



SMU

CELEBRATING
MEANINGFUL
IMPACT



25
YEARS
AND BEYOND

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In our 25th year, SMU stands young in spirit yet mature in ambition – rooted in Asia, globally connected, and determined to make a meaningful difference. In January 2025, we launched our new Vision and Mission, and claimed our space as a university at the nexus of management, social sciences and technology, committed to driving innovation, transcending boundaries, and transforming lives.

In the last year, we successfully completed key initiatives in SMU2025, the five-year strategic plan that was launched in 2020. In education, our five-year journey culminated in a range of work-study initiatives, designed in acknowledgement of the value of integrating learning from both academia and practice. We introduced a co-curricular transcript, in recognition of the value of learning beyond the classroom. We strengthened inter-disciplinary learning through our College of Integrative Studies and College of Graduate Research Studies, anchored in our conviction that the world's challenges require integrative perspectives to address. We are now firmly able to ensure that all our graduates have had at least one global exposure opportunity, a reflection of our belief in building intercultural understanding and cross-cultural competencies. In sum, we have nurtured graduates who are intellectually agile, socially responsible, and globally attuned – equipped with inter-disciplinary learning, experiential practice, and cultural intelligence.

In research, our faculty and researchers have advanced knowledge that addresses pressing societal challenges. Our efforts at strengthening research in digital transformation, sustainable living and growth in Asia have borne fruit, as new faculty have been appointed to grow our expertise in these areas, and new research grants have similarly been won. They cut across all Schools, reflecting the ways in which these global challenges demand multi-disciplinary perspectives.

In our next phase, we will launch into execution of our next five-year plan (SMU2030), which will focus our efforts in determined ways on making impact. As we look ahead, our commitment is clear: to evolve with purpose, to remain deeply engaged with our communities, and to ensure that our work – education, research, and partnerships – shapes a sustainable, inclusive, and interconnected future. Our best years are not behind us. They are just beginning.

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Professor Lily Kong
President
