



Michael Dukes, Ph. D.
*University of Florida,
 Agricultural and Biological Engineering*



2015 UF Water Institute Faculty Fellow

The UF Water Institute Faculty Fellow Award program recognizes UF faculty who are making outstanding contributions to interdisciplinary water research, extension, or education programs as well as substantial contributions to the goals of the UF Water Institute.

Dr. Dukes is a widely recognized expert in irrigation engineering, crop water use, and water quality and quantity issues, including using Best Management Practices to reduce pollutant runoff from agricultural and urban landscapes. He has been an integral part of many Water Institute projects and says the Water Institute is “a great mechanism to encourage interdisciplinary connections and work.” According to Dr. Dukes, most significant problems require interdisciplinary approaches because “it is rare that one type of expertise can bring to bear everything needed to solve a particular problem. The Water Institute is a critical piece to forming the connections needed to address significant water issues in Florida and beyond.”

Dr. Dukes’ research and extension programs, particularly his development of innovative urban smart irrigation technologies, are nationally renowned, and here at the University of Florida, his students, research coordinator, and lab technicians speak very highly of him, describing him as encouraging, patient, and so much more:



"Dr. Dukes has been the most effective mentor and boss that I've ever had. He tailors his management of his students to their personalities and needs."
 -Graduate Student

"He's not one to shy away from the manual labor of laying sod or planting strawberries. He's pretty much the rock star of irrigation (and we're his groupies)."
 -Graduate Student

"He holds high research standards, which has helped make me a better scientist. Dr. Dukes has kept me focused on current water use issues and research that contributes to solutions of problems at hand."
 -Graduate Student



"Dr. Dukes gives us the tools we need and then challenges us to realize our potential. As a mentor, his patience is exemplary because he allows us time to develop our skills, ultimately so we can be better professionals."
 -Graduate Student

"He's very encouraging. He demands a lot from you, but he trusts you to work independently and complete your tasks. Like all good managers, he knows when to push you and when not to. And although Dr. Dukes is very serious in what he does, he has a good sense of humor."
 -Graduate Student