



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1828

1. Project Title Saint Leo University Robotics Engineering Degree and Microcredentials Program

2. Senate Sponsor Danny Burgess

3. Date of Request 12/07/2021

4. Project/Program Description

Funding is requested to establish and build a new laboratory space to house the 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 Tampa Bay and other regions of FL 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 School of Computer Analytics Robotics and degree programs in software engineering, cybersecurity and computer science, robotics is a natural extension and much of the programming is done by software engineers.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	247,500
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,247,500

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,247,500	71%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	29%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,747,500	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	1,000,000	63	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 247,000

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

University operating budget and/or bond funding



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1828

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.

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 purpose of the funding was 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.

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	Robotics Department Administration (\$50K and portion of benefits)	60,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	2 Laboratory Technicians (\$75K each and portion of benefits)	187,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	200 square foot laboratory Build out of workspaces Testing spaces for robots	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,247,500

12. Program Performance

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

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 engineering and science.

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

University classes and laboratory to be used for Florida citizens completion of Bachelors Degrees and Microcredentials in Robotics Engineering

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

University classes and laboratory use

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

More than 800

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1828

be measured?

Support agriculture through increased use of Robots and technicians trained in Robot operation and maintenance. Number of graduates and certificate holders who are skilled in robotics Engineering to support farmers in their use of robots for agriculture production. Robotics trained and educated citizens of Florida who will hold Bachelors degrees and/or microcredentials in Robotic Engineering. Number of jobs secured by Saint Leo students in the field of Robotics Engineering.

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 appropriation funding to the state of Florida

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.

Saint Leo University



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1828

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