

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UF HOUSING ACCEPTED AS EPA PESTICIDE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM MEMBER**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – The University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education has been accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) member at the Bronze Level.

The [EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program](#) was established in 1994. The partnership between EPA and the pesticide-user community encourages the reduction of environmental risks from pests and pesticide use while ensuring human health and environmental safety. PESP membership recognizes innovative, alternative pest control practices such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the use of biological pesticides. UF Housing recently attained IPM Green Shield Certification from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc.

“EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship membership is a goal staff wanted to accomplish for a couple of years. When UF Housing became IPM Green Shield certified, the certification provided staff with the perfect opportunity to apply for PESP membership,” said Wayne Walker, Senior Pest Control Technician. “Housing staff has supported the concepts of PESP for years and will now have the opportunity to show that support through encouragement to other institutions and interaction with PESP membership organizations.”

There are three levels of membership: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Most members are initially accepted at the Bronze Level and commit to collecting performance measurement data in the following categories: Risk Reduction, Education/Promotion, and Economic Benefits. PESP members report annually to EPA. Reporting requirements increase at each tier of membership.