

The following updates recently provided to the Board of Trustees illustrate progress on many of the strategic priorities outlined in *St. Thomas 2025*.

Lead in STEAM Education

With the design of the STEAM complex complete, we are on track to break ground on construction of the new complex this Spring.

One additional goal related to leading in STEAM education is to increase federal funding awards to the level awarded to the top 10 Catholic universities. Many faculty and staff across campus are working hard to spur federal grant activity. We are also exploring other Congressional funding opportunities. We have already secured some exciting early wins.

Our Center for Microgrid Research at the School of Engineering has led the way in pursuing state and federal sources of funding. The Center was awarded a \$5.4 million multi-year grant from the State Legislature this spring to support the acquisition of world-class equipment that will garner national research partners.

We are working with U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum's office to create a new microgrid and renewable energy research partnership with the U.S. Army Research Labs.

Through a National Science Foundation grant awarded to the School of Engineering called S-STEM, we pursuing bachelor's degrees in will fund 31 transfer students who are civil, computer, electrical, or mechanical engineering. The \$1.5 million grant will leverage our new partnerships with five local community colleges, and will help us provide mentoring practices, a new summer bridge course, monthly seminars to boost skills, and faculty, peer, and industry mentoring.

The School of Education

We are ranked in the top third of all national universities. Our overall rank is #136, holding steady with the 2021 ranking of #133 and the 2020 ranking of #139. This year we had our highest ever 6-year graduation rate and improved our Pell-grant recipient graduation rate. We remain 5 ranking spots (due to ties) away from the top 100.

We maintained our peer reputation score, sustaining improvements from the previous two years. U.S. News surveys presidents, provosts and admissions deans who rank universities on a 1-5 scale. Our peer assessment this year (which accounts for 20 percent of the overall ranking) is 2.6, which is consistent with last year, and up from 2.4 three years ago.

We are ranked #67 for Best Value Schools. This is our highest ranking in this category in the last four years and puts us in the top 12 for national Catholic Universities and first in ~~ment of a school's academic quality compared to the...Minnesota. This ranking is an assess~~ net cost of attendance.

We are ranked #82 for Best Colleges for Veterans. This is our third year ranked in the top 100 and up from a ranking of #93 last year. We are a top 5 national Catholic university. This ranking recognizes schools that participate in federal initiatives helping veterans and active-duty service members pay for their degrees.

School of Engineering ranked in the top 50 for the eighth year in a row and a top 5 national Catholic university. This year, we were ranked #39 among engineering schools where doctorate degrees are not offered. We are a top 5 national Catholic University, tied with Loyola University. This ranking is 100% determined by peer reputation surveys.

Opus College of Business is ranked in the top third of national universities and a top 20 national Catholic university. This year, Opus was ranked #166, and is the second ranked school in Minnesota, behind the University of Minnesota. We are a top 20 national Catholic university, tied with University of Dayton. This ranking is also 100% determined by peer reputation survey. Opus has been ranked nationally every year since the school achieved AACSB accreditation status in 2010.

St. Thomas is second in overall ranking among Summit League colleges and universities ranked in the national category. Only the University of Denver ranked higher than St. Thomas at #93.

Expand Pathways through the Dougherty Family College

Interim Dean Buffy Smith has launched a new messaging campaign to build greater community awareness about Dougherty Family College and increase enrollment. The campaign includes a [video](#) and brochures for use by community leaders. All St. Thomas faculty and staff can be champions for Dougherty Family College!

