This award is given annually to an outstanding candidate, a graduate student in the Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences Department (SWESD) UF; or student enrolled in the graduate program in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) w/ Major Advisor or Co-Advisor in SWESD) in recognition of cutting-edge research in modeling of soil and environmental systems and pedometrics. The awardee will be recognized with an award certificate and $250 award.

We invite research applications in soil and environmental sciences focused on:
- Artificial Intelligence, AI (machine learning, ML, and deep learning, DL algorithms)
- Development of new modeling approaches
- Digital soil mapping and modeling
- Digital twins
- Pedometrics-econometrics approaches (e.g., Stochastic Frontiers Analysis, Data Envelopment Analysis)
- Ensemble modeling
- Mechanistic, process-based simulation modeling
- Hybrid modeling (Bayesian, geostatistics, statistics, AI, and other methods)
- Meta-analysis
The award is open to graduate students in SWESD or SNRE, UF. Self-nominations and nominations by faculty members are invited. To be considered for the award please submit the following:

- Contact address of candidate (incl. email and phone)
- Curriculum vitae of candidate
- Essay of the candidate describing the implemented and completed research in soil and environmental modeling / pedometrics approach (maximum of 1 page)
- Two letters of nomination/recommendation (e.g., Major Advisor, faculty co-advisors)
- Provide pdfs of peer-reviewed published journal articles, book chapters that demonstrate the completion of the research; and or pdf of completed dissertation.

Each candidate will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Innovation** to apply quantitative methods (AI, statistical, geostatistical, geospatial, temporal, or spatio-temporal modeling techniques) in soil-environmental sciences
- **Novelty** of research to investigate a soil-environmental problem of high significance
- **Cutting edge modeling** using Artificial Intelligence (machine learning and deep learning algorithms)
- **Application** of digital methods including GIS, remote sensing, proximal soil sensing, remote sensing; and/or development of new quantitative methods
- **Complexity and difficulty level** of applied methods
- **Clarity** of documentation of research
- **Quantification of** uncertainty and quality to assess/predict soil-environmental properties; ecosystem processes, functions, and/or services
- **Interpretation** of results and novel conclusions.

**Sponsor:** Pedometrics, Landscape Analysis and GIS Laboratory, SWED, UF; Dr. Sabine Grunwald

**Nomination submission deadline:** October 2, 2023.

**Award funds:** $250 award.