

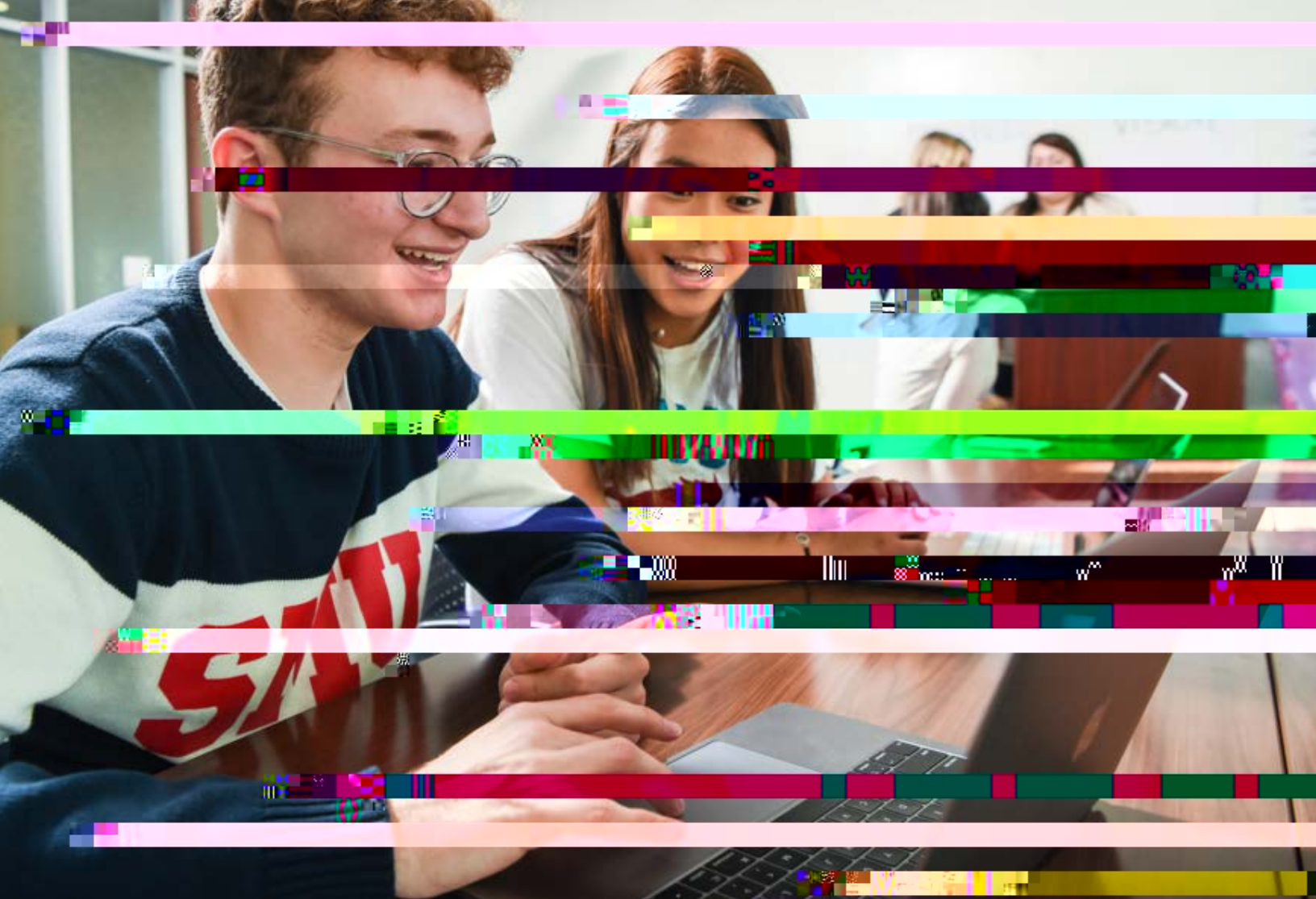


2022 PROVOST REPORT



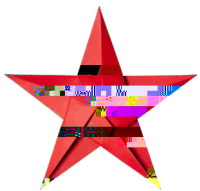


**T**his has been a historic year for SMU by all measures – student quality, faculty research/creative activity and



## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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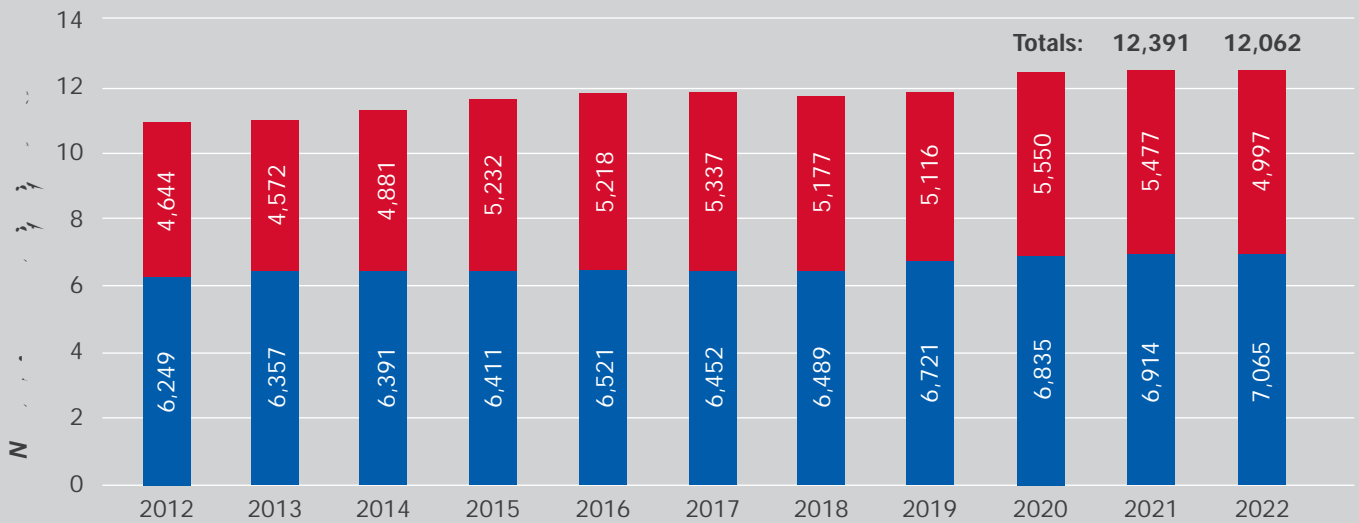
**The first priority area is “Academic Excellence” with a focus on improving SMU’s ability to recruit, retain and graduate outstanding students.