



Michael T. Stephenson

Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dear faculty and staff,

We're moving into the final weeks of the semester, and I wanted to write a short note of thanks for all that you do for SHSU. I am grateful for the work you have done recently on your courses, promoting student success, supporting enrollment efforts, and contributing to strategic planning among what I know is a long list of other tasks, responsibilities, and acts of service. Without question, this year has been full of challenges as higher education faces some fairly strong headwinds. But please know how appreciative I am for your selfless service and unwavering commitment to your students and our institution.

As I reflect back on the academic year, I'd like to share some of the many highlights:

- The College of Osteopathic Medicine was the first and only new osteopathic medical school to receive a [10-year "accreditation with exceptional outcome"](#) by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). Additionally, they placed 100% of their first class, which graduates on May 9, into a residency program.
- David Moss received a prestigious NSF CAREER award.
- Melinda Holt was named dean of COSET.
- The state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities at [Gibbs Ranch](#) and [Dominey Observatory](#) opened for faculty and student use.
- We designed our new active learning building, which will add eight dynamic classrooms to the Huntsville campus.
- We will break ground today on the health professions building in Conroe as we prepare for the proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy and Master in Physician Assistant Studies programs.
- We increased pass rates for critical gateway courses in math, biology, chemistry, and accounting thanks in large part to devoted faculty using innovative pedagogy.
- Over the past three years, we have increased our FYE UNIV 1101 enrollment by 74%, ACE course student enrollment by 35%, and external research funding by 24%.

As you wrap up your semester, I wish you all the best and hope that you have a restful and pleasant summer break. I look forward to seeing you back this fall for PACE's annual [Teaching & Learning Conference](#) on Aug. 23 before classes resume on Monday, Aug. 26.

Sincerely,



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

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