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CISE FLAG Committee

January 13, 2023

Dear Members of the CISE Faculty Leaves and Grants (FLAG) Committee,

My name is Shraddha Joshi and I hold a full-time faculty position in the Department of Engineering in the College of Integrated Science and Engineering (CISE). I am currently in my fifth year as an assistant professor. I am writing to nominate myself for the 2023 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. I believe I am a candidate for this award as I have received exceptionally positive feedback from the PAC (personnel advisory committee) during my third-year review and was also reviewed as excellent in teaching and scholarship by my department head in the past two years.

During my time at JMU, I have endeavored to synergize my teaching, scholarship and service activities around my overall professional goal of fostering an environment where individuals can learn and practice engineering more broadly from a multitude of lenses, both technical and non-technical, to solve complex problems. In alignment with my overall professional purpose, my teaching goal is to cultivate and develop pedagogical/instructional practices that foster the da Vinci mindset in student learning of engineering. This mindset is characterized by curiosity and creating connections between seemingly disparate topics ultimately fostering creativity. I have adopted methods that allow students to view engineering from different lenses such as art, stories, and storytelling and thus, allowing them to think “out-of-the-box”. My scholarly work is primarily in the area of design theory and methods with my research activities spanned across three key thrust areas: 1) Tools for enhancing creativity in design, 2) Investing role of physical prototypes in conceptual design, and 2) Engineering design education research. Through my scholarship efforts, I not only aim to contribute knowledge to the field but also use this as an opportunity to provide research experience to undergraduate students. Lastly, through my professional service activities, I aim to act as an advocate and a voice of female and underrepresented minority, and lead and contribute towards the efforts that foster inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment within engineering classrooms and broader engineering community.

The details of these activities can be found in my summary statement and CV.

With this self-nomination, I am enclosing the supporting material detailing my accomplishments. I have enclosed a 4-page CV and 1-page summary of my career achievements and goals. Dr. Kyle Gipson will share a letter of support in a separate email. I would like to thank the committee members for taking the time to review and consider my proposal.

Sincerely,

Shraddha Joshi