



VirginiaTech

Biocomplexity Institute

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March 6, 2017

Sayali Phadke  
[sayalip@psu.edu](mailto:sayalip@psu.edu)

Dear Sayali,

Congratulations! On behalf of the selection committee, it is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to participate in the 2017 Data Science for the Public Good (DSPG) Fellowship program with the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory (SDAL) in the Biocomplexity Institute (BI) of Virginia Tech. You have been selected to participate in a 10-week program beginning Monday, May 22, 2017 through Friday, July 28, 2017, and will be actively involved in learning exercises that will address social science issues using traditional and novel sources of data to inform policy, such as how to create smart and resilient cities, how to combat homelessness, what influences the spread of disease and constitutes an effective public health response, identifying innovation drivers, and industrial challenges.

Enclosed is a Participant Agreement Form that describes the general responsibilities and expectations of each participant. Participants in the 2017 DSPG program will travel to BI's Arlington, Virginia location on Sunday, May 21, 2017 and return home on Saturday, July 29, 2017. During this DSPG program engagement, you will receive a gross fellowship award of \$10,000 for housing, meals and other incidentals, and a travel allowance for up to \$500.00 for one round-trip to and from Arlington, Virginia and your hometown in the United States. In addition, DSPG participants will receive individualized mentoring, guidance and academic and research support from the faculty and staff of the program. Each student is expected to participate fully in all parts of this DSPG program and engage in workshops on scientific ethics, give presentations, and in social activities.

Your response to accept or decline participating in the 2017 DSPG program is respectfully requested by **5:00pm on Monday, March 13, 2017** by emailing the completed Participant Agreement Form to Dr. Gizem Korkmaz, Research Assistant Professor, SDAL at [gkorkmaz@bi.vt.edu](mailto:gkorkmaz@bi.vt.edu). If your response is not received by the noted deadline, you will be removed from the participant list. Should you accept to participate in this wonderful opportunity, you will receive a follow up packet by Tuesday, April 4, 2017 containing forms requiring your review, completion and submission in preparation to your arrival on Sunday, May 21, 2017. In addition, a checklist of items to bring and information about your mentor will be provided in your packet as well. The original signed completed forms should be returned to Erin Cassidy ([ecassidy@bi.vt.edu](mailto:ecassidy@bi.vt.edu)) by the return date, as noted on the instruction letter in the information packet.

*Invent the Future*

Following the receipt of your acceptance, you will be contacted to obtain information related to your travel requirements.

Please be advised that the fellowship award is non-taxable since the activity qualifies as academic training and not an employment engagement. Taxes will not be withheld upon disbursement, but the fellowship award amount must be claimed when filing your 2017 tax returns. Your fellowship award will be paid in accordance with the university's payroll schedule, and dispersed in five (5) equal installments of ~~\$1,000~~ on June 1, June 16, July 3, July 14, and August 1, 2017.

\$2,000 8/3/17

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Gizem Korkmaz, [gkorkmaz@bi.vt.edu](mailto:gkorkmaz@bi.vt.edu) or 571-858-3113 or Erin Cassidy, [ecassidy@bi.vt.edu](mailto:ecassidy@bi.vt.edu) or 540-231-5346.

We look forward to your participation in this year's DSPG program and, once again:  
Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sallie Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sallie Keller, PhD  
Professor and Director, Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory  
Biocomplexity Institute

Enclosure