

Dean of the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences

SMU

Dallas, TX

“World Changers Shaped Here”

OVERVIEW

SMU, the premier private research university of North Texas, seeks a new Dean for the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences (<https://www.smu.edu/dedman>). The Dedman College is the oldest, largest, and most diverse of SMU's eight degree-granting academic units, offering the BS, BA, master's programs, and PhDs in 16 departments, engaging nearly 40% of all enrolled SMU students and furnishing 53% of undergraduate instruction (as measured by credit hours), including the Common Curriculum inaugurated in 2020.

The new Dean will play a critical role in realizing SMU's imminent goal of achieving and maintaining status as a Carnegie R-1 institution, while sustaining its reputation for high-quality and personalized undergraduate and graduate instruction. As a new member (along with Stanford and UC Berkeley) of the Atlantic Coast Conference, SMU will enjoy heightened national visibility, and its senior administrators will gain a peer group of colleagues working in some of the nation's pre-eminent research universities.

Dallas-Fort Worth is an ideal location for a premier research institution. Soon to be the nation's third largest metropolitan area, DFW encompasses cosmopolitan twin cities; demographically, they constitute a microcosm of the United States. The new Dean of Dedman College will arrive in a boomtown that is noted for its big ambitions; optimistic, enterprising spirit; diverse and welcoming population; affordable quality of life; high culture; and recreational amenities. Apart from New York and Los Angeles, no American city has a more prominent footprint of fine and performing

arts, major league sports, and cultural philanthropy than Dallas. Dubbed the “Silicon Prairie,” DFW has become a magnet for company headquarters over the past decade, with 140 headquarters relocating to the region from across the U.S. and abroad, including more than 45 companies moving from California. The Metroplex has surpassed Chicago as the top headquarters location for Fortune 500 companies: 24 now make DFW their home.

Following a successful ten-year deanship that elevated every area of Dedman College’s operations and sustained a healthy reserve account, the new Dean will have the opportunity to elicit from the faculty and articulate a strategic vision for the College that affirms the University’s commitment to humanities and sciences education, fosters high quality research and teaching, both interdisciplinary and discipline-specific, and grows research expenditures and graduate enrollment.

THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS LEADERSHIP

Today a non-sectarian institution with a focus on global impact, SMU began in 1911 when Texas Methodists determined to establish not a college, but a co-educational university in Dallas, to educate not only its ministers but also the youth of a “fast growing, increasingly urbanized state just then emerging from its rural pioneering days.” The University’s foundation was a community enterprise: local citizens gave 622.5 acres on one of the highest points in Dallas County and \$300,000 to create SMU’s “Hilltop” campus. The founders hired Stanford’s campus architect, Shepley, Ruten and Coolidge, to design SMU’s first building, Dallas Hall, realizing a cherished vision of SMU’s first president to build a version of Thomas Jefferson’s University of Virginia Rotunda in Texas. Dallas Hall’s naming acknowledged SMU’s foundational linkage with the ambitions and growing fortunes of the city, and its design ordained Jeffersonian Neo-Classicism as the favored idiom for future campus development. Today’s 233-acre main campus is notable for its architectural harmony and aesthetic appeal, earning it top ranking by *Condé Nast Traveler* as the “most beautiful campus in the country” in 2016. Arrayed in quadrangles connected by the oak-canopied Boulevard (site of home-game football tailgates) and other thoroughfares are eight degree granting schools: the Dedman College of Humanities and Science, the Cox School of Business, the Meadows School of the Arts, the Lyle School of Engineering, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, the Dedman School of Law, the Perkins School of Theology, and the Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

An English professor’s 1915 launch of what became the *Southwest Review*, the third oldest literary quarterly in the U. S., signaled the intellectual and cultural ambitions of SMU’s founding faculty. The *Review* played an influential role in establishing American literature as a worthy field of literary study and later provided a showcase for new work by poets such as Amy Clampitt, James Merrill, and Robert Penn Warren. Football-celebrity SMU Mustangs brought the University to national attention in the 1930s, with a Rose Bowl invitation to play Stanford in 1936. Concurrently, the University’s faculty earned academic prestige in its scholarship. By World War II, SMU had expanded beyond its denominational origins, even as students continued to display “a keen sense of social consciousness,” with the Student Council of Religious Activities campaigning for improved public education for Dallas’s African Americans. In 1951, with a new dean from Pomona College, SMU’s Perkins School of Theology began actively recruiting Black students, taking the initiative to pursue integration two years before *Brown vs. Board of Education* and ahead of other mainline theological schools.

