record of success managing and contributing to the academic arena as evidenced by the respect of my colleagues and record, I plan to apply my skills and training in the field of agriculture to promote systems-based changes to improve the environment and benefit all Florida residents. After I graduate with my doctoral degree, I am excited to utilize my general agroecological knowledge and professional experiences in higher education, government, or private industry. I am interested in exploring work in any of these, because positive change can be achieved in any of the entities.

One of the exciting aspects is that this short list includes a lot of diversity in job types and a position in any could provide me with the ability to further my academic, professional, and personal interests. Academically, I want to continue learning and supporting all aspects agriculture that include an emphasis on farmer financial security and environmental quality. Professionally, I want to mentor others, create an environment where others will flourish, and help manage an efficient operation. Personally, I look forward to connecting with all types of people in the agriculture field to find mutually agreeable solutions that satisfy the interests of all parties. Although I have sought to be a generalist and one that supports others, I have the proven qualities of a leader and look forward to using those leadership skills in higher education, government, or industry.

An assistant professor position is a natural next step in my career and if given the opportunity, I look forward to relying on my past teaching, research, and publication experiences. Other, non-tenure accruing positions in higher education such as research administration or serving as a lecturer could be equally enjoyable as I divert my skills to managing administrative matters or educating our next agricultural leaders. Networking with professionals in the field has encouraged me to pursue positions in the government or private industry. Legislative matters, as far-reaching as the national Farm Bill or state-specific as water management district plans, can affect agriculture greatly and I would enjoy using a systems-based agricultural perspective to influence policy matters. Positions in the private industry, such as a manager at a research farm or acting as a consultant that provides sound agroecologial advice to farmers, is another exciting possibility. From a very basic standpoint, the farmer that grows food should be the most important consideration and any position in higher education, government or industry has the opportunity to support the farmer and by extension support the environment and make real positive change.

I look forward to analyzing the balance of responsibility, financial reward, and ability to make direct impacts on the agroecological world that any job inherently holds. I will select positions with increasing responsibility that will allow me to learn, grow, and support the agricultural producers and fragile environment of Florida. I look forward to creating teams of professionals to create, support, and implement systems-based solutions from interdisciplinary fields such as: horticulture, agronomy, soil science, plant pathology, entomology, and social sciences. A CALS scholarship would be very impactful for me to supplement my stipend and would be used for housing, living expenses, and books.