



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is Sarasota County Government's involvement?**

In recognition of the potential economic development impact of this opportunity, the Sarasota County Commission has unanimously approved a contribution of \$1 million - \$200,000 annually for five years based upon milestones and performance metrics – to help launch the station. The project is in keeping with Sarasota County's goals of encouraging economic growth and promoting quality of life.

### **What are the other funding sources?**

Charles & Margery Barancik is the lead philanthropic partner and awarded a five-year, \$980,000 grant. Gulf Coast Community Foundation made a one-year grant of \$63,000, and an addition \$1 million will be provided by the University of Florida.

### **Why was Sarasota County selected?**

Sarasota County is uniquely positioned with an abundant creative class, a business and tech community with a wide range of advancements, a diverse and enhanced physical environment attractive to engineering students, a breadth and depth of experienced leadership talent and an up-and-coming, innovative start-up community.

### **What are some of the benefits for the Sarasota County community?**

UF Innovation Station programs will provide:

- Local industry with an avenue to applied research partnerships with UF faculty resident at the Gainesville campus
- Local businesses with internship opportunities and a broad engineering workforce pipeline
- Local education community with collaborative offerings aimed at developing a pipeline of creative engineering innovators from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade through career entry
- Local startup community with online engineering entrepreneurship and innovation offerings, student interns and targeted workshop offerings in fields of need
- A rebranding of our community's perception globally as it relates to the innovation economy

### **Where will the UF Innovation Station Sarasota be located?**

The UF Innovation Station will be in 1,000 to 1,500 square feet of leased office space in Sarasota County.

### **When will it open?**

Within six months, but UF representatives will be in Sarasota County in the meantime working to strengthen existing industry connections and foster new ones.

**How many and what kind of staff will work at the UF Innovation Station?**

The UF Innovation Station will be staffed by three to four people from UF – a director and program coordinators focused on industry, workforce development and educational collaboration programs.

**Will it be possible to get a UF degree through the UF Innovation Station?**

No student credit hours will be offered, but through a partnership with State College of Florida, students in the Gator Engineering @ SCF program will be able to matriculate to the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering in Gainesville while still resident at SCF.

**If I'm a business owner or entrepreneur, how will I use the UF Innovation Station?**

The goal is to ease the pathway between industry needs and UF capabilities. Business owners and entrepreneurs will be able to work with UF professionals in Sarasota County to access UF faculty, interns, technology, equipment and infrastructure.