



## Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Academic  
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 send your ideas to this [email address](#). Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be reviewed and

## **National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Conference**

At the beginning of this week, I attended [the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities \(NAICU\) Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day](#) on behalf of President R. Gerald Turner. NAICU is a national organization with membership comprising presidents from accredited private non-profit colleges and universities who represent higher education on public policy issues in Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Day provides briefings on the most current policy issues affecting higher education and provides an opportunity for higher education executives to inform and

Also, while in D.C., I met with congressional leadership to raise awareness and petition support for -changing research agenda, most notably our developing Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub proposal.

## **Call for Nominations: Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award**

Nominations are now requested for the 2024 Perkins School of Theology Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award and will be accepted through Friday, March 1. The award is presented annually to a layperson in the United States who exemplifies an exceptional commitment of service to Christ through faith and action in the church, community, and world.

Additional information about [nominations can be found here](#).

Presentation of the 2024 Seals Laity Award will take place during the worship service for the Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning scheduled for March 22-23, 2024.

## **Call for faculty applications: Summer Research Intensive**

The Office of Engaged Learning (OEL) is currently accepting Summer Research Intensive (SRI) faculty applications for the 2024 summer session. Submissions are invited until end of day today, Friday, February 9.

## Call for Proposals: SMU-in-Taos January Term 2025

As mentioned in the [SMU-in-Taos and SMU Intersessions Office email](#) from February 5, January Term will be offered in-person both on the Dallas campus and at SMU-in-Taos during January 2025. All faculty are invited to submit a course proposal for Jan Term, which is due no later than Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 5 p.m.

SMU-in-Taos class proposals can be [submitted here](#). For more information or assistance with a Taos proposal, please contact Cristalle Choi at [smutaos@smu.edu](mailto:smutaos@smu.edu), or visit <https://www.smu.edu/Taos/Faculty>.

SMU Intersessions class proposals can be [submitted here](#). Only a course that has been approved by SMU GOCE may be offered online. For more information or assistance with a Dallas proposal, please contact Andrew Hamilton or Mariah Parker in the [Intersessions Office](#) at [janterm@smu.edu](mailto:janterm@smu.edu).

## Reminder: Submit Retention Alerts for students of concern

Faculty and staff can help support and retain undergraduate students who may be at-risk of leaving SMU by using the Office of Student Success and Retention's retention alert reporting tool at [smu.edu/retentionalert](http://smu.edu/retentionalert).

To learn more about the tool and how to submit, refer to our [Enhancing student success: A closer](#) [blog post](#). If you have additional questions or concerns, contact the Office of Student Success and Retention by emailing [ssr@smu.edu](mailto:ssr@smu.edu) or calling 214-768-1231.

## Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

### Lyle School of Engineering professor awarded grant to study natural gas soil aeration systems

Kathleen Smits, Solomon Professor for Global Development and chair in the Lyle School of

grant from the [Northeast Gas Association](#). Professor Smits will use the grant to study the design and operation of natural gas soil aeration systems, a crucial technology for mitigating hazardous gases in the soil and enhancing pipeline safety.

## Inclusive Excellence

## **Office of Social Change and Intercultural Engagement hosts events with partners across campus to celebrate Black History Month**

Throughout February, the Office of Social Change and Intercultural Engagement has been and will be partnering with SMU offices to host events that highlight and uplift Black American achievement and life.

Read a full list of the Black History Month events happening across campus on [Instagram](#). Learn about event details on [SMU360](#).

## **News and Noteworthy**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>



**World Changers Shape** 