

Letter from Dean Chien-pin Li

It is with great joy and pride that we celebrate the publication of the seventh edition of *The Measure*. Since its inception, *The Measure* has witnessed the transformative impact of undergraduate research on the brightest young minds at Sam Houston State University, as they seek to explore and expand their frontiers of knowledge. Nurtured and guided by their faculty mentors, they demonstrate dedication and commitment to intellectual growth and are inspirations for academic excellence. While the fields and research interests of our undergraduate scholars are remarkably diverse, the essays in this edition are all powerful testimonies of the immense talents and potentials of these emerging scholars.

With the acceleration of technological breakthroughs and the expanding application of artificial intelligence, deeper reflection of the mission of higher education has reaffirmed the value of the knowledge and skills that prepare our students for productive lives as engaged citizens. The passion to uncover truth, the courage to challenge assumptions, and the desire to initiate innovation all contribute to this learning process. Within the pages of these essays, we not only present the fruits of their hard work, but also share the trajectories of their professional growth and success. Of course, they had help along the way. We are grateful for the encouragement and guidance of their faculty mentors, who exemplify SHSU's wonderful culture of promoting student success.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Carroll Nardone for her outstanding leadership as the Executive Editor, and the remarkable help and support from the editorial staff and the Faculty Review Board. May this collection of essays continue to encourage and inspire.

Sincerely,



Chien-pin Li, Ph.D.
Dean