The presidency of devoted alumnus Willis M. Tate '38 from 1954 to 1972 stewarded SMU through years of cultural upheaval, steadfastly preserving and protecting academic freedom and “skillfully interpret[ing] what a university is to many SMU publics.” Tate’s Master Plan for SMU’s Second Half-Century determined that SMU would no longer “be content to compare itself with universities in Texas and the region. We now make our comparisons with the finest institutions in the country.” Tate’s civic leadership in Dallas, *inter alia* serving as president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, cemented SMU’s partnership with its community and region and attracted non-alumni benefactors such as Stanley Marcus of Neiman-Marcus and the oilman J. S. Bridwell, whose namesake manuscripts and rare-books library at the Perkins School of Theology is an international research destination for scholars of art history, book arts, and theology.

Former Duke Law School dean Ken Pye, who left Duke’s chancellorship for SMU’s presidency in 1987, greatly diversified SMU’s enrollment and brought a global perspective to the curriculum, aiming to provide “the finest program of undergraduate education in chosen fields between the East and West Coasts,” while enhancing faculty research and promoting a limited number of high-quality graduate programs and professional schools.

Gerald Turner’s appointment as SMU’s tenth president in 1995 followed his transformational tenure as chancellor of the University of Mississippi, where he launched that institution’s first capital campaign, moved it beyond non-inclusive campus traditions and segregated social norms, while sustaining its high affinity character, and oversaw more than \$200 million of construction. Soon after arriving at SMU, according to *D Magazine*, “President Turner answered a question about which university the SMU he envisioned could be compared to. ‘I don’t want to be the Harvard of the South, or the USC of the East, or the Emory of the West,’” he answered. “I want SMU to be the university for Dallas.” That vision proved irresistible to SMU alumni and Dallas philanthropists who have come to see the University as a point of civic pride and an engine and partner in the advancement of a great international city.

In the capstone years of President Turner’s leadership, SMU continues to advance as an institution of national excellence and international renown. With the implementation of the 2015-2022 Strategic Plan (<https://www.smu.edu/AboutSMU/StrategicPlan>), SMU’s progress has included increases in average admission test scores, a near tripling of student applications, an increase in enrollment of underrepresented communities up to 31% and a quadrupling of the endowment, to over \$2 billion. Building on a history of excellence, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, which launched publicly in September 2021, is the third \$1 billion-plus comprehensive fundraising campaign initiated under President Turner’s leadership. At the time of its launch, the multiyear campaign’s \$1.5 billion goal was the largest fundraising target ever set by a private school in Texas, and remains the largest in North Texas. The campaign aims to build on SMU’s strengths to empower outstanding students, enrich teaching and research, and enhance campus and community.

Fueled by these investments, the University is a leading center of teaching and research that accelerates knowledge, addresses significant issues, prepares students to be world changers and broadens community engagement. SMU experienced record enrollment in fall 2021 with 12,391 students (6,914 undergraduate and 5,477 graduate), including matriculation of the largest, most

talented, and most diverse undergraduate first-year class in its history and is on track for similar numbers in fall 2024. Beyond the campus, President Turner has served on the boards of the Dallas Citizens Council, the American Council on Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he co-chaired the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for nearly 10 years. In Texas, he serves on the boards of the Methodist Health System Foundation, the Salvation Army of North Texas, and the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Earlier in his career, President Turner served in administrative positions at the University of Oklahoma and Pepperdine University. A native of New Boston, Texas, he earned an AA degree from Lubbock Christian University, a BS in psychology from Abilene Christian University and an MA and PhD in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Elizabeth G. Loba has served as SMU's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since July 6, 2020. At SMU, she has successfully challenged community members to establish academic priorities for the next 3-5 years that will allow SMU to reach its full potential as a premier research and teaching university with global impact. As a trained biomedical engineer and established researcher, Loba understands the importance of data to inform decisions and spent considerable time in her first year establishing the data and reporting structures that will best shape and define the University's academic strategy. She has a deep commitment to transparency and has charted multiple avenues for consistent and open communication across the University.

