

# Weekly Update | November 18, 2022

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) Fall 2022, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

To honor the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will not be a newsletter next week, but we will resume distribution the following week and for the remainder of the fall 2022 semester.

## Fall 2022

### SMU Appoints Suku Nair Vice Provost for Research (VPR) and Chief Innovation Officer (CIO)

This week, [SMU announced](#) the appointment of Suku Nair, Associate Provost for Research as Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer.

Suku's candidacy for the permanent VPR/CIO position. Based on individual and group interviews with Suku, and an examination of his accomplishments over the past six months as Associate Provost for Research, the search committee members brought forward the recommendation this week to offer Suku the VPR/CIO position full-time moving forward, and I was pleased to [announce his acceptance](#) this morning.

My thanks to Dean Stephanie Knight and the search committee for their outstanding service and congratulations to Suku on earning this strategic leadership appointment.

### SMU's Tate Lecture Series Returns to Campus This Week

On Tuesday, November 15 the Tate Lecture Series returns to campus with a lecture by Dr. Robert Stoinski, President and CEO/Chief Scientific Officer for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Regarded as one of the country's finest platforms for distinguished and engaging discussions, the Tate Lecture Series provides unique opportunities for student interaction, faculty discourse and community debate with world changers and raises funds for academic scholarships and student programs. Click [here](#) for more information on this year's Tate Lecture Series events.

### Preparing for the Holiday Season: A Reminder About Supports in place to Manage Stress





- Dr. Evelyn L. Parker (2021 recipient)
- Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. (2022 recipient)

There is, perhaps, no more important measure for a school than the impact its alumni have on the world. I was grateful for the opportunity to join Dean Craig Hill and the Perkins community this week to celebrate excellence in these four truly distinguished Perkins alumni and to recognize them for their living out SMU's call to be world changers.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

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