





# Road to R1/Scholarly and Creative Excellence

## Request for proposal (RFP): SMU Bush Institute post-doctoral program

In 2022, the Office of the Provost, in partnership with the George W. Bush Institute, [created a post-doctoral fellowship program](#) with the goals of encouraging collaborative research between SMU and the Bush Institute and increasing the number of post-doctoral fellows at SMU. We are happy to continue this program by funding three more post-doctoral positions for the 2023 academic year. Funding is limited to one year (12 months) per post-doctoral fellow, and preference will be given to proposals that are able to provide a second year of funding for the requested post-doctoral fellow and to proposals from Principal Investigators (PIs) at the rank of Assistant Professor.

All SMU tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit proposals and to serve as PI. All faculty, including teaching and professional (non-tenure track) full-time faculty, may serve as co-PI on proposals and awards. One proposal may be submitted per year per PI. There are no restrictions on the number of proposals on which a faculty member can serve as co-PI. Proposals must be submitted by April 14 to [provost@smu.edu](mailto:provost@smu.edu) in 11-point or greater font and not exceeding two, 8.5. x 11 pages in length.

## Research and Innovation Week, March 20-25

[Research & Innovation Week](#) is SMU's annual showcase and celebration of the outstanding research being done by SMU students and other members of our community. Events will include the Undergraduate Poster Session on March 21, the Graduate Poster Session on March 22, and the Master of Fine Arts Qualifying Exhibition on March 23. Additionally, this year's Research and Innovation Week will host two exciting events in Hughes-Trigg Student Center Auditorium:

Monday, March 20 is a [keynote talk by Taylor Shead](#)

Taylor Shead is the award-winning CEO and founder of STEMuli Studios and the 94th Black woman in history to raise over \$1 million in venture capital. Stephanie L. Knight, Dean of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

## h \ ) K Data Science Institute Director

This week, Dr. Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, convened the search committee's kickoff meeting for SMU's inaugural Peter O'Donnell Jr. Director of the Data Science Institute, and I delivered a charge to outline my aspirations for this strategic leadership position. We plan to fill the position before the fall 2023 semester.

Representatives from our executive search firm, Isaacson Miller, also spent time this week meeting with members of both the Data Science Institute Advisory Board and the Data Science Cluster Hire Task Force, as well as with select faculty to inform the position description that will guide our search.

Be on the lookout for additional information in subsequent newsletters.

## Cox faculty member honored with the Athena Leadership Award by the Dallas Regional Chamber

Dr. Candice Lucas-Bledsoe, director of the Action Research Center and SMU Cox research professor, was honored yesterday with the Athena Leadership Award by the Dallas Regional Chamber at their 11th Women's Business Conference. The Dallas Regional Chamber bestows this award upon "exceptional women who excel in their careers, contribute to their communities, and develop future leaders."

## Chronicle of Higher Education Virtual Forum: ChatGPT and Other Cutting-Edge Learning Tech

Candace Walkington, Associate Professor in the Simmon