

## **UMBC Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities AY23-24 Faculty Research Award**

**Announcement Date – November 10, 2023**

**Background:** The multidisciplinary Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities (Sherman Center) was established to advance George and Betsy Sherman’s vision of improving learning experiences and outcomes for young children in Baltimore City. As part of this mission, it established the Sherman Center Faculty Research Award. This award seeks to expand knowledge about policies and practices that enhance the learning of young children, ages three through eight, in urban communities like Baltimore. Research topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- evaluation of new or existing school-based and out-of-school time learning interventions;
- school, teacher, family, and community factors associated with academic growth, socio-emotional well-being, and/or positive behavioral outcomes for young children; and
- the impact of school policies on family and community engagement in students’ learning processes and outcomes.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The competition is open to all faculty who hold academic appointments at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), including adjunct faculty, faculty of practice, and lecturers. Proposals for Sherman Center Faculty Research Awards may be made by individuals (Principal Investigator; PI) or collaborative teams. Co-investigators (Co-Is) may include individuals not affiliated with UMBC. All members of the research team must provide confirmation of CITI program certification for human subjects research.

**Award Amount:** Sherman Center Faculty Research Award recipients will be selected through the competitive review of proposals by members of the Sherman Center campus advisory committee. Awards of up to \$50,000 for funding between 12 and 24 months will be available. Award recipients will hold the designation of Sherman Center Research Fellows during the timeframe of their study.

**Proposal Submission:** Complete applications must include the following components: the checklist page (provided in the application packet), cover page form (provided in the application packet), budget template and narrative (provided in the application packet), current curriculum vitae for each PI (maximum 10 pages each), the proposal narrative, and CITI certification confirmation. Application materials are to be submitted by e-mail to the director of the Sherman Center for Early Learning, Dr. Jennifer Mata-McMahon ([jmatamcm@umbc.edu](mailto:jmatamcm@umbc.edu)), as a single PDF file. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted.

**Deadline:** For the AY23-24 competition, the proposal deadline is **Monday, January 29, 2024**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for this year’s competition. Awards will be announced by **Monday, March 25, 2024**.

**Contact:** Interested applicants should contact Dr. Jennifer Mata-McMahon, director of the Sherman Center, at [jmatamcm@umbc.edu](mailto:jmatamcm@umbc.edu) or 410-455-2259 with questions.