

The SMART Cities Innovation Research Cluster of the FedEx Institute of Technology represents an interdisciplinary collaborative effort designed to position the University of Memphis and the wider Memphis community as a national leader in the application of smart cities technology. The cluster is comprised of researchers and experts examining a diverse set of innovative applications of technology to solve challenges facing Memphis and the surrounding community.

Faculty serving as SMART Cities Research Cluster Fellows provide proactive leadership and cohesion to the region's interests in these state-of-the-art challenges. Corporations and community organizations based in Tennessee as well as state government agencies join in the cluster's efforts to tackle public policy questions and to find ways to incorporate new technologies in practical applications that drive the state's economic growth.

The 2018-2019 SMART Cities Call for Proposals is now inviting proposals toward establishing the University of Memphis as a center of civic technology—or technology that enables engagement and participation, enhances the relationship between the people and government by enhancing citizen communications and public decision—improving government delivery of service and infrastructure.

Faculty at the University of Memphis are invited to submit three-page proposals that focus on the following topics or an alternative topic that emphasizes the interdisciplinary application of civic tech:

- Enhanced communication
- Accessible healthcare
- Innovation in transportation
- Blight resolution
- Civic empowerment
- Government efficiency
- Litter prevention
- Sensor-based quality of living advancements

Priority will be given to proposals that can 1) directly benefit our regional community, corporate and government partners; 2) yield advanced content that help to advance Memphis as a center of civic tech leadership; 3) bring new ideas to SMART Cities' interdisciplinary research portfolio; 4) create training and workforce development opportunities; and 5) engage multiple disciplines in innovative ways. Faculty whose proposals are selected for funding will be designated as SMART Cities Research Fellows of the FedEx Institute of Technology. They will be required to present their research at the SMART Cities Annual Research Workshop and actively help develop Memphis as a national civic tech center.

**Deadline for receipt of proposals is May 18. Please submit proposals as email attachments addressed to Cluster Director Dr. Sabya Mishra at [smishra3@memphis.edu](mailto:smishra3@memphis.edu) with subject line as "2018 SMART Cities Research Cluster Proposal submission".** Those submitting proposals will be notified of the outcome within several weeks of the committee's meeting. For additional information, please contact Dr. Sabya Mishra at [smishra3@memphis.edu](mailto:smishra3@memphis.edu).