



# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## TREEO CENTER

Division of Continuing Education  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 28, 2004**

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### **UF/TREEO Training Specialist Recognized for Commitment to Backflow Prevention**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Les O’Brien, CET, senior training specialist at the University of Florida TREEO Center, was recently awarded the Larry Burkieser Award by the Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Sanitary Engineering. This is first time since the award’s inception that someone outside the state of Michigan was the recipient.

The Larry Burkieser Award is presented to the person who past recipients believe has contributed significantly to the cross-connection control industry. O’Brien was selected for his commitment to cross-connection control and backflow prevention education and training and his willingness to provide assistance to industry professionals.

O’Brien has been the lead instructor for backflow prevention and cross-connection control courses in the state of Florida since 1983 and has been responsible for training instructors of backflow prevention tester training programs throughout the United States. He is a past president of the American Backflow Prevention Association and received its Meritorious Service Award in 2002. In 2002, he also was named National Team Trainer of the Year by the National Environmental Training Association. O’Brien joined the University of Florida TREEO Center as a senior training specialist in backflow prevention and cross-connection control after retiring from Gainesville Regional Utilities’ water engineering department, where he was the cross-connection control supervisor from 1982 to 1990.

The University of Florida Center for Training, Research and Education for Environmental Occupations (TREEO) offers more than 250 non-credit, professional development courses each year, as well as technical assistance, in the environmental and health and safety fields.

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