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Singapore Management University

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Media Release

SMU's School of Accountancy Alumna Shereen Williams Recognised as AACSB's 2018 Influential Leader

Singapore, 9 February 2018 (Friday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) is proud to announce that Ms Shereen Williams has been recognised by [AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business \(AACSB\)](#) as a 2018 Influential Leader.

An annual initiative, the [2018 Influential Leaders Challenge](#) celebrates the positive impact graduates make in communities around the globe. It honours notable alumni from accredited schools whose inspiring work serves as a model for the next generation of business leaders.

Shereen Williams, an alumna of SMU School of Accountancy, was recognised at AACSB's [2018 Deans Conference](#) in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, among a group of 29 business pioneers, from 13 industry sectors, whose careers are addressing today's most pressing social, economic, environmental, and educational challenges. She has been honoured in the "Alumni Business Leaders Working in Non-profit or Community-Based Organisations" category for her active contributions and commitment to battle hate crime, terrorism and inequality in the Wales community.

Shereen works as a Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator for Newport City Council in East Gwent, where she plays a lead role in managing community tensions and promoting social cohesion. She helps tackle modern day slavery, oversees the resettlement of refugees, and ensures that the local government fulfils its public sector duty in prevention violent extremism. In 2010, Shereen was presented with a Recognising Achievement Award for services to community cohesion in Wales by the First Minister, Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM.

Beyond work, Shereen has a strong interest in 'Tackling Violence against Women' and supports victims of domestic abuse, honour-based violence and forced marriages. Shereen is also keen in inter-faith work, and was made the first female Muslim chaplain of a Welsh university in 2010. Her work has earned her a host of community awards and a lot of respect from policymakers and community members. It has taken her to conferences in Europe, where she speaks on anti-hate and integration issues. In 2017, she was made an [honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire \(MBE\)](#), an honour given for her service to community.

Said Shereen Williams, "It's an incredible honour to be an AACSB Influential Leader honouree. I'm grateful to SMU for the nomination and that they consider the work that I do a positive reflection of the university. I'll always have a strong interest in social justice issues and hope this award will open up new avenues for me."

Professor [Cheng Qiang](#), Dean, School of Accountancy and Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Accounting, SMU said, “Shereen was one of the first batch of students to graduate from the School of Accountancy. We are very proud of her contributions and what she has achieved thus far. Her contribution in tackling some of the social issues is admirable. We will continue to produce outstanding graduates who will not only excel in their careers but also pursue their passions and give back to society in one way or another”

“Each honouree from the 2018 class of Influential Leaders reflects the mindset, knowledge, and passion that impactful business leaders must embody to impart positive change in today’s society,” said Thomas R. Robinson, president and CEO of AACSB. “We would like to thank Shereen Williams for demonstrating the true excellence and leadership we wish to see in the world, and we congratulate SMU for their role in helping to mold a new generation of global business leaders dedicated to driving impact that results in global prosperity.”

The 2018 Influential Leaders class were recognised across three categories, including:

- **Alumni Business Leaders Working in Non-profit or Community-Based Organisations**

Leaders serving non-profit and community-based organisations are making game-changing impacts – from a local level to a global reach – creating a better society for us all. With initiatives that include navigating the Hurricane Harvey crisis, transforming the lives of more than 150 million children around the world annually, and combating the root causes of poverty, AACSB graduates demonstrate that some of the world’s most impactful work occurs within smaller-sector opportunities.

- **Alumni Business Leaders Advancing Diversity and Inclusion**

Advocates for diversity and inclusion are driving transformation across the corporate sphere by upholding a culture of mutual respect and championing the exchange of open ideas. Such efforts are furthered by leaders who forge and refine inclusion practices – based on appreciating differences – to break down cultural stereotypes and patriarchal norms. They also look to inspire today’s youth in under-represented populations to pursue their dreams in non-traditional fields of study and professions.

- **Business Leaders Influencing Business Education**

Businesses need students to be workforce ready upon graduation, making the present a critical time for schools and businesses to work together to meet each other’s needs. Outside of academe, some business leaders are driving fruitful partnerships between the two groups by cultivating a spirit of entrepreneurship and cross-collaborative mindsets. Others are developing free study services—available via a simple digital exchange—to more than 350,000 students globally, advancing access to success for everyone. Inside academe, leaders are transforming institutional culture by encouraging open dialogue between alumni, faculty, staff, business, and students, while investing in promising entrepreneurs across advantaged and disadvantaged regions.

For more information on the Influential Leaders Challenge, and to view a full list of honourees, visit www.aacsb.edu/influential-leaders.

About AACSB International

As the world's largest business education alliance, AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) connects educators, students, and business to achieve a common goal: to create the next generation of great leaders. Synonymous with the highest standards of excellence since 1916, AACSB provides quality assurance, business education intelligence, and professional development services to almost 1,600 member organizations and more than 795 accredited business schools worldwide. With its global headquarters in Tampa, Florida, USA; Europe, Middle East, and Africa headquarters in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and Asia Pacific headquarters in Singapore, AACSB's mission is to foster engagement, accelerate innovation, and amplify impact in business education. For more information, visit aacs.edu.

About SMU School of Accountancy

Established in 2001, the School of Accountancy (SoA) is the second largest school in the Singapore Management University.

SoA began with a cohort of 90 Bachelor of Accountancy (BAcc) students and eight faculty. The BAcc programme became the first American-styled broad-based accountancy programme in Singapore, with a curriculum that met the accreditation requirements of the major accounting regulatory bodies. Currently, SoA has a faculty of close to 50 and offers four distinctive programmes; the Bachelor of Accountancy, Master of Professional Accounting, Master of Science in Accounting (Accounting Data & Analytics), and Master of Science in CFO Leadership. These programmes are designed in line with the development of Singapore as a leading global hub for accounting services and professionals for the Asia Pacific.

SoA aims to develop versatile accounting professionals and business leaders through holistic education, thought leadership and collaboration with businesses and society. The SoA faculty comes with strong credentials in research, teaching and industry practice and the SoA community shares a sense of professionalism, personal integrity, social responsibility, as well as an aspiration for exemplary leadership in the field of accounting. SoA's programmes are accredited by various reputable professional bodies and are internationally recognised.

In 2011, SMU became the youngest institution to be accredited by the AACSB International for its business and accountancy programmes across both undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum. The SMU Bachelor of Accountancy (BAcc) is also accredited by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA), Singapore Accountancy Commission (SAC), the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA), the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ), CPA Australia, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), and the Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA).

In 2017, SoA received international recognition for its research strength after it was ranked third in the world for archival research in all accounting areas in the Brigham Young University (BYU) accounting research rankings. The achievement is a strong testament to the commitment of SMU faculty towards developing high quality accounting research and the conducive environment in SMU which has facilitated their research productivity.

<http://accountancy.smu.edu.sg/>

About Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 10,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, SMU comprises six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors, masters and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg

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