

# Weekly Update | April 14, 2023

**Elizabeth G. Loba, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence/top 50, 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](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

Today's update falls into three categories: 1) Spring 2023, 2)

enhanced support for our students. I also relayed information about the University-wide mentoring program for all entering faculty that will provide more formal mentoring for junior faculty members.

Thank you to BUF for their continued efforts toward inclusive excellence on our campus.

### **Provost participating in informal conversations with college/school faculty this spring**

This past week, I met with faculty members from Meadows School of the Arts and Cox School of Business. Thank you to the faculty who participated and shared their perspectives during these insightful conversations. Please be on the lookout for information on subsequent visits, and I hope you will be able to attend.

### **Reminder: Call for applicants for 2023-2024 Provost Faculty Fellows**

The [Provost Faculty Fellows Program](#) is currently taking applications from full-time faculty members to lead projects within the Office of the Provost that enhance our academic priorities. There are three open positions for the 2023-2024 academic year: 1) Graduate Assistantships Fellow, 2) SMU Internationalization Steering Committee Fellow, and 3) Communications and Research Infrastructure Fellow. Stipends and course reductions will be awarded to faculty selected for the program. Applications are due by end of day **today, April 14**.

### **Dallas CEO to give SMU's May 13 Commencement Convocation Keynote**

Brian Tyler, CEO of McKesson Corporation, will be the featured speaker at SMU's May Commencement Convocation on Saturday, May 13. The ceremony is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. at Moody Coliseum and will be [streamed live online](#).

Today, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success (SAES) are hosting [Fellowships Day](#) to increase awareness of external fellowship opportunities. Activities included multiple events for SMU students and faculty members, including the Graduate Fellowships Panel, Fulbright Launch, and Fellowships Celebration.

Thank you to the faculty and staff who coordinated and hosted these events. Increasing the number of SMU students awarded fellowships supports our road to R1, and finding sustainable ways to promote student application benefits both our University and our students.

If you have questions about student fellowships, please contact [Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips](#), Director of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, or [Dr. Brandon Miller](#), Assistant Dean for University Honors Program and Fellowships.

### **Reminder: Request for Proposals – SMU/Bush Institute post-doctoral program**

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Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

**World Changers Shaped Here**