Prior to SMU, Loba was the eleventh dean of the University of Missouri's College of Engineering since October 2015 and Ketcham Professor of the College of Engineering. Since 2018, and concurrent with her deanship, she served as vice chancellor for strategic partnerships. She was the first woman to serve as the College of Engineering's dean. Loba previously served as associate chair and professor of the Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, and as a professor of materials science and engineering at North Carolina State University. She earned her PhD in mechanical engineering and her master's degree in biomechanical engineering from Stanford University, and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UC Davis.

Provost Loba has been recognized for her work as an engineer, inventor, researcher, and academic administrator. She is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Academy of Inventors, the Biomedical Engineering Society and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. She has earned the *Insight into Diversity* Giving Back Award, the Sigma Xi Faculty Research Award, the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Award, and the UK-US Stem Cell Collaboration Development Award. Loba also is the recipient of the University of California Davis Distinguished Engineering Alumni Medal as well as the Stanford University Distinguished Alumni Scholar Award. Loba serves on the advisory board of the AAAS Education Counsel Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM. She is a member of the board of directors of Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. (AOI). She currently serves on the nominations committee for the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

THE DEDMAN COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

The Dedman College received its naming gift in 1981 from Dallas benefactors Nancy and Robert H. Dedman, Sr., and remains today the core and hub of academic life at SMU. SMU's satellite campus in Taos, NM provides a unique, complementary setting for experiential learning and cultural immersion. With a tenure-line faculty of 189, a teaching and professional faculty of 127, and a budget of \$70 million, the Dedman College connects its 2000 students with forward thinkers and global problem solvers through liberal arts foundations, advanced study, and cross-disciplinary programs, including seven interdisciplinary centers and institutes. In 2023, Dedman College researchers generated \$14.26M in competitive research grants. Cluster hires in Earth Sciences and National Security (onboarded in fall 2022), Data Science (fall 2023) and Urban Research (fall 2024) will greatly enhance areas of established research strength at SMU.

Dedman College's 16 academic departments are grouped into three divisions: 1) Dedman I (Humanities) includes the Departments of English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Philosophy and Religious Studies; 2) Dedman II (social and behavioral sciences) includes the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology; 3) Dedman III (mathematical and natural sciences) includes the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Statistical and Data Science.

The College's academic departments are found in ten different buildings. The College's Dallas Hall was the University's first building and figures as SMU's identifying symbol on the University seal and logo, and it hosts the College's English and History Departments. Clements Hall dates to the University's founding in 1915, and today includes the Office of General Education, Student Records and Academic Services, as well as the University Honors Program, the Mathematics Department, and the World Languages and Literature Department. Carr Collins Hall, originally a residence for law students, is home to the Department of Political Science and the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. Hyer Hall, named in honor of SMU's first president Robert S. Hyer, houses the departments of Philosophy, Psychology, and Religious Studies. The Dedman Life Sciences Building presides over the Science Quad, housing classrooms, research and teaching labs, computer labs, and faculty offices for the Department of Biological Sciences. The Fondren Science Building, constructed in 1950 and featuring a clock tower with a two-octave carillon of 25 bells, is home to the Physics and Chemistry Departments, as well as teaching laboratories for the Biological Sciences and Earth Sciences. Heroy Hall is attached to the Fondren Science Building, and hosts the Department of Earth Sciences, the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man, and the Statistical and Data Science, Anthropology, and Sociology Departments. The Umphrey Lee Center, named after SMU's fourth president, houses the Economics Department.

The College offers numerous interdisciplinary studies, including Asian Studies, an institutional focus for experts, events, and programs related to Asia; Biochemistry, which emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of modern biochemistry, offering courses in physics, mathematics, chemistry, and biology; Biophysical Sciences, which provides a foundation for careers in medicine and research; Data Science, a combination of statistics, computer science, and optimization; European Studies, which focuses on European history, culture, politics, and society; Human Rights, a unique experience that encourages compassion and inclusion; International and Area Studies, which combines geography, history, politics, and more; Jewish Studies, which includes a broad range of courses in history, religious studies, literature, music, and art history that examine Jewish culture and religion; Markets and Culture, which includes courses in economic sociology,

studying world marketplaces; Medieval Studies, which focuses on Celtic, Franconic, Italic, Germanic, Visigothic, Byzantine, Islamic, and Persian contexts; Public Policy, which includes courses in economics and political science to deal with contemporary issues; Women's and Gender Studies, enabling students to explore the social and cultural effects of gender; and Digital Humanities. Dedman College also offers programs in pre-health (for students who wish to pursue dental, medical, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, veterinary medicine), as well as a pre-law program.

