



SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Visitors tasting the fruits of Muscadine grape research.

# FAMU hosts research forum

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Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) hosted an impactful research forum on March 31.

More than 200 participants representing the agriculture research community, farming industry, government agencies, and the private sector attended the event. The forum took place in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Second Morrill Act, which established FAMU as an 1890 land-grant university.

With the theme "A New Season for Agriculture Research," the forum also presented an opportunity to showcase college-wide research, extension services, and outreach activities in support of the College's mission of teaching, research, and outreach.

Special guests attending the forum included Adam Putnam, Florida commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D., administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Division of Research Service.

National leaders in attendance observed students and faculty presentations on research taking place at the College through oral and poster presentations.



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FAMU President Elmira Mangum and Commissioner Adam Putnam.

Their projects include:

- Strategies to monitor insecticide resistance in the Asian citrus psyllid, one of the most devastating insect pests of citrus in Florida
- How to reduce the use of chemical insecticides by using companion and refuge plants to enhance control of insect pests in

vegetables

- The effects of natural organic matter on arsenic removal from drinking water
- An exploration of the first-ever gene cloning to help improve metabolic engineering in muscadine grapes.

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