**

**I**n terms of recruiting, SMU experienced record enrollment in fall 2022 with a total enrollment over 12,000 students (7,065 undergraduate; 4,997 graduate) for the third year in a row. The growth in entering classes over four years and strong retention, especially between the sophomore and junior year,

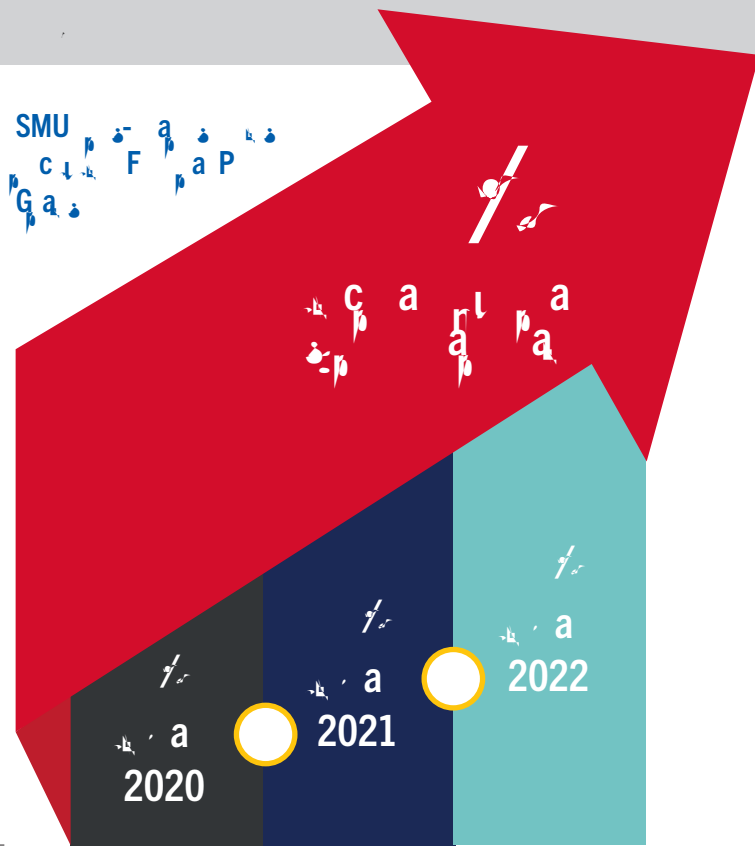
pushed SMU’s undergraduate enrollment past 7,000 for the first time since 1958. For the second year in a row, we exceeded 16,000 applications, approaching our goal of reaching 20,000 applications by the year 2025. The average ACT score remained 32 and the average high school GPA is 3.59 – all high marks for SMU.

