

## **FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

October 24, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Request to Surplus and Dispose Property, Request to Acquire Property;  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve the surplus and disposal of approximately 196 acres of land at Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida and approximately 21 acres of land at Dover, Hillsborough County, Florida. Approve the acquisition of approximately 473 acres of land in Hillsborough County, Florida. Authorize the Chancellor, Division of Colleges and Universities, or the Chancellor's designee, to execute the documents required by the Department of Environmental Protection for the transactions.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) was established at two locations in 1925 as a joint venture between the State of Florida, Hillsborough County (GCREC-Dover), Manatee County (GCREC-Bradenton) and agricultural interests across central and southwest Florida, and has a long history of contributions to the agricultural industry of Florida, the U.S., and the world. The locations have changed over the years with GCREC-Bradenton moving to its present location in 1965 and GCREC-Dover moving to its present site in 1960.

As a result of AThe Effectiveness of the Organizational Structure of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences@study, programs located throughout the state are being consolidated. UF/IFAS has determined that it is in the best long-term interests of GCREC to consolidate the two locations. Additionally, due to the poor conditions of the facilities and problems associated with urban encroachment at both present locations, it was determined to be cost-effective to dispose of both the Bradenton and Dover sites and move to a new location.

GCREC Bradenton and Dover will be relocated into one new regional location. The Bradenton site will be sold as provided for in Chapter 90-148, Laws of Florida. The Dover site will revert to Hillsborough County ownership pursuant to the terms of the original deed. Funds from the sale of the Bradenton site, along with funds already appropriated, will be used to construct and develop the new regional center. Based upon information obtained and evaluated, the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources has recommended that a

473 acre parcel located in and owned by Hillsborough County offers the best long-term programmatic, financial, and environmental benefits for the new Regional Center.

These transactions are subject to approval of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and will be made in accordance with the procedures of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**Supporting Documentation Included:** None

**Other Supporting Documents Available:** Letter from President Charles Young dated September 17, 2002, with attachments.

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Carl W. Blackwell