



Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Michael T. Stephenson

Dear faculty and staff,

Time is going by quickly as we are one-third of the way through the semester. And, we are a short three weeks away from spring break. I hope that your semester is going well. As always, I am deeply grateful to each of you for the direction, dedication, and care that you provide to our students. I wanted to write to you with some updates from the Division of Academic Affairs.

Academic Integrity Week

Today, we launch our first SHSU Academic Integrity Week. The [list of events](#) provides opportunities for staff, students, and faculty to participate. I hope you will come out and sign the academic integrity pledge from noon to 3 p.m. today in Parker Plaza and find time to attend some of the activities featured this week.

PACE Strategic Review

Last fall, I asked an external review team to visit PACE, meet with staff and members of the advisory committee, and then make a series of recommendations on the center's overall structure and mission. Taking into account the value that we place on teaching at SHSU, the review team recommended that SHSU move from an administrative structure that uses three part-time directors to a model with one full-time director and one part-time associate director. I agreed with this recommendation and, after discussion with the advisory board, we are now advertising for a full-time director who will start in fall 2024. This strategic change will allow SHSU to increase support for our faculty as they continue to provide outstanding teaching to our students. The review team made a series of other recommendations, and I'd like to thank interim director Erica Pasquini and the members of the strategic planning committee who are reviewing these recommendations as they build out a strategic plan.

Building Project Updates

In the 2021 legislative session, SHSU received state funding for the construction of a health professions building and an active learning classroom building. I am pleased to report on the progress of both.

In May, we will break ground on the new four-story, 81,000 sq. ft. health professions building in Conroe to expand the academic programs in the College of Health Sciences. The new construction will be located next to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the newly completed parking garage. The building is tentatively scheduled to be completed by fall 2026.

Additionally, we are wrapping up the programming phase for the new active learning classroom building, which is tentatively scheduled to open on the Huntsville campus in fall 2027. The new 40,000 sq. ft. building will feature eight new active learning classrooms and learning studios. Appropriately, PACE will be co-located in the building and continue to lead campus on active learning pedagogy in this new instructional space. I look forward to sharing more with you as we move into the design phase.

Classroom Experience Forums

The Office of the Provost and the Dean of Students' Office will co-host Classroom Experience Forums with the colleges in April. As requested by faculty, these sessions will provide a space to not only share classroom experiences and classroom management concerns, but a space to begin developing solutions. You'll receive more information about the upcoming forums next month.

Opportunities for Transfer Students

I am pleased that we are working to build and support our transfer student population. Recently, we [signed an MOU](#) with Texas Southmost College to provide a seamless transfer experience for students interested in any of our academic programs. Additionally, we are restructuring our [evolve](#) program to facilitate the onboarding of all new transfer students. Finally, we will soon launch new transfer guides on the Academic Affairs webpage to assist students who are considering transferring to SHSU.

Artificial Intelligence Mini-Conference

Please save the afternoon of March 26 for a mini-conference on artificial intelligence featuring a keynote by [Jason Gulya](#). Watch for more details about this event.

Victory Voices and Office Hours

Join Ted Stuberfield for one of our newest campus podcasts "[Victory Voices: Aiding Student Success](#)," which tells stories of student success through peer educators. The first episode features peer educator Ashtin Pyle.

Later this semester, I will release two more episodes of "[Office Hours](#)," a video series that features faculty who are known for their outstanding teaching. This semester, we feature the work of Mary Petron and Gina Brynildsen. If you missed any of the previous episodes, you can watch them [here](#).

Again, thank you for all that you do. I hope the rest of your semester is productive and pleasant.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Stephenson
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Box 2087 • Huntsville, Texas 77341-2087 • 936.294.1001 • Fax 936.294.3577 • provost@shsu.edu

Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

*This email has been approved for distribution to AA Faculty and Staff
by Michael T. Stephenson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.*

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.