

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Virtual Gubernatorial Townhall Hosted by United Faculty of Florida

Recent events at the University of Florida have made it clear that academic freedom, free speech, and the role that higher education plays in promoting the public good are key issues for the 2022 Florida Governor's race.

The national spotlight is shining on higher education in Florida due to a firestorm of events:

- Three professors who were denied their rights by UF to testify as expert witnesses in a case against the state.
- A College of Education professor has been censored and bullied over course titles and the words in a well-known concentration of study by top UF administrators due to undue political influence.
- Restrictions placed upon higher education teaching and learning by HB 233, Florida's "Viewpoint Discrimination" law.

On Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., the United Faculty of Florida will host a higher education virtual townhall for Florida's gubernatorial candidates. All candidates have been invited, and U.S. Representative Charlie Crist, Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried, and State Senator Annette Taddeo have agreed to attend. This virtual event will be moderated by UFF President Andrew Gothard. After brief statements from each candidate, questions will be taken from UFF's members, which include Florida's higher education faculty and graduate employees.

While press are encouraged to attend, questions will only be accepted from the UFF member faculty and graduate employee audience.

Press interested in attending live on the Zoom webinar should register in advance [here](#).

Press may also watch the Facebook livestream of the event [here](#).