The College hosts seven institutes and centers that are forums for interdisciplinary research. The Center for Drug Discovery, Design, and Delivery, uses innovative approaches to potentiate the development of new therapeutics, their delivery methods, as well as the translation of these into clinical studies. The Center for Presidential History exists to research and advance understanding of the history of the American presidency. The Clements Center for Southwest Studies promotes research, publishing, teaching, and public programming in fields related to Texas, the American Southwest, and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. The Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute promotes a culture of interdisciplinary problem-solving and knowledge creation to meet the world's increasingly complex needs and challenges. The Institute for the Study of Earth and Man is a mission-driven, interdisciplinary 501(c)3 organization that advances interests in geology and archaeology. The John G. Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs is a nonpartisan, academic center that emphasizes the practical application of ethical public leadership and responsibility. The Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center is an action-oriented research policy center studying the dynamic political, cultural, economic, and business relationship between Texas and Mexico.

The deanship of Thomas DiPietro nurtured a culture of faculty and staff collegiality and academic ambition that will be great advantages to his successor. Having managed the more than 300 full-time faculty in Dedman College, DiPietro sustained the College's small class sizes and hands-on research programs, while expanding the College's data science offerings to include online learning platforms and new certificate programs, and promoting interdisciplinarity through such endeavors as the creation of a Statistics and Data Science Department which resides primarily within the college but is joint with both SMU's Cox School of Business and Lyle School of Engineering.

ROAD TO R1

Under President Turner's leadership, the University has made unprecedented progress academically and financially. Still, SMU remains ambitious: the University aspires to be one of the premier private higher learning institutions in the United States. To this end, the *Launching SMU's Second Century* strategic plan lays out six ambitious goals through 2025, including the need to strengthen scholarly research, creative achievement, and opportunities for innovation.

SMU aspires to reach R1 status. It was on the verge of this distinction during Carnegie's 2021 review cycle and believes it is on track to achieve it by 2025. A key driver of this improvement is the \$100 million gift from the Moody Foundation to fund the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. President Turner also points to SMU's work with the U.S. Department of Defense that awarded a supercomputer system to the University in 2013. The push to reach R1

status is part of the broader \$1.5 billion fundraising campaign with about \$1.3 billion committed so far.

In support of the strategic priority of achieving R1 status, SMU has increased investments in supporting PhD education and assembled significant resources to do so. The Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security, the O'Donnell Data Science and Research Computing Institute, the AT&T Center for Virtualization, the Center for VR Learning Innovation, and the Hart eCenter engage in emergent 21st-century technologies and issues including AI/ML, AR/VR, visualization, human-computer interface, cyber security, the internet of things, and distributed computing. The NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD collaboration enhanced what was already a strength at SMU, increasing the university's supercomputer memory tenfold and setting the stage for AI and machine learning 25 times faster than current levels. Additional hardware, software, and training investments from the University make SMU a world leader in this space and has game-changing implications for a range of academic units as well as employers in a growing technology hub.

SMU is expanding its opportunities for collaboration in innovative biotech research by joining Pegasus Park, a 23-acre mixed-use office campus for biotech firms and nonprofit organizations within minutes of downtown Dallas and the UT Southwestern Medical District. Beginning in summer 2024, SMU faculty who utilize SMU's space at Pegasus Park will participate in research, development and entrepreneurial activities under the SMU Institute for Computational Biosciences.

DFW: THE METROPLEX

According to *City Journal*, more Americans have moved to DFW over the past ten years than anywhere else in the U.S. In another decade or so, DFW's population will reach 10 million people, surpassing Chicago as the country's third-largest metro area and making it the "de facto capital of America's heartland." From 2010 to 2020, the population of DFW itself grew by 1.3 million to 7.5 million, 40 percent by domestic migration, 20 percent by international migration, and the rest from natural population growth. Concurrently, the population of the surrounding counties grew by 36 percent.