# Enrollment Trends at SMU

Undergraduate Graduate & Professional

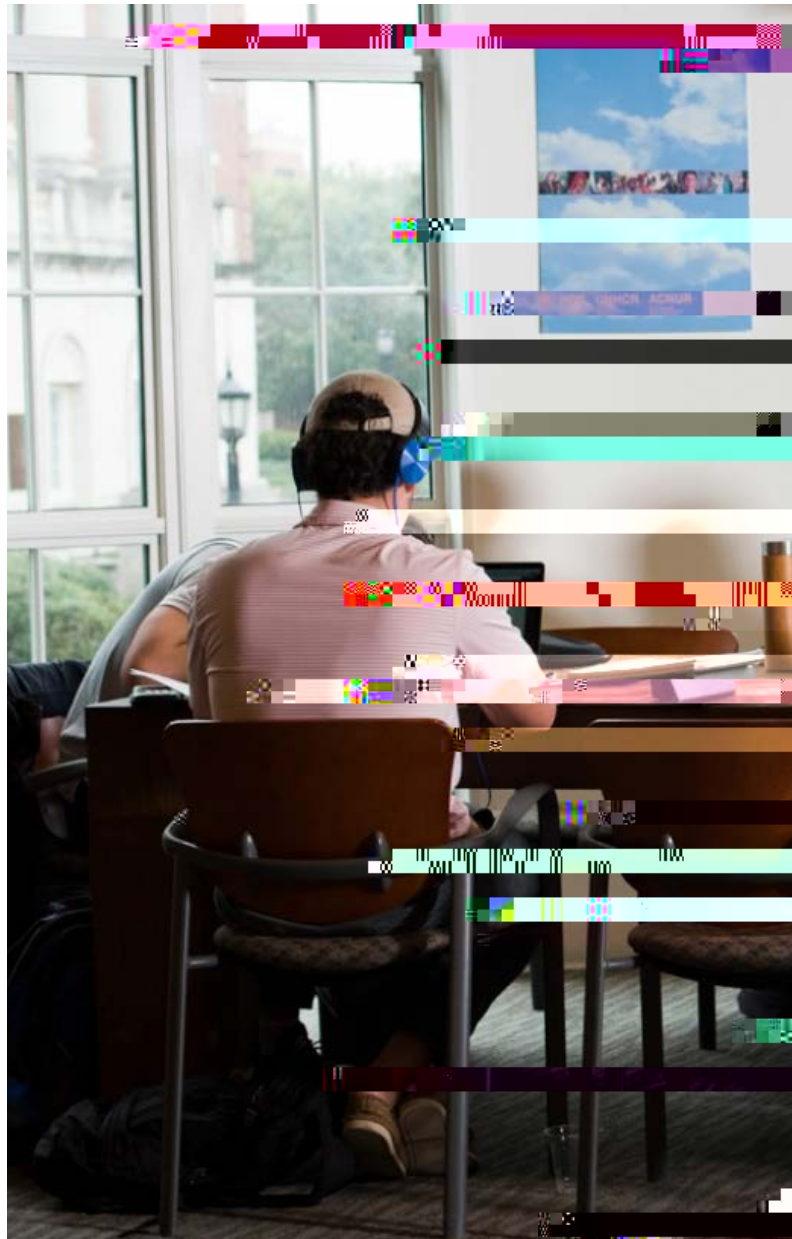


The incoming class included 33% of our undergraduate students who identify with ethnically and racially underrepresented backgrounds, with 12% of the first-year students being Pell Grant eligible.



