



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College

Landscape Architecture™

May 16, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Muntazar Monsur – Davis College Junior Faculty Award

Dear Davis College Junior Faculty Award Committee:

I am writing to strongly support Dr. Muntazar Monsur's nomination for the Davis College Junior Faculty Award. Dr. Monsur is a faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture (DoLA) at Texas Tech University (TTU) and has demonstrated exceptional contributions in teaching, research and creative activity, and service.

Teaching

Dr. Monsur has mentored students who have won prestigious awards such as the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Award of Excellence in Research (2023), the 1st prize at the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) Conference (2023), and a CELA Honor Award (2022). He created the department's first Service Learning course (LARC 2413 – LA Design Studio III) and introduced Extended Reality (XR) tools into design and construction courses, enhancing the learning experience with the latest technology. Dr. Monsur has served on 12 thesis and dissertation committees, chairing five, and has successfully mentored two graduate students from the MLA to the PhD, both of whom passed their Qualifying Exams in the third semester.

Research and Creative Activity

In 2023-24, Dr. Monsur authored or co-authored six articles in high-impact journals, all aligning with TTU's One Health Research focus. He has secured over \$2 million in cumulative grants and funds as a PI and Co-PI. He has also submitted a multidisciplinary USDA Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grant, titled "Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality (VR, AR, & MR) Gamification to Advance Teaching, Learning, and Recruitment in Agricultural Sciences," involving faculty from five Davis College departments.

Dr. Monsur founded the XR (Extended Reality) Lab, an advanced center exploring XR tools and technology for landscape architecture education and research. The lab leads several projects promoting health, well-being, and learning through immersive technologies. Notably, the lab's largest grant, "iVisiT: Interactive Virtual Tours for Advancing Food and Agricultural Sciences" (\$749,995 from USDA), envisions reimagining higher education with interactive virtual tours. These IVTs, innovated by Dr. Monsur, have been crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing virtual field trips for students across multiple courses.

Service

As the DoLA Graduate Coordinator since 2019, Dr. Monsur has significantly revived the graduate programs, increasing student enrollment from 1 MLA and 1 LPMD student in 2019 to 9 MLA and 4 LPMD students in 2024.

Awards

Dr. Monsur has received several accolades, including the TTU President's Emerging Engaged Scholarship Award (2020), the Davis College Service Award (2022), and the TTU Alumni Association New Faculty Award (2024).

In conclusion, Dr. Monsur's unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge in landscape architecture through exceptional teaching, research, and service, makes him an outstanding candidate for the Davis College Junior Faculty Award. His contributions significantly enrich the academic community and bring pride to Texas Tech University.

Sincerely,

Leehu Loon, ASLA, PLA
Chair and Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Texas Tech University