May 16, 2024

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

Dear Davis College Research Award Committee:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the nomination of Dr. Muntazar Monsur, a distinguished faculty member of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Texas Tech University, for the Davis College Research Award. Having worked with Dr. Monsur for almost two years, I can confidently attest to his exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to advancing research and scholarship in landscape architecture.

Dr. Monsur has made significant contributions to the discipline through his research, scholarship, and creative activities, particularly in landscape architecture, architecture, children's environment, the built environment and health, natural learning, and prevention of obesity by design. His work has garnered national and international recognition, making him an exemplary candidate for this prestigious award.

When considering the criteria for this award, it becomes evident that Dr. Monsur surpasses expectations in numerous ways:

- Dr. Monsur authored/co-authored six articles (4 published, 2 accepted) in high-impact journals in 2023-24, all related to TTU's One Health Research focus.
- As PI and Co-PI, Dr. Monsur was awarded approximately $420,000 in grants and funding in 2023-24 (PI $120,000 and Co-PI $300,000).
- Dr. Monsur's cumulative grants and funds as a PI and Co-PI at TTU (in 4 years) have exceeded $2M.
- His recent publication, "Effects of Childcare Hands-On Gardening on Preschoolers' (3–5 Years) Physical Activity in Semi-Arid Climate Zone," is the first to examine gardening-based health interventions in the West Texas climate.
- Dr. Monsur continues to advance collaborative research in the Davis College by involving PSS, NRM, AGED, AFS, and LA in the 2024 Davis XR Exhibition (a daylong event in the Dairy Barn on April 15, 2024), where teaching and research innovations using XR in all five departments were showcased.
- Dr. Monsur 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" engaging faculty Co-PIs from PSS, NRM, AGED, AFS, and LA.

In addition to his individual achievements, Dr. Monsur has actively mentored graduate students, ensuring the dissemination of their work to the next generation of scholars. His involvement in numerous master's and doctoral committees demonstrates his dedication to cultivating students' research potential under his guidance.

In conclusion, Dr. Monsur has consistently displayed an unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge in landscape architecture through exceptional research, scholarship, and creative activity. I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Monsur for the Davis College Research Award, and I firmly believe that his outstanding accomplishments and contributions merit this prestigious recognition. His continued dedication to research excellence will further enrich the landscape architecture community and bring continued 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