This year, we launched *Access SMU*, a program which provides financial awards to meet the full financial need for high-achieving, Pell-eligible students from the state of Texas. It is our belief that the dream of pursuing an exceptional college education should be available regardless of

financial background. We are seeing the fruits of this generosity through an increase in Pell-eligible students. 9% in fall 2020; 11% in fall 2021; and 12% in fall 2022 (a 33% increase over a three year span).



**Academic Excellence continued:**

We are committed to supporting our students beyond the admission cycle. SMU in Four is the University's comprehensive approach to improving SMU's retention and four-year graduation rates. We are already proud of our retention and graduation rates overall, but we also want parity across racial, ethnic and socio-economic lines in those measures of student success. SMU in Four embraces demographic identity and amplifies advising and mentoring to ensure all students have opportunities to participate in the full campus experience.

*Opportunity SMU* is a new initiative launching this fall as a part of our \$1.5 billion *SMU Ignited* capital campaign that will support all of our students from admission through graduation. The *Opportunity SMU* fund will expand scholarships, financial aid and student support programs throughout the entire student life cycle. This program is one of many SMU is undertaking to support, retain, and ensure success for all of our students, within the next decade.



**SMU**

**T**o reach our lofty, but achievable, research goals will require progress in each of the seven measures monitored by Carnegie. We have made tremendous progress in recent years, moving from the third tier or Research Three designation to Research Two. During the 2021 review cycle, released in early 2022, SMU was only two spots from reaching our Research One goal. With concentrated effort and investment, we can reach the next level this decade.

**2021–2022 was a record year for research at SMU.**

**To highlight a few accomplishments:**

- Highest total research awards in a single academic

**Research Awards: SMU advanced past 55 universities**



- Simmons School of Education's faculty member Leanne Ketterlin Geller was awarded a single-year grant of \$7.99 million from the Department of Education. This represents the largest research award received by any SMU faculty member in a single fiscal year.
- Faculty from all of SMU's schools and college received



## ROBIN POSTON, MOODY SCHOOL OF GRADUATE AND ADVANCED STUDIES

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**O**n August 15, Robin S. Poston became dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. SMU launched a national search for the next Moody dean in fall 2021, and – thanks in particular to the historic generosity of the Moody foundation’s \$100 million gift in 2019 – this search attracted the highest quality candidates.

Dr. Poston comes to SMU from the University of Memphis where she served as vice provost and dean of the graduate school since 2018. At U of M, she oversaw the university’s strategies in support of graduate enrollment growth, student success and timely graduation – key themes for SMU in our current pursuit of greater academic and research excellence and attaining R1 status as measured by Carnegie.

Among her many accomplishments across a nearly 20-year career as a business school faculty member and academic administrator at U of M, she was also a key contributor to that university’s 2021 rise from R2 to R1 in the Carnegie rankings. She rose through the faculty ranks in U of M’s business school, from assistant professor through full professor with tenure and established a very strong research record. She was also director of the Systems Testing Excellence Program (STEP) at the FedEx

Institute of Technology, supporting interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students on government and industry sponsored projects to build up research and curricular competencies.

**Dean Poston was a key contributor to her previous university’s 2021 rise from R2 to R1 in the Carnegie rankings. We look forward to benefiting from her proven leadership and experience in charting SMU’s course to the same level of recognition.**

STEP became an internationally recognized group in the field of systems testing, and STEP researchers have worked on projects with groups such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, FedEx and others.

We look forward to benefiting from her proven leadership and experience in charting SMU’s course to even greater research excellence and international recognition.





