



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2078

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funding is requested to establish a new Bachelor of Science program in Robotics that will 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 for jobs in the fast growing field of robotics engineering and science. Saint Leo University strives to be a top producer in educating the future workforce who will have the skill sets to lead and exceed in this field. Currently UWF has a Ph.D program, UF has a general mechanical engineering program. Neither USF, UT or UCF offer a Robotics degree. With Saint Leo University's new degree programs in software engineering, cybersecurity and computer science, robotics is a natural extension and much of the programming is done by software engineers. There are approximately 200 jobs currently open in this field and fewer programs than are needed to meet current/future demand.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	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 2021-2022	1,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	1,250,000	65b	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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



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

Yes

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

Saint Leo University received CARES Act funding. \$2,320,2000 in emergency cash grants were distributed to 2,819 students. Other funding may have been received.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Robot Kits Industrial Robot Demonstrators Circuit Boards and Micro Controllers Electronic/engineering equipment Electronic components Fabrication facilities and 3D printers	1,000,000
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		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

Production of robotics trained engineering students to support the every growing robotics industry in Pasco County, and the state of Florida.

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

Students will be able to serve in robotics engineering internships in Pasco County and surrounding counties in Florida.

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

Citizens will have the opportunity to tour and experience a robotics laboratory and have experiential demonstrations by faculty and students on engineering of robotics.

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

College and high school students in Pasco County.

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



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The direct, expected benefit is the production of highly skilled robotics engineering graduates. A secondary benefit will be the opportunity for Pasco area groves, orchards and other farming environments to employ skilled robotics students as interns and faculty members as externs to support this growing robotics environment in the Tampa Bay area. Saint Leo University will use enrollment data and career services data to measure outcomes.

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?

Return of funding.

13. 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.

n/a



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name
e. E-mail Address
f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number