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Sul Ross State University earns top rankings in U.S. News & World Report

Sul Ross State University earned recognition in the *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Colleges” rankings for 2025, including a placement of #55 among Regional Universities West. This ranking underscores the university’s commitment to academic excellence, student success and accessibility.

Sul Ross was also ranked #49 for Social Mobility in the Regional Universities West category.

Social mobility has been a hallmark strength for SRSU. The university consistently performs well in measures that assess how effectively it helps economically disadvantaged students graduate. SRSU’s continued recognition in this area reinforces the institution’s mission to provide life-changing educational opportunities.

In addition to social mobility, the university received high marks for favorable student-to-faculty ratios, manageable class sizes and lower student debt levels.

“These national recognitions validate the hard work of our faculty, staff and students. We remain committed to delivering high-quality education and expanding access for all who aspire to succeed,” said Provost Bernie Canteñs. “Our ranking in social mobility is particularly meaningful. It speaks to the focus of the institution, which is ensuring that students from every economic background have the support they need to thrive.”

More data about the rankings can be found at www.usnews.com/best-colleges/sul-ross-3625/overall-rankings.

For more information, email provost@sulross.edu.

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Sul Ross State University welcomes Dr. Shelly Landreth as Chair of Education

The College of Education at Sul Ross State University announced the appointment of Shelly Landreth, Ed.D. as Associate Professor and Chair of Education, effective Oct. 15.

Dr. Landreth brings 30 years of experience in education and a lifelong dedication to literacy, teacher preparation and community engagement. She joins Sul Ross from the University of Texas Permian Basin, where she served as Associate Professor and Chair of Teacher Preparation in the College of Education.

“Dr. Landreth’s experience as an educator, scholar and leader aligns perfectly with Sul Ross’s mission to prepare effective teachers for Texas communities,” said Dr. Kevin Badgett, the Dean of the College of Education. “Her passion for literacy and practice-based teacher preparation will strengthen our programs and benefit schools throughout West Texas and beyond.”

Before transitioning into higher education in 2019, Landreth spent 23 years in Texas public schools, primarily in rural districts, teaching English Language Arts and Reading, serving as a librarian, and working as a district-level curriculum director. Her years in K–12 classrooms shaped her understanding of the unique challenges and strengths of rural education, an area that remains central to her professional focus.

At UTPB, Landreth helped develop and sustain a teacher residency program in partnership with local districts, preparing future educators through hands-on learning and mentorship. Her research explores practice-based pedagogy, adolescent literacy and service-learning in teacher education, and her scholarly work has been widely published and presented at national and state conferences.

“I am thrilled to join Sul Ross State University and the communities it serves,” said Landreth. “As a first-generation college graduate, I deeply value Sul Ross’s mission to provide high-quality, accessible education. I look forward to collaborating with faculty, students and district partners to continue building strong, community-centered pathways for teacher preparation.”

Landreth was recognized this year with the UT Permian Basin President’s Service Award for her contributions to education and community engagement.

She earned her Doctor of Education in Literacy, Master of Library Science, and Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Reading all from Sam Houston State University. She currently serves as Chair-Elect of the Teacher Educator and Professional Learning Division of the Association for Literacy Educators and Researchers, and as part of the editorial team for *Literacy Research and Instruction*.

For more information, visit srinfo.sulross.edu/education or email education@sulross.edu.

Photo: Shelly Landreth, Ed.D.

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