



Michael T. Stephenson

Dear colleagues,

As of today, classes are underway at all SHSU locations. We are delighted to welcome more than 200 new faculty to the SHSU classrooms this semester, and over the summer, we welcomed 170 new staff to the Bearkat family. We are so glad you are here! Dr. Aneika Simmons, interim associate provost for faculty success, is asking all faculty to complete this [brief Qualtrics survey](#) by Sept. 30 to help shape programming for the academic year.

Prioritizing Student Success and Student Access

Official enrollment will be released in the coming weeks, but our freshman class grew this year. Much like last fall, about 1 in 4 students at SHSU are now completely online while about 1 in 3 students are completely face-to-face. To support our students academically, we have increased our UNIV 1101 enrollment for first-year students by about 40%, and we stood up the [First-Generation Center](#) this summer for our growing population of first-gen students. Our Academic Success Center has expanded to further support students who need tutoring, peer mentoring, and support.

Now that SHSU is officially a [Hispanic-Serving Institution \(HSI\)](#), the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has created a [resource website](#) to assist those interested in pursuing federal funds available because of our new HSI status.

Embodying a Culture of Excellence

[Congratulations](#) to Dr. William Lutterschmidt, distinguished professor of biological sciences, for receiving the TSUS Regents' Professor Award and to [Mr. Mateo Seghezzo](#), music performance major, on being selected for a TSUS Regents' Student Scholar Award.

Dr. Joyce McCauley and her team in the Center for Community Engagement received the inaugural [We the People award](#) from AASCU for their national leadership in community engaged research, civic engagement, and academic community engagement.

Coming Soon... University-wide Discussions

Strategic Planning Discussions: This semester, the University's [strategic planning efforts](#) will continue. I encourage you to engage in the strategic planning discussions related to specific goals. Watch for details from Gen. Glaser and Dr. Johnson.

Academic Policy Performance Standards: Academic departments will be developing written performance standards to correspond to the four academic policies that were approved in May. Deans and department chairs will be discussing this in more detail during departmental and college meetings.

College Visits: In October, I will meet with faculty and staff from each college as well as the library. Details to follow.

It's looking to be another busy semester, but I am so happy to see a bustling campus again. May you all have a successful fall semester!

Sincerely,

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

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