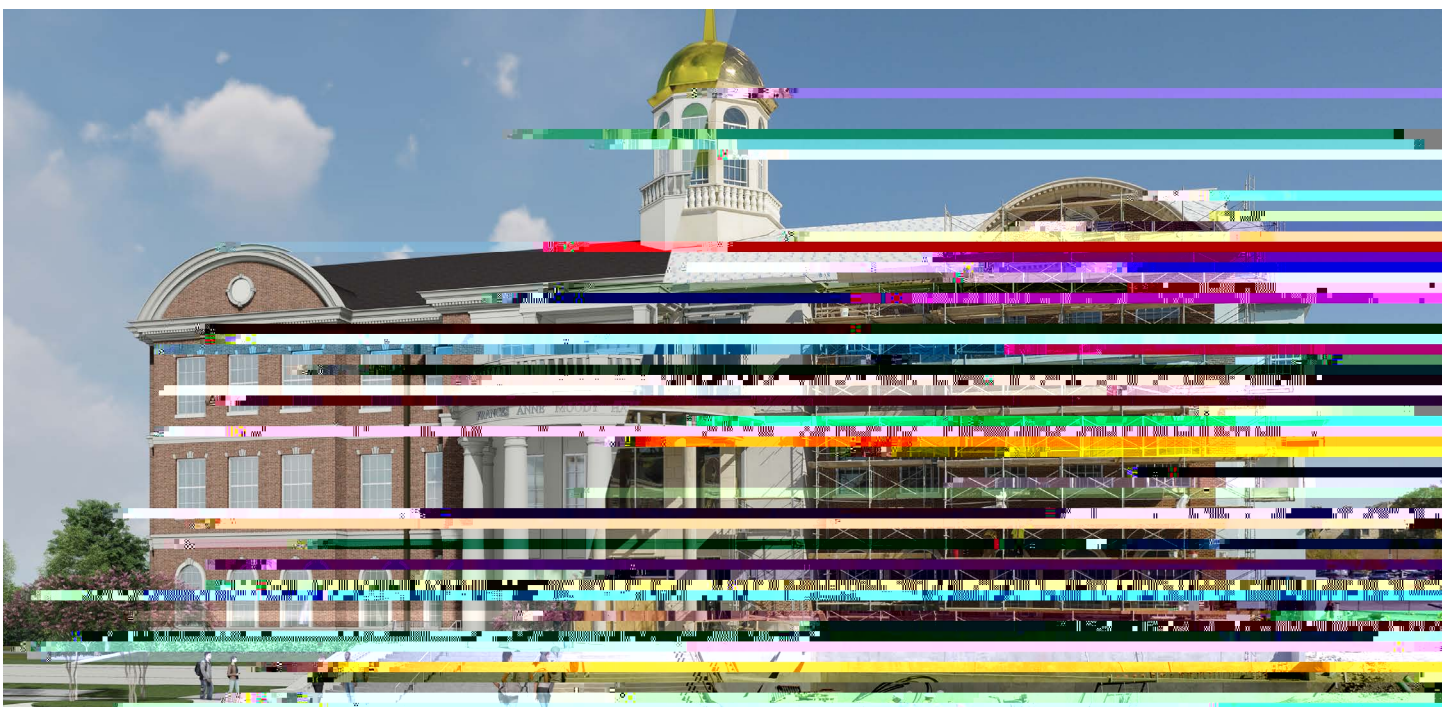
**T**o enhance the fundamental strengths of the University – faculty, staff, students and the resources for instruction, research and service – SMU has implemented many major advances during the past 20 years, led by its strategic plans. These plans have guided two

major gift campaigns, *The Campaign for SMU: A Time to Lead*

These campaigns provided crucial enhancements to the entire campus, including new buildings and endowments for scholarships, academic programs, faculty positions and the campus experience. These fundraising successes also have generated great momentum for SMU's distinction as a national institution growing in quality and impact.

**Moody Hall construction** – This past December, SMU broke ground on the new Frances Anne Moody Hall, named for Frances Anne Moody-Dalberg '92, SMU trustee and executive director of the Moody Foundation. Moody Hall will house SMU's eighth degree-granting school, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. Backed by a \$100 million gift from the Moody Foundation – the largest gift in SMU's history – the Moody School began operations in fall 2020. This gift is already transforming graduate education at SMU.

