



SMU®

Office of the Provost

July 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I am very pleased to announce that Jill Howard Allor and Lolita Buckner Inniss have been named University Distinguished Professors, an honor reserved for SMU faculty members who demonstrate the highest levels of academic achievement. Allor is a Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development and Buckner Inniss is Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Law in Dedman School of Law.

The honor is based on recommendations from their deans and endorsed by the Office of the Provost. The University Distinguished Professorships were created in 1982 by SMU's Board of Trustees to celebrate outstanding faculty members, who receive cash awards of \$10,000 per year and are appointed for a five-year rolling term.

Please join me in congratulating Professors Allor and Buckner Inniss on this well-deserved recognition. It is our pleasure to thank them for their extraordinary service to SMU and its students.

Jill Howard Allor

Since arriving at SMU in 2004, Professor Allor has developed and maintained a highly productive research agenda across a broad range of topics within her field: structured literacy tutoring for elementary readers, alternative assessment models for students with intellectual disabilities and below average IQs, and approaches for promoting literacy amongst pre-school level readers. She is a former special education teacher whose research is school-based and focuses on reading acquisition for students with and without disabilities, including students with learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

She has published 31, peer-reviewed journal articles and seven book chapters. During her time at SMU she has received \$7 million dollars in external research funding and has presented at 65 conferences.

Professor Allor has taught a broad range of courses, including literacy, assessment, quantitative methods, curriculum/instruction, and special education. She has also supervised Simmons' doctoral students through dissertation.

Throughout her SMU career, she has also maintained a strong commitment to service – both to Simmons, SMU and the national community.

Allor received her Ed.D. in special education with an emphasis on reading and reading disabilities from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. Prior to arriving at SMU in 2004, she held faculty appointments at Florida State University and Louisiana State University.

Lolita Buckner Inniss

Professor Buckner Inniss joined SMU in the summer of 2017, quickly establishing her expertise in critical race theory, gender and the law, critical discourse analysis and real property law. Her latest research project concerns the intersection of the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements and her work is widely cited by scholars, legal practitioners and members of the news media.

In addition to serving as Dedman Law's Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, she is a Robert G. Storey Distinguished Faculty Fellow.

Buckner Inniss teaches a broad range of courses, including the areas of: property law, criminal law, comparative racism and the law, and real estate transactions. She is a highly regarded scholar with a prominent national voice in her fields. She was just elected to membership in the prestigious American Law Institute. The Center for Compassionate Leadership has recently named her book *The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson* as one of five books white leaders should read on systemic racism along with Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* and others. Read more about it [here](#). She has published twenty articles, book chapters, and book reviews in prominent law school journals such as Harvard, Columbia, UC Berkeley, and the University of Texas.

She has expanded her research influence at SMU through connections with faculty in other schools and departments, most notably through co-organizing the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Research Cluster: "New Feminist Discourses and Social Change" and through membership in the Institute's "Preparing for the Second Century of Historical Inquiry about the Hilltop" Research Cluster.

Professor Buckner Inniss received her J.D. from UCLA. She holds an LL.M. with Distinction and a Ph.D. in law from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, in Canada. Prior to joining SMU, Professor Inniss was tenured and achieved the rank of full professor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She previously held the Hamilton College Elihu Root Peace Fund Visiting Professorship in Women's

Studies, a distinguished visiting chair, and was also a fellow of the New York University-Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Memory Project in Paris, France.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth G. Loba
Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
P.O. Box 750221, Dallas, TX 75275-0221
eglobo@smu.edu
214-768-3219