For further detail, please visit: <https://blog.smu.edu/dedmancollege/2022/01/25/why-is-everyone-moving-to-dallas/>

Apart from New York and Los Angeles, no American city has a more prominent footprint of fine and performing arts, major league sports, and cultural philanthropy than Dallas. The Arts District in the northern section of Downtown is the largest contiguous arts district in the United States. Notable venues in the district include the Dallas Museum of Art; the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, home to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Dallas Wind Symphony; the Neshier Sculpture Center; and the Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art. The Perot Museum of Nature and Science, also in Downtown Dallas, is a natural history and science museum. Venues that are part of the AT&T Dallas Center for the Performing Arts include Moody Performance Hall, home to the Dallas Chamber Symphony; the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, home to the Dallas Theater Center and the Dallas Black Dance Theater; and the Winspear Opera House, home to the Dallas Opera and Texas Ballet Theater. SMU's own Meadows Museum is the

leading center in the United States for exhibition, research, and education in the arts and culture of Spain.

The Dallas Mavericks (NBA) and the Dallas Stars (NHL) play at the American Airlines Center, and the Dallas Cowboys (NFL), Texas Rangers (MLB) and Dallas Wings (WNBA) play in nearby Arlington. FC Dallas (MLS) plays in nearby Frisco. Wikipedia tallies that Dallas maintains and operates 406 parks on 21,000 acres of parkland. The city's parks contain 17 separate lakes, including White Rock and Bachman lakes, spanning a total of 4,400 acres. In addition, Dallas is traversed by 61.6 miles of biking and jogging trails, including the Katy Trail, and is home to 47 community and neighborhood recreation centers, 276 sports fields, 60 swimming pools, 232 playgrounds, 173 basketball courts, 112 volleyball courts, 126 play slabs, 258 neighborhood tennis courts, 258 picnic areas, six 18-hole golf courses, two driving ranges, and 477 athletic fields.

Several websites, notably <https://dallas.eater.com>, track DFW's varied restaurant scene, which Bon Appetit singled out for praise in 2019: <https://www.bonappetit.com/story/dallas-texas-city-of-the-year-2019>. Dallas is home to both American and Southwest Airlines. Two major international airports, DFW (the second busiest in the US) and Dallas Love Field (DAL) provide direct flights to most major domestic and international travel destinations.

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

With the University's *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* campaign nearing its \$1.5 billion goal three years ahead of its targeted conclusion, the recently endowed Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean will have the opportunity to articulate a vision for the College's future, attracting and supporting outstanding faculty members and students and encouraging their engagement with traditional and emerging disciplines through cutting-edge research and inspired instruction empowered by future-facing technologies.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

SMU seeks as the Dedman College's new Dean a prominent scholar with a record of departmental and institutional leadership in a premier research university. Candidates must possess a PhD and a record of scholarship, teaching, and service that meets the College's criteria for tenure at the full professor rank. Professional exposure to the range of humanities and science disciplines and the readiness to be a visible, credible, and effective advocate and promoter for the College, are essential. The new Dean will need to be both a collaborator and facilitator, accustomed to developing and marshaling data in support of decisions and recommendations and demonstrating return on investment. Strategic budget acumen, creative problem-solving abilities, and the capacity to provide expertise and service in substantiating SMU's anticipated R1 status are required. Competitive candidates will evidence experience in or aptitude for building collaborative and sustainable interdisciplinary academic programs; engaging and stewarding alumni and donors; cultivating corporate and philanthropic supporters; and realizing institutional commitments to diversity and inclusion. Applications should demonstrate the candidate's readiness to pursue collaboration across SMU's other academic units; to provide professional mentorship for early career faculty; and to lead a student-focused College within a University that nurtures high affinity among all its constituents. An aptitude and appetite for capital and facilities fundraising, and raising

endowments for named faculty chairs, scholarships, and fellowships, will be essential to success in this deanship.

PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Review of candidate materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment. A complete application will include a letter of interest, a current curriculum vitae, and contact information for five professional references who can speak about the candidate's qualifications for this position. Named referees will not be contacted without the candidate's prior consent. Expressions of interest, applications, nominations, and inquiries should be directed to SMU's search consultant, Mr. Chuck O'Boyle of C. V. O'Boyle, Jr., LLC, at chuck@cvoboyle.com.

SMU will not discriminate in any employment practice, educational program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.