SMU opens Harold C. Simmons Hall to serve a new generation of teachers, researchers, and leaders, SMU opened Harold Clark Simmons Hall earlier this year. The new hall, the second building for the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, houses innovative teaching laboratories, the Budd Center, and faculty offices.

Black Excellence in Higher Education During Looking Beyond the Horizon: Black Excellence in Higher Education, NFL's Kelvin Beachum '11, '12 was one of the participants invited by Simmons to examine conditions needed for African-Americans to succeed in college. Panelists included students, alumni, administrators, and community members.

Walking burns more calories than anticipated Researcher Lindsay Ludlow and Professor Peter Weyand in Simmons show that current standards used for measuring the number of calories burned during walking are inaccurate. Through their work in the Locomotor Performance Lab, they calculated precise ways of measuring.

Designing Teacher Professional Development for the Galapagos Spearheaded by the Galapagos Conservancy in Washington, DC, Simmons hosted a planning meeting in January for teacher development in the Galapagos. Planners from Ecuador, SMU, UNC, Rutgers, Stanford, Michigan State and the University of Wisconsin, looked at work needed to impact a variety of subject areas over four years. Assistant Professors Diego Roman and Karla del Rosal, and CORE evaluator Hiba Rahim in Simmons are project leads. They conduct workshops this month.

More Big Wins for Dispute Resolution At the 5th Annual Graduate Mediation Competition hosted by SMU's Center for Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Plano, Simmons student teams won every award category. Competing schools included Champlain College, Kennesaw State University, Brandeis University.

David Chard to Lead Wheelock College Starting in July, David J. Chard, founding dean of the Simmons School, will become the 14th president of Wheelock College in Boston. An international search for the next dean will take place during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Luminary Awards 2016 Three organizations taking fresh and research-based approaches to the advancement of education were honored by the Simmons School with Luminary Awards in January. They include Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy in Dallas and principal Nakia Douglas (pictured at top), Raise Your Hand Texas, represented by former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson (pictured at bottom), And All Stars Project, Inc., represented by CEO Gabrielle Kurlander (pictured in the middle).

The Simmons School of Education and Human Development is changing—and challenging—the way we think. Our commitment to rigorous, research-driven programs promote evidence-based, effective practices and policy. Fresh thinking and breakthrough research will drive meaningful change in the fields of education and human development.