

Mehmet Öztan, Ph.D.

E-mail: oztanmeh@gmail.com

Personal website: <https://mehmetoztan.com>

**Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Response (RIDER) Center
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Tallahassee, FL**

2024 – Present

Director of Community Engagement and Communications (full-time)

Website: rider.eng.famu.fsu.edu

RIDER is a research-intensive engineering center positioned in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering with 16 affiliated faculty and \$6+ million in total grant expenditures in 2024. 14 faculty are housed in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and 2 faculty are housed in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. Research accomplished at the Center focuses on advancing the quality of life in the communities in Florida and the Southeast region by identifying disaster response, improving infrastructure, investigating ways to minimize negative impacts of natural disasters, and developing new methods for economic and environmental sustainability.

- Communicate and collaborate with academic units at FAMU and FSU, including the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, FAMU Extension, and colleges at both institutions such as the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education, College of Nursing, FSU National MagLab and the Challenger Learning Center among others, and with local and regional non-profit organizations to maintain existing and build new community and research partnerships to advance the Center's community engagement, outreach and research profiles.
- Assist faculty for the development of community engagement and outreach components of their grant proposals for state and federal sponsoring agencies such as DOT, FDOT, NSF, DEP, and USDA among others.
- Lead the Center's re-branding efforts for community engagement, outreach and fundraising purposes.
- Write best practices documents and MOUs, when needed, for internal needs and to be used to streamline expectations from research and outreach collaborations with external partners.
- Organize workshops such as *how to write for public* workshops to improve the Center-affiliated faculty's publicly engaged research communication skills.
- Organize events that bring regional researchers and community stakeholders from North Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, Ohio and Florida together to expand the Center's outreach and research capacity in the southeast region.
- Organize the Center's faculty and student orientation.
- Initiate and organize the Center's research seminar series.
- Oversee the Center's social media accounts for engagement with academic and non-academic communities.
- Supervise the Center's Science Communication Team (SciCom) for daily and creative tasks, including preparation of coloring books for STEM education for kids and lab brochures to communicate research with general audiences.

- Lead the organization of on and off-campus community engagement events including public center tours, outreach events at Title-I elementary schools, tours for middle and high school students, open house events, and tours for prospective and existing community and academic research partners among others.
- Prepare and update the Manual for Standard Operating Procedures to streamline day-to-day functioning of the Center.
- Manage, re-design and re-organize the Center's website.
- Engage faculty and help with grant proposals to initiate the Center's sustainable agriculture research track to target USDA grants for farmer-centered research projects.
- Represent the Center at college events to engage with domestic undergraduate students to recruit them for graduate studies to do research with the Center's faculty researchers.
- Collaborate with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering establish micro-credentials/continuing education programming designed for working professionals and the public.
- Took the lead to establish the Center's online foundation and fundraising presence for fundraising campaigns with specific priorities and general donations.
- Create the Center's newsletter and organize and segment email lists for the alumni, community contacts, and current and potential sponsors to disseminate research news for relationship building and donor cultivation purposes.
- Work, communicate and collaborate with faculty, students and staff from vibrant, multi-cultural and multi-lingual backgrounds.