

December 11, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Tim Jacobbe, Ph.D. Professor and Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning

Katrina Martinez, Project Manager, West Dallas Stem School

Dawson Orr, Ph.D. Clinical Professor and Director, Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

Tony Petrosino, Ph.D. Associate Dean and Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

Quentin Sedlacek, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

Jeanna Weiselman, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

Annie Wilhelm, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

Annie Wright, Ph.D. Executive Director of Research and Evaluation, Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE)

Yetunde Zannou, Ph.D. Program Manager, CORE

Congratulations as well to Richard Duschl, Executive Director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education and TI Distinguished Chair in Engineering Education in the Lyle School of Engineering, for his contributions to this grant.

- o **Lyle School of Engineering** Gary Evans, Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been elected as a Fellow into the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). The NAI Fellows

. demonstrated a highly prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on

Congratulations on this great achievement and recognition as a truly prolific academic inventor, Dr. Evans.

**Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation dedication** – On December 4, SMU [dedicated the Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation](#), a new 50,000-square-foot interdisciplinary research hub that will equip faculty, students, and industry partners with tools and resources to collaborate, solve complex problems, and power new enterprises in the digital world of today and tomorrow. Ford Hall is unlike any building we have on campus and will be

Interdisciplinary Institute, the Data Science Institute, a cutting-edge p-ranked digital game design program.

**Career development resources for graduate students** As mentioned last week, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies is ramping up career development resources for graduate students. Dr. Ruth Schemmer, a career-development specialist with extensive graduate career advising experience, is now available for one-on-one appointments with Ph.D. students. Additional information about career development resources can be found on [the Moody School career-development website](#).

## **Fall 2020**

**New guidance regarding quarantine** As I mentioned last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has established new [guidance](#) for individuals exposed to COVID-19 to allow for a shortened quarantine of 10 days in most cases. In coordination with local health officials and Dallas County, SMU will adopt a 10-day clearance from quarantine with some exceptions for medical providers, first responders, and those who participate in an active surveillance testing program.

**Campus health and safety update** You can follow our COVID-19 case [dashboard](#). Our current operational level

reviewed each week, and any necessary updates are posted each Monday afternoon on the Mustang Strong website.

### **December faculty survey**

members of the academic leadership team of Chairs and Associate Deans to develop a final survey so that faculty can offer feedback as we plan for the spring term. This optional survey will differ from the September and October surveys in that it asks only for primary school or college affiliation, rather than departmental, and is followed by just four open-ended response items. We will provide the academic leadership teams in each area with direct access to responses in their areas to help as they plan across the winter break. A university-wide synthesis drawing on all results will then be forthcoming in January. The window for the survey will close at noon on Friday, December 18. Thank you for any input that you can offer by following this [link](#) to take the survey.

**Responding to student requests for extension of pass/fail grading** This week, I sent this [message](#) November decision not to extend the pass/fail grading option for fall 2020. Over the course of my conversations with student leaders, some critical issues were identified. Paige Ware, Associate Provost for Faculty Success, sent the following [message](#) to Department Chairs, Associate Deans and Deans to request their help engaging faculty to address some of these issues with hopes of

**Campus access for remainder of fall semester** Students remaining in the area this month can find [library hours](#) and [Zoom spaces](#) available through December 18, if they need a quiet space to study or participate in online classes. Offices will also continue to provide in-person services during normal business hours (M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) through final exams.

**December Commencement** [December Commencement](#) will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2020. We are planning for an outdoor ceremony in Ford Stadium at 1:00 p.m. for students and their guests. In case of inclement weather, our backup option will be two ceremonies in Moody Coliseum: one for undergraduate students at 9:00 a.m. and one for graduate students at 2:00 p.m. Regardless of location, face coverings are required and social distancing

the SMUFlex modality. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information soon.

### **News and Noteworthy**

**Pedagogical Partner Up Grants.** Congratulations to the

