

Search for the President  
Southern Methodist University  
Dallas, Texas

The Board of Trustees and Presidential Search Committee seek the next president of Southern Methodist



The University has also seen impressive athletic success, marked by the announcement of joining the Atlantic Coast Conference in September 2023. The transition into the ACC is the culmination of a decades long vision to reestablish SMU Athletics as a nationally recognized program and to complement the outstanding academic reputation of the institution. The move has been strongly supported by the Board of Trustees, generous donors and the campus community. Membership in the ACC places SMU alongside some of the most storied athletic programs and academic institutions in the nation.

Donor generosity has also driven substantial progress in the current capital campaign, **SMU United: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow**. The multi-year \$1.5 billion campaign, which aims to raise money to support the



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Ensure SMU has the physical and operational infrastructure to fully achieve its aspirations.



that allows students to pursue multiple majors and experience different cultures and delivers what employers want. SMU graduates greet the workforce with multiple competencies and global savvy.

SMU is also home to [44 centers and institutes](#) spanning a wide array of interdisciplinary subjects and offering opportunities for scholarly research and writing, conferences, lectures and symposia. They include the John Goodwin Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs, the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, and the Caruth Institute for Entrepreneurship. The University is also home to the [George W. Bush Presidential Center](#) which includes the presidential archives of the Bush Administration, a museum with permanent and traveling exhibits, and an independent public policy institute. Through its work, the Bush Center has impacted both SMU and the North Texas community in ways both big and small. For more information about SMU's schools and institutes, please see Appendix 1.

In addition to its main campus known as the Hilltop—a sprawling 234 acres in the University Park area just five minutes north of downtown Dallas, SMU also operates a campus in Taos, New Mexico. [SMU Taos](#) offers summer credit courses that emphasize experiential learning and hosts enriching programs for alumni, friends and members of the Taos community.

Additionally, the SMU buildings east of Central Expressway, known as East Campus, contain a hive of



Additionally, international student enrollment is just over 1,000, with students hailing from 86 countries. All entering first-year students receive an assignment to one of 11 residential commons; this unique feature of SMU offers students a familiar, comfortable living environment, personal interaction with Faculty in Residence and administrators, and exciting opportunities for academic and extracurricular exploration.

SMU students and alumni are both enthusiastic and loyal, with a powerful resonance across Dallas and the country. With 136,000 alumni worldwide, more than 65,000 live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Fifteen cities across the country have active alumni chapters, and three affinity groups have been established.

### Cultural Intelligence at SMU

SMU promotes a culture of respect and inclusiveness which is strengthened by the SMU Campus Cultural Intelligence Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to make cultural intelligence a part of the DNA of SMU and the SMU community by touching every aspect of institutional life, whether in the classroom, the Residential Commons, the office, or the fraternity or sorority house. The aim is to ensure that every member of the campus community is equipped to create, collaborate and implement innovative solutions to change the world, regardless of the background of those with whom they work.

SMU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion works with people across the University to develop, coordinate, and advance the organizational vision and strategy to fulfill the University's core values of excellence,



Dallas also offers unforgettable experiences throughout the year from live music and festivals to visual and performing arts to showcase the best of local culture and global artistry, all within a short drive from campus. The arts district includes the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Myerson Symphony Center, the Wily Theater, AT&T Performing Arts Center, Moody Performance Hall, and the Crow Museum of Asian Art.

As one of America's most connected cities, the region is home to the tenth most frequently traveled airport in the world. Dallas makes it easy to do business, as evidenced by the presence of 23 Fortune 500





SMU has a long and storied history of program-





## FINANCES

SMU has strong financial footing, with annual gross operating revenues of approximately \$1.6 billion and net assets totaling \$3.6 billion; this includes an endowment of \$2.1 billion. In alignment with the strategic



full Board. Regular members of the Board of Trustees are elected quadrennially. The composition of the 11-person Trusteeship Committee is determined annually by a vote of the full Board.

## CURRENT CONTEXT

The current strategic plan, Launching SMU's Second Century: Shaping Leaders for a Changing World, launched in 2016 and will conclude in 2025. It includes six goals, 35 objectives, and 133 metrics. The goals of the plan are:

- To enhance the academic quality and stature of the University
- To improve teaching and learning
- To strengthen scholarly research, creative achievement, and opportunities for innovation
- To sustain student development and a supportive campus experience
- To broaden global perspectives
- To increase revenue generation and promote responsible stewardship of resources

Commendable progress has been made across all six goals, and the next president will be tasked with collaborating with stakeholders to create the next strategic plan and usher in the next era of growth and excellence.

