

# Weekly Update | October 4 2024

## Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Academic

## **Update: Dean searches**

### *Dedman College*

The search committee for the next Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean of Dedman College plans to conduct first round (airport) interviews with 8-10 semi-finalists on October 23-24, 2024. This keeps the search on track to conduct finalist interviews in early/mid-November and to identify a new dean by early December. We will provide information on how to engage in the finalist interview process in subsequent newsletters.

Qualifications include:

languages into SMU's Common Curriculum to prepare students for professional roles in a globalized workplace.

The research cluster was created by Professors Paola Buckley and Aria Cabot, both in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and is sponsored by the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute.

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

### Call for nominations: Provost Faculty Research Fellowships

Nominations are now open for \$15,000 Provost Faculty Research Fellowships, funded by the Office of the Provost, to support the research of tenured SMU faculty. Prospective candidates for FY 2025 Provost Faculty Research Fellowships may be nominated by Deans and Faculty Senate as follows.

- Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences: One nomination for each Dedman Division from Dean.
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## News and Noteworthy

### **Meadows School of the Arts named Apple Distinguished School**

Meadows School of the Arts has been named an Apple Distinguished School by Apple Education, a division of [Apple, Inc.](#) As one of only two schools in Texas to receive this designation, the Meadows School has been invited to participate in the 2024 Apple Distinguished Schools Leadership Academy. The three-day academy will be held on November 13-15, 2024 at Full Sail University in Florida.

Congratulations to Meadows School of the Arts on this recognition and to the dedicated work of the

## Office of Engaged Learning organizes Lab Hopping event, October 10

The Office of Engaged Learning is hosting its [annual Lab Hopping event](#) on Thursday, October 10, from 4-6 p.m. This event offers students opportunities to explore open faculty labs and research groups across campus and to learn about how to get involved. Whether students are new to research or looking to gain more experience, Lab Hopping is a great way to connect with faculty and peers engaged in scholarly and creative inquiry.

Maps for self-guided tours will be available online, with printed copies posted outside Clements Hall, Fondren Science, and in the Scholars Den. Students can also enter to win a \$100 gift card by participating in the QR scavenger hunt.

If your group or lab would like to participate, please contact Adam Neal at [asneal@smu.edu](mailto:asneal@smu.edu).

## Big iDeas Pitch Competition winners announced by Office of Engaged Learning

On Friday, September 27, the Office of Engaged Learning hosted its annual Big iDeas Pitch Competition where 18 undergraduate entrepreneurs pitched their ideas in 90 seconds or less to a panel of expert judges from the SMU entrepreneurship ecosystem. Campus partners, including the SPEARS Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Deason Innovation Gym, SMU Impact Lab, and the Hart Institute for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HI-TIE) provided additional funding for ideas demonstrating strong tech innovations, social or creative impact, or investment potential.

Thirteen students were awarded \$1,000 or more to help launch their ideas: [Ryland Adzich](#) (The Creative Destination), [Yaw Boateng](#) (InfoSavvy), [Zain Dhatwani](#) (Apni Duniya), [Mason Dierkes](#) (Elusive), [Isabella Fleet](#) (TIMIO News LLC), [Bryce Harper](#) (Urban Crusader Technology), [Kennedy Honors Jude Lugo](#) (Lecture Logger), [Emiliano Hernandez Posada](#) (Terra Social Impact), [Anish Senthilkumar](#) (The Active Mind Initiative), [Speed Gregory](#) [Nrithi Subramanian](#) (Mantra and Co.), [Ephraim Sun](#) (Fuselink.ai).

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all the families and friends who came out to support our Mustangs.

Sincerely,



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

