



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3203

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Technology advancements in robotics and AI have tremendous potential to shape the future. To cultivate this potential, we seek additional support for our Robotics program. Saint Leo received a grant of about \$1.2 million in a prior recent year. Funding would help us take the program to the next level and go towards lab equipment, staffing, research, and development, providing our students with the tools they need to become leaders in this cutting-edge field.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,533,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	865,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,398,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,398,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	2,398,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	1,247,500	57/58A	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Other university funds or donations.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.



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The total amount of federal assistance received by Saint Leo University during the COVID19 pandemic is \$35,559,452. The university received \$4,806,326 (Cares Act), \$10,984,932 (CRRSAA) & \$19,559,452 (American Rescue Plan). The funding was used to assist students in their transition during the pandemic with economic assistance as well as provide financial assistance to the university to maintain sustainability and capacity.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

TBD

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

TBD

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Saint Leo University

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	2 Robotics Faculty (\$150,000 salary each plus 36% benefits cost).	408,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Robotics platforms, hardware & software Computer hardware and software - workstations, laptops, mobile devices, and AI apps	1,125,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	2000 square foot laboratory Build out of workspaces Testing spaces for robots	865,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,398,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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Funding is requested to establish and build out a laboratory space to house a new Bachelor of Science program in Robotics and to hire select staff to prepare graduates for the intersection of electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering grounded in the principals, practices and applications of robotics. This new degree program will prepare students of the Tampa Bay area and other students in the state of Florida for jobs in the fast growing field of robotics and artificial intelligence.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Funding is requested to acquire equipment and build out laboratory space to house the Bachelor of Science program in Robotics and to hire select staff to prepare graduates for the intersection of electronics, computer, and mechanical engineering grounded in the principals, practices and application of robotics.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

University classes and laboratory to be used for Florida citizens completion of Bachelor's Degree in the fields of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

More than 800 university/college students are expected to be served by the program upon completion of the project.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Improve agricultural production/promotion/education by supporting agriculture through increased use of Robots and technicians trained in robot operation and maintenance to be measured by the number of graduates and certificate holders who are skilled in Robotics technology to support farmers in their use of robots for agriculture production. Improve quality of education by increasing the number of robotics trained and educated citizens of Florida who will hold Bachelors degrees in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence to be measured by the number of jobs secured by Saint Leo students in the field of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Failure to meet deliverables would result in a return of funding to the state.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity

Non Profit 501(c)(3)

Non Profit 501(c)(4)

Local Entity



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University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number