The expansion of research at SMU – a strategic priority that fuels the University's steady ascent toward achieving Carnegie R1 status – gained momentum with the Moody gift. This bold investment supports SMU's research mission by attracting outstanding graduate students – the workforce behind groundbreaking discoveries that bolster the University's doctoral and research ecosystem. New positions that will help SMU graduate students win nationally recognized external fellowships, thrive in their programs and launch successful careers have been filled with extraordinary faculty and staff. The combination of SMU's strengths in supercomputing and data science, the University's growing externally funded research and the outstanding graduate education provided through the Moody School drives impactful ideas on the Hilltop and beyond.



**Cox renovations** – In May, SMU broke ground on a \$140 million renovation and expansion project designed to train students for a collaborative and technologically integrated world.

The two-year project will expand the footprint of the Cox School of Business by more than 30 percent, with the construction of four new buildings connecting the existing facilities into cohesive space that supports collaboration within the Cox School and across the campus, as well as with the vibrant Dallas business community.

**Community impact** – Another key focus area is strengthening programming and research collaborations with industry, non-profit and civic organizations that are focused on community impact. This summer, SMU and AT&T teamed up for a data science boot camp plus on-site internship for nine students, with a focus on STEM undergraduate and graduate students from diverse and underrepresented populations.

In this partnership, SMU provided 12 weeks of instruction in data science leading to certification and AT&T provided an on-site internship to include an interview for a permanent position upon graduation.





**Faculty recruiting** – In summer 2021, working in close consultation with the Office of Institutional Access and Equity and the chief diversity officer (CDO), the provost office announced changes to the faculty search and recruitment process. These changes align with the University’s response to the Black Unity Forum Action Plan and our commitment to increase diverse

representation in hiring processes on campus: 1) inclusion of a mandatory diversity, equity and inclusion workshop for all search





**Recruitment, promotion and retention of underrepresented faculty** – Maria Dixon Hall, chief diversity officer (CDO), in partnership with the provost office, established a faculty retention protocol with deans to respond to and guard against academic recruitment by other universities. In addition, a formal voluntary, independent faculty exit interview process has been established for departing faculty to identify root causes and develop mitigation strategies.

**Compensation of faculty members working on inclusion-focused initiatives** – Associate Provost Paige Ware, working together with the Research Fellow for Diversity and Inclusion, Johnitha Johnson, systematically reviewed research about the intersection of equity and workload policies. Department-level workload policies have been finalized for all academic departments and are now posted to ensure transparency and visibility.

**Underrepresented student recruiting and retention** – 2021 was a historic year for SMU in terms of recruiting students from historically underrepresented populations. Overall, our student body was 34% diverse last year. Through initiatives such as *Access SMU*, undergraduate diversity increased from 31% in fall 2021 to 33% in fall 2022. Graduate student diversity, 34% in fall 2021, remained high in fall 2022 at 33%. This matched SMU's overall percentage of 33% diverse in fall 2022.

This summer, Elena Hicks, SMU's dean of Admission and executive director of Enrollment Services, was elected chair of the Coalition for College – an organization with representation from 150+ top colleges and universities working together to create a future where all students have access to a successful, affordable and transformative college experience.

## Inclusive faculty compensation and student recruiting initiatives in 2022

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33%

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**Our near- and long-term goals focus on increased access for underrepresented populations and supporting these students throughout their time on campus and across the full campus experience. Success toward these goals for increased access and success requires support across the full student lifecycle.**

SMU shares the Coalition's vision for student access leading to transformative success, and our near- and long-term goals focus on increased access for underrepresented populations and supporting these students throughout their time on campus and across the full campus experience. Success toward these goals for increased access and success requires support across the full student lifecycle.



**W**ith a bold vision and impressive trajectory, most notably during President Turner's nearly thirty years of leadership, SMU continues to make steady advances toward its goal of becoming a premier research university with global impact.

Particularly within the past decade, our University has seen a remarkable rise in undergraduate quality, an incredibly successful fundraising campaign (totaling >\$1 billion), an expanding research footprint and the development and implementation of an ambitious 2016–2025 Strategic Plan – in which many of the goals and objectives link directly to the steps required for SMU to reach our full potential.

In September 2021, SMU launched the \$1.5 billion *SMU Ignited* campaign and, at the time of publication, we have received over \$900 million in commitments. Through *SMU Ignited*, we will have a unique opportunity to see our lofty goals for

