

**Weekly Update | November 17, 2023**

- **November 21, Tuesday:** Last day to declare a course pass/fail, withdraw from a course (grade of W), and withdraw from the University (grades of W). This date does not apply to courses in which the last class meeting and final exam have already occurred.
- **November 22, Wednesday:** No classes held.
- **November 23 – 24, Thursday – Friday:** Thanksgiving holiday. University offices closed.

Please reference [SMU's academic calendar](#) for further information regarding important University dates.

## Call for President's Partners grant proposals

The President's Partners Program was created by President R. Gerald Turner to support faculty and staff in pursuing innovative teaching initiatives and collaborative research opportunities for students. All full-time faculty and staff are invited to apply for grants, which will range between \$500 – \$5,000.

Priority areas for President's Partners grants include equipment, materials, or supplies that have the potential to impact a broad reach of students and enhance student engagement opportunities both within and beyond a single course. Competitive applications will describe how the project aligns with the SMU Strategic Plan. Collaborative projects are encouraged. Applications should be submitted by Friday, December 15, through [a DocuSign application form](#). Applicants should prepare to attach a proposal narrative of no more than four pages that includes the following four components: 1) a list of equipment or materials requested (e.g., academic, research, administrative); 2) a summary of how the resources will enable the larger project; 3) how the project will impact SMU's strategic initiatives; 4) an itemized list of the projected costs with hyperlinks to the items when/if feasible.

A faculty/staff committee will review all applications and make recommendations to President Turner to finalize award decisions before Friday, January 26, 2024. We very much hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity that the President's Partners Program fund offers to enhance the student experience at SMU. For questions, please reach out to [facultysuccess@smu.edu](mailto:facultysuccess@smu.edu).

## Academic Excellence

### Moody School Doctoral Candidacy Ceremony recognizes an important degree milestone

On Friday, November 3, eighteen doctoral students (pictured below) from departments across campus participated in the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies' Doctoral Candidacy Ceremony in Frances Anne Moody Hall. Advancement to candidacy marks the point in a doctoral student's progress when they have completed all coursework and qualifying examinations and have been judged by their program faculty to be capable of completing an original and significant research project worthy of the doctoral degree. The Moody School Candidacy Ceremony honors Ph.D. and other doctoral students who have passed this significant milestone.





\$1.8 million R01 grant from the [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) for research related to gene therapy. NIH R01 grants are extremely competitive, with fewer than 10 percent of applicants selected.

The four-year grant will allow Professor Kim to develop a simpler, more effective and more accurate way to determine whether viruses intended for gene therapy contain their full genetic cargo. [Read more about his research here.](#)

Participants engaged in discussions around the theme “Listening, Learning, and Leading: A Place-based



Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University

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

**World Changers Shaped Here**