

**Proposal for the Creation of the School of Justice and Public Safety's  
VEE/ARE Lab  
[Virtual Environments Enhancing and Advancing Research and Education]**

**Project Abstract**

Funds are requested to support the development of the School of Justice and Public Safety's VEE/ARE Lab (Virtual Environments Enhancing and Advancing Research and Education), a project designed to enhance the pillars of the university: quality teaching, policy-relevant research, and community service. The lab will offer a police decision-making simulator using proprietary virtual reality technology, allowing students, researchers, and practitioners to experience, study, and train in matters such as use of force, de-escalation, communication, procedural justice, and other topics critical to modern police reform. The lab is designed to 1) enable students to transfer classroom knowledge to realistic scenarios; 2) provide graduate and undergraduate students opportunities to gather data on topics relevant to policing; 3) foster faculty research by providing a valuable and innovative data collection tool; 4) build community partnerships by collaborating with local law enforcement agencies on cutting edge training; and 5) enhance student recruiting by showcasing university curricular innovation.