



Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph. D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

September 6, 2022

Dear Faculty:

As we begin a new academic year, it is time to revisit how we are positioning our research to showcase SMU's unique strengths. This past summer, I and other SMU leadership traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with senior leaders in Congress and the Biden administration to share our Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 federal priorities. It was an exciting opportunity to highlight our recent progress in strategic areas and discuss how SMU's research can address federal needs and inform policymaking. The FY 2024 Congressional appropriations process will begin later this fall.

SMU leadership is fully invested and engaged in the Community Project Funding process, as it brings real benefits to our faculty and students. While the FY 2023 appropriations process is still ongoing in Congress, we expect several of our federal priorities will ultimately be successful. In the FY 2022 cycle, two SMU projects were funded in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. The first project, Using Human Computation Gaming and Machine Learning to Combat Human Trafficking, received approximately \$1,187,000 from the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program at the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. This project is led by Elizabeth Wheaton (PI), in Economics; Corey Clark, Deputy Director of Guildhall and Assistant Professor in Computer Science and Engineering; and Raanju Sundararajan, Assistant Professor in Statistics. The second project, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality for Dallas ISD and West Dallas STEM School, received nearly \$890,000 from the Department of Education. Anthony Cuevas (PI), Assistant Dean in Simmons; Corey Clark of Guildhall and CSE; Candace Walkington, Associate Professor in Teaching and Learning; and Diane Gifford, Clinical Associate Professor in Teaching and Learning, are leading the project.

To improve the chances of a successful federal strategy in FY 2024, we are seeking to submit 20 projects to Congress for their consideration via earmark and/or appropriation

requests. This is a significant increase from FY 2022 and FY 2023, where we submitted five and nine projects, respectively. While we will carefully review and consider each project, feedback from Congressional offices suggests projects requesting less than \$3,000,000 each are more likely to be accepted and, ultimately, funded.

Later this fall, we will be hosting a federal research workshop on campus. I respectfully ask each of you to consider how your work may benefit from federal investment, and I encourage you to join us at the town hall portion of the workshop. More information about the FY 2024 submission process and federal research workshop will be forthcoming.

SMU is fortunate to have international leaders in many different disciplines that are actively collaborating with other universities, as well as community organizations. It is my hope that we will leverage these investments to demonstrate our commitment to North Texas and our country.

Thank you, again, for your great work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Lobo', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here