

Weekly Update | December 20 2024

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence, 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 submit your ideas through our story form via the button below. Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be iday newsletter. Others will be held until the following week.

Previous newsletters are [available here](#).

and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 4) Inclusive Excellence, and 5) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2024

Happy holiday wishes

As the fall semester comes to a close and the calendar year draws to an end, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible faculty, staff, and students for the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm you have brought to SMU this semester. Together, we have celebrated milestones, tackled challenges, and achieved so much to be proud of, including our continued [top 50 graduate program rankings](#) for business, law and education, the dedication of the [David B. Miller Business Quadrangle](#), [prestigious research grants and awards](#), [record-setting athletic performances](#), transformative gifts such as the one to establish the [Rees-Jones Library of the American West](#) even greater heights.

While SMU closes its university offices

Academic Excellence

Dean search updates

Perkins School of Theology

innovation and Ph.D. education and George R. Brown Chair in Mechanical Engineering, were awarded a new \$100,000 grant to assist in their development of a fast, [portable tool for point-of-care medical diagnoses](#).

Please [RSVP here](#) for the Spring Kickoff. If plans change, please email cte@smu.edu so CTE can adjust food and refreshment orders accordingly.

Spring 2025 Faculty Technology Workshops schedule now available

The SMU Office of Information Technology in partnership with various faculty support areas across campus will host a series of [Faculty Technology Workshops in January 2025](#) technology. These workshops are designed for SMU faculty members seeking to improve their digital skills and integrate innovative technology tools into their courses, work and research. By attending, faculty can learn effective ways to utilize course platforms like Canvas, explore practical Generative AI applications and better prepare for the upcoming semester.

[Register for workshop sessions here.](#)

Simmons School graduate student awarded Citizens Commendation Award from SMU Police Department

Simmons School of Education and Human Development is proud to recognize graduate student Magdeline Pike for her heroics on November 30, outside of Ford Stadium. Pike, who is studying for her doctorate in Learning Sciences in the Department of Human-Centered Interdisciplinary Studies, was

at a special ceremony. The award recognized Pike and Donzeal Curry, an SMU security guard, who worked together to provide emergency medical care to a man who was injured by a security guard, who