VirginiaTech
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April 11, 2017

To: SDAL Staff

From: Gizem Korkmaz and Aaron Schroeder, Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory, Data Science for the Public Good (DSPG) 2017 Program Organizers

Subject: Call for Project Proposals for DSPG 2017

Please complete a one-page document addressing the proposal elements below to propose a project for Virginia Tech's Data Science for Public Good Program 2017 (May 22 – July 28). You need to complete a separate proposal for each project you propose. Please send completed proposals by **Tuesday, April 25th** to us.

Projects should be scaled to a level where a team of 2–3 students can make significant progress over 10 weeks, with good likelihood of arriving at some definitive result. Students will participate on at least 2 projects during the course of the summer program.

The proposed projects will be presented and discussed during the brownbag on **Tuesday, May 2nd**. Final decisions will be made by Sallie in consultation with us. Decision will be based on project scope and alignment to programmatic (funded projects and program development) priorities and skill sets of students.

PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

1. Project Sponsor/Collaborator (e.g., Arlington County Police Department). List the sponsoring organization and the individual point-of-contact(s).

2. Proposed SDAL Team (i.e., faculty/postdoc), and external (non-SDAL) colleagues, if any.

3. Project Summary. Give a concise (1–2 sentence) summary of the project (i.e., the "question" or "challenge"). It could be a concise question ("How can our animal shelter adopt out more dogs?" "How should we best deploy medical workers to reach the vulnerable population?") or an open-ended challenge ("Develop an algorithm to advise parents how to choose among camping programs according to personal preferences, income, and location.")

4. Project Description. Provide a more detailed description. This should not be lengthy, but it should address each of the following elements.

   (a) Elaborate upon the question/challenge. Delineate the scope as much as possible.
   (b) Why is the project important to the sponsor/collaborator?
   (c) Why is the project important to SDAL (e.g., potential funding)?
   (d) What (if any) prior work has been done on this project? Are there existing data sets or papers/models that you will provide to the students?

(e) What are students expected to do in steps (e.g., literature review, data discovery, modeling)?
(f) What is the minimum number of students requested? Do the students require special skills (e.g., facility with a specific programming language or software platform; background in biology, economics, webscraping, etc.)?

5. Expectations. Describe what you expect from a successful project. Beyond the final project report and presentation, do you seek any other deliverable (e.g., annotated bibliography, draft paper)