

January 22, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

Thomas DiPiero, the inaugural Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean and Professor of World Languages and Literatures and English in the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, has informed me of his intention to conclude his deanship at the end of his second, five-year term, effective May 31, 2024.

Tom became dean of Dedman College in August 2014. Prior to SMU, he served the University of Rochester as dean of humanities and interdisciplinary studies in the school's College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering. Tom's proven track record, both as a scholar and academic leader, promoting interdisciplinary advancements made him the ideal candidate when he was hired and have remained a hallmark throughout his service as the dean of Dedman College.

Throughout our university's history, Dedman College has been the academic heart of an SMU education – both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Tom wisely recognized this design from day one and has taken great strides to preserve and expand the college's impact, across and within a wide array of disciplines, for ten years. In my three-plus years working with Tom, I have seen this firsthand through his commitment to strategic initiatives such as faculty cluster hires, interdisciplinary degrees, data science across a wide array of disciplines, and world-changing research fueled by SMU's high performance computing ecosystem. Tom has been and remains a vital member of my leadership team and his contributions, and presence, will be sorely missed for years to come.

I will begin meeting immediately with Dedman College faculty, executive board members, staff and students to inform my decision both on an interim dean and the composition of the search committee for the next permanent dean, both of which I hope to announce in the coming weeks.

In the interim, please join me in thanking Tom for his ten years of service and congratulating him on a phenomenal career.

Sincerely,



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