

Weekly Update | March 31, 2023

Elizabeth G. Loba, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence/ *US News and World Report* top 50, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 3) 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan and 4) Inclusive Excellence.

If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your ideas to this [email address](#) Development to listen and

learn about their priorities for the school. Thank you to the faculty who participated and shared their perspectives. Throughout the month of April, I will be meeting with faculty from the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences

Thank you again, to the Moody School and team who took the time and effort to coordinate this week of events and made it such a success. And thank you to those who came to support our colleagues and students.

SMU's annual space allocation survey closed

Today marks the closing of SMU's annual space allocation survey. Now that the survey is closed, the Space Management team will spend the next two weeks reviewing and validating the data provided. Thank you to all survey participants who took the time to make these important updates and to the Space Management team for their effort on this project.

Road to R1/Scholarly and Creative Excellence

Moody construction in final stages of completion

After breaking ground on Friday, December 3, 2021, the Frances Anne Moody Hall, supported by a landmark \$100 million-dollar gift from the Moody Foundation, is in the final stages of completion. Moody Hall will house SMU's eighth degree-granting school, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies as well as the Office of Research and Innovation – two offices vital to SMU's goals for research excellence and R1 status. Employees that will be housed in Moody Hall, including the Office of Graduate Admissions, the Office of Research and Innovation, and the Office of the Dean for Moody School are set to move into Moody Hall by mid-June. A formal dedication of the buil

applications. Faculty and graduate students can reach out to [Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips](#) to learn more about the NSF-GRFP application process.

Key leadership searches underway

Peter O'Donnell Jr. Data Science Institute Director

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, is working with our consultants from Isaacson Miller to create the position description that will inform the search. Be

archived in [SMU Scholar](#). Thank you to Dr. Megan Murphy, Director of Health Promotion Management in Simmons School of Education and Human Development for nominating Miss Wassef and thank you to all faculty who took time to nominate our outstanding students for this recognition.

SMU hosted the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair Beal Bank Awards Banquet

On Wednesday evening, SMU hosted the winning students and teachers from February's Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering. The top projects from each participating school will advance to district and regional fairs, then onwards to state and international competitions. Learn more about the banquet, students and [awards here](#).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University

<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here