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Launch into IA to be hosted in the University Auditorium

Gainesville, FL, [January 3, 2022] – For the first time since 2020, the UF Innovation Academy (IA) is gathering in-person on January 4, 2022 at the University Auditorium for Launch into IA. Launch into IA is IA’s convocation event welcoming all incoming IA students to the University of Florida campus and the UF Innovation Academy program.

The UF Innovation Academy is excited to welcome Kim Kaupe as the Launch into IA keynote speaker, and second-year biology major Samarah Attie as the IA Sophomore student speaker. Kaupe is an influencer, one-of-a-kind teacher, speaker, and partner in the fan engagement agency, Bright Ideas Only, working with A-list clients on marketing, branding, and revenue streams. Kaupe has been named one of Forbes’ 30 Under 30 and Inc.’s 35 Under 35.

This year Launch into IA also coincides with the UF Innovation Academy’s 10th Anniversary. Since its founding in 2013, IA has been equipping students with an innovative mindset and a toolbox of 21st century skills to meet an ever more competitive job market. Today total student enrollment is over 1,000 and IA’s network of alumni are working in diverse fields around the country and the world.

“We are thrilled to be welcoming over 300 IA students to the university community and celebrating with them the start of their academic endeavors here at the University of Florida,” IA Director Dr. Jeff Citty said. “It is even more special to have these students joining IA as we celebrate 10 years of innovation, entrepreneurship and collaboration.”

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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.

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