For over 100 years, SMU has enriched its students and the broader community through outstanding education, groundbreaking research and active involvement. Through their gifts, more than 61,000 supporters are powering new paths for education, research and community engagement. They will leave a legacy that stretches far beyond SMU's campus. Thanks to tens of thousands of donors, the campaign, which is slated to go through 2028, has commitments well beyond \$1.3 billion.

In looking toward the future, the president will balance the need to respond to market realities, build innovative programming, and address enrollment trends and a challenging higher education landscape to create a purposeful plan for resource allocation. The president will lead a continuing assessment of existing programs and encourage the consideration of new programs, with a focus on graduate education with potential for additional revenue generation.

ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT



relationships with diverse constituents, both internal and external; raises funds and develops new sources of revenue to support the University's continued growth; and serves as the face and voice of the institution.

The president will be supported in this work by the President's Executive Council, which includes the following direct reports: provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs; senior vice president for Development and External Affairs; senior vice president for Student Affairs; senior vice president for Business and Finance and chief financial officer; vice president for Executive Affairs; vice president for Legal Affairs, general counsel, and secretary to the Board of Trustees; chief investment officer and director of Athletics. Other direct reports include the chief diversity officer and senior advisor to the president for cultural intelligence, chief information officer, assistant vice president for Access and Equity, and the director of Internal Auditing and Consulting Services.

Building upon the strong foundation that already exists, the president will address the following challenges and strive to use them as opportunities to propel the University to even greater eminence:

#### KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PRESIDENT



academic excellence at its core, that draws from SMU's remarkable history and that accurately defines its future.

As the current strategic plan comes to a close, the president must help SMU envision an even stronger regional, national and global identity. To bring this vision to life, the president will lead an inclusive, community-engaged visioning and strategic planning process that outlines the University's key strategic imperatives. SMU is prepared for an ambitious vision and strategic plan rooted in the values that have informed the University's trajectory to date, that guides the community forward and galvanizes stakeholders across the University and beyond to action. This includes maintaining an environment of



an extension of the classroom characterized by engaged learning projects and community partnerships. By strategically strengthening and expanding fruitful relationships, and leveraging SMU's 65,000 alumni in the Dallas area, the president has the opportunity to bolster SMU's relationships and engagement in Dallas while also contributing meaningfully to developing sustainable solutions to the city's most pressing economic and social challenges.

As one of the nation's fastest growing regions, Dallas is a launchpad for global impact. The president must capitalize on the metroplex's monumental rise and ensure SMU remains at the center of its growth. In doing so, the president will be an involved leader and partner with its neighbors on major issues of regional significance. As the premier University in the center of the fastest growing metro area in the country, SMU must capitalize on this opportune moment in the region's history.

Successfully conclude SMU's momentous comprehensive campaign to power new paths for education, research and community

The president will oversee the final three years of the campaign, engaging key constituents and developing relationships with the donor base to ensure continued momentum during and after the presidential transition. They will work to introduce themselves to SMU's 136,000 alumni, cultivate supporters in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and promote a compelling vision for SMU's future to its many generous benefactors. The president will also build connections between the campus and the external community, fostering collaborations that benefit SMU's students, faculty, alumni and staff.

Leverage and capitalize on SMU's historic move to the ACC to lift SMU athletics to new heights and positively impact all aspects of the collegiate experience

The incoming president should leverage SMU's affiliation with the ACC to promote both the athletic and



Ensure SMU has the physical and operational infrastructure to fully achieve its aspirations

To continue its upward trajectory, SMU will require a highly efficient administration geared toward the



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Meadows School of the Arts

The Meadows School

laboratories, centers and institutes conduct cutting-edge research on human potential, from math and reading skills to the mechanics of elite sprinters. These hubs of research and community involvement include the Center on Research and Evaluation, The Center: Involving Communities in Education, Applied Physiology Laboratory, Locomotor Performance Laboratory, The Institute for Leadership Impact, Research in Mathematics Education, Center for Family Counseling, Mediation and Conflict Resolution Services and a creative writing program and college access programs for youth.

