

The Development of an Educational Continuum to Meet Agricultural Workforce Needs

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Community Needs

- Jobs within the community
- Training of local biofuels workforce
- Education for profession-bound students
- Services for biofuels entrepreneurs
- Private farming system alternatives
- Improvement of overall education system

Hendry County

Traditional farming industries are struggling
Clearly established environmental restoration goal by the government and general public
Desire to develop sustainable farming and fuel conversion systems to provide food and energy to south Florida
Advancing the environmental sustainability of biofuels production and processing
Create jobs
Attract investment sources

Secondary Education

Development of a career academy with a focus on sustainable food and fuel production
Bridge the divide between agricultural production and ecological priorities
Develop curriculum for career academy
Teacher professional development
Industry certification for students

Outcomes

- Local workforce
- Industry Certification
 - Edison State College/University of Florida

Edison State College

Examine career opportunities in the biofuels industry
Complete general education course requirements with a sustainable agriculture and biofuels focus
Internship at local farm or UF-IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
Work with graduate students in advanced engineering research related to biofuels sustainable agriculture
Receive an associate's degree

Outcomes

- Local workforce
- Associate's degree
- University of Florida

University of Florida

Articulation agreement between Edison State College and University of Florida to allow for a seamless transition
Further development of technical skills in biofuels and sustainable agriculture through research with faculty members
New degree specialization focused on identifying and meeting local needs

Outcomes

- Local workforce
- Bachelor's degree
- Higher Education