



Media Release

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Susan Machum Named Dean of Social Sciences at St. Thomas University

Susan Machum, associate professor and chair of the department of sociology, has been appointed as dean of social sciences at St. Thomas University.

The appointment concludes a selection process that included a public presentation, an interview with the search committee and president, and feedback from the University community.

Kim Fenwick, vice-president (academic and research), said that the community's feedback on Machum's candidacy was very positive noting her strong understanding of the University, teaching and research accomplishments, administrative experience, and her potential for contribution to the leadership team.

"A dean is an important senior academic position that provides leadership and support to faculty and students. Professor Machum has a strong grounding in our mission at STU and she has established collegial relationships at every level of our university. We are looking forward to her contribution to helping us best achieve our mission of teaching, research, and service," said Fenwick.

"I have had the advantage of attending St. Thomas as a student and then working as a part- and full-time faculty member, so I have experienced the university from multiple vantage points. With this new position, I have the opportunity to strengthen communication and dialogue between various stakeholders and focus on initiatives related to teaching, learning, and research to foster even greater faculty and student success at STU," said Machum.

An alumnus of St. Thomas, Machum went on to earn an MA from Dalhousie University and a PhD from the University of Edinburgh. She returned to STU in 2000 to teach sociology and was a Canada Research Chair in Rural Social Justice from 2006 to 2016. Her scholarship has been impressive with 11 peer-reviewed book chapters and articles, 91 conference paper presentations, 16 invited panel discussions, and 26 research talks. Machum also brings a strong record of community service to the new position from her work with Canada World Youth, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, and Girl Guides of Canada.

The appointment is for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2017.

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