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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas
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Shriya Siddhartha, a second-year Dedman College Scholar and Tower Scholar majoring in biochemistry has been awarded the prestigious [Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship](#). Founded by the Unite

[Remote vs. in-person schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic and internalizing symptoms among children on the autism spectrum](#). The study found that education disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had little impact on the anxiety levels of teenagers with autism.

While previous research has shown that the pandemic adversely impacted the overall mental health of adolescents, Kouros' study found that those experiencing mental health difficulties were likely already struggling before March 2020, and teenagers with autism had anxiety levels that remained consistent during pandemic education disruptions, regardless of delivery mode (i.e. in-person, remote or homeschooled).

Inclusive Excellence

Student Senate and the First-Generation Initiative announce new First-Generation Scholarship

lating earmarking \$50,000 per year in scholarships exclusively for Pell-eligible first-generation students. Per the terms of the legislation, this scholarship program will distribute funds to its first recipients in fall 2024 and will continue to do so for the next nine years, through spring 2033.

The First-Generation Initiative would like to thank Student Senate representatives, especially Alex Alarcón, Clayton Meyer, Michael Castle and Wyatt Harms for supporting this legislation, and to students Briana Morales and Guadalupe Roman, who worked with the First-Generation Initiative to promote the need for these scholarships as a means to provide increased on-campus support for first-generation Mustangs.

News and Noteworthy

SMU to receive Exercise is Medicine® On Campus (EIM-OC) Silver Level designation

SMU is one of 145 academic institutions around the world recently honored with the [American College of Sports Medicine](#) community-[Exercise is Medicine® On Campus](#) (EIM-OC), Silver Level designation for its efforts to create a culture of wellness on campus.

The SMU EIM-OC leadership team in 2023, including the following members: [names redacted]

SMU NSBE UH7bXg'BUjcbU'GcWYfmcZ6`UW_9b[]bYYfgD) \$H `5 bbi U` Convention

SMU student members of the [National Society of Black Engineers \(NSBE\)](#) recently [attended the organization's 50th annual convention](#) in Atlanta, Ga., to network, connect and explore job opportunities. The four-day event is designed to provide support, guidance and resources for undergraduate and graduate students as well as established professionals. The agenda includes a two-day career fair that gives jobseekers access to more than 400 companies and universities.

NSBE is one of the largest student-governed organizations based in the U.S., supporting the aspirations of collegiate and pre-collegiate students and technical professionals in engineering and technology. SMU NSBE is one of 600 chapters that aim to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically. (j)-5 (ob96 (a)-8.996 (n)-9.000 (on)4.0066 (d)-