

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** ESC Communications | [info@engagementscholarship.org](mailto:info@engagementscholarship.org)

**Engagement Scholarship Consortium Board Elects Two New Leaders**

**EAST LANSING, MI (November 4, 2024)** — The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) Board of Directors recently elected Rod Williams, vice provost for university outreach and engagement at Texas Tech University, and Daniela Susnara, program director for the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at the University of Alabama, to vice president and secretary of ESC, respectively.

“Drs. Williams and Susnara are exceptional representatives of ESC’s commitment to university-community partnerships,” said Laurie Van Egeren, president of ESC. “I’m confident in their expertise and look forward to their continued contributions to the scholarship of engagement in these new leadership roles.”

The board also reelected Van Egeren, vice provost for public engagement at the University of Minnesota, to an additional two-year term as ESC president. Under the Consortium’s new bylaws, Williams will take the helm as president in October 2026.

At Texas Tech University, [Williams](#) connects faculty, staff, and students with communities to build reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships. He fosters and champions scholarly work to assist in finding solutions that address the concerns of community partners. Committed to developing the next generation of engaged scholars, he offers a course for graduate students on Advancing Graduate Research Impact in Society (AGRIS).

In her role at the University of Alabama, [Susnara](#) focuses on providing experiential learning, undergraduate research and civic engagement opportunities to teach students about policy, leadership, and public service. Her current research explores the integration of community engagement principles to enhance interdisciplinary, undergraduate student learning outcomes.

Williams succeeds outgoing ESC vice president Susan Short, associate vice president for engagement at Virginia Tech University, and Susnara succeeds Javiette Samuel, associate vice chancellor and executive director of community engagement and outreach at University of Tennessee- Knoxville, as ESC secretary.

“The Consortium has been exceedingly well-served by the many contributions and thoughtful leadership of Susan Short and Javiette Samuel,” Van Egeren said. “I’m grateful for their counsel over the past three years.”

Learn more about [ESC](#)’s mission, programs, and professional development opportunities.

---