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## **Launch into IA 2023 Welcomes Over 350 Undergrads to UF and IA**

Gainesville, FL, [January 5, 2023] –The UF Innovation Academy (IA) is excited to welcome the incoming class of 2026 IA students, as well as family, friends, and guests, to the UF campus and to the IA program at IA’s convocation event, Launch Into IA. This event will take place on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 9:30am to 12:00pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Student Union. The Launch Into IA 2023 ceremony will be followed by a reception for family, friends and guests and breakout rooms for the over 350 incoming IA students to receive important information about the upcoming spring semester.

The UF Innovation Academy is also honored to welcome Dr. Farouk Dey as the Launch Into IA 2023 Keynote Speaker. Named one of LinkedIn’s Top 10 Voices in Education, Dr. Dey is a higher education and workforce development executive who has led and transformed university organizations for two decades. Dr. Dey has held positions at UF, Stanford University and Carnegie Mellon University and is now the Vice Provost for Integrative Learning and Life Design at Johns Hopkins. Second-year business administration major, Jaden Nosse, will be this year’s IA Sophomore Student Speaker.

“It gives me great joy to welcome our incoming class of 2026 of over 350+ students to the start of their academic careers at the University of Florida,” IA Director Dr. Jeff Citty said. “This year we will continue to ensure our students success through expanded community partnerships, engaging our alumni and growing our student resources.”

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The Innovation Academy (UF IA) is one of the nation’s most forward-looking undergraduate programs – at one of its most dynamic research universities. UF IA gives motivated students a small-college experience focused on innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, ethics, and leadership on a unique spring-summer schedule. UF IA enrolls and supports academically talented students focused on developing knowledge to grow new business opportunities, services, and products through curricular and co-curricular experiences.

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For more information, please visit the UF IA website at <https://innovationacademy.ufl.edu/>