



Dean, College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources and Director of Land-Grant Programs

Leadership Profile

Fall 2026



Executive Summary

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) seeks a dynamic, visionary, and accomplished leader to serve as Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs for the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR).

Located in Prairie View, Texas, about 50 miles from downtown Houston, the 1,440-acre campus has a proud legacy of producing leaders who make meaningful contributions to their professions and communities. PVAMU counts among its alumni distinguished military officers, pioneering engineers, nationally recognized educators, acclaimed artists, celebrated athletes, influential public servants, and innovators who embody the University's enduring commitment to excellence and service.



PVAMU is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. Empowered by a shared sense of history and purpose, the University remains committed to providing the highest quality of education, research, and service. Established in 1876 as a land-grant institution, PVAMU enrolls more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students from 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 89 countries. The University comprises 11 colleges and schools, most of which are accredited by specialized professional bodies, and supports numerous research centers on its main campus. PVAMU offers 36 bachelor's degree programs, 31 master's degree programs, and six doctoral programs. With record enrollment, rising national rankings, and students achieving career success at top companies, the University is building undeniable momentum on its Journey to Eminence.

The College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources operates in the proud land-grant tradition of integrating teaching, research, and service to improve lives and strengthen communities. CAFNR serves as a vital engine for academic excellence, scientific discovery, outreach, and economic development across Texas and beyond. Through its academic programs, Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, and Extension programs, the College advances innovation in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, natural resources, environmental sustainability, youth development, community and economic development, and family and community health.

CAFNR offers programs in agriculture, natural resources and environmental sciences, human nutrition and food, and related disciplines, preparing students for careers in fields ranging from agriculture and environmental stewardship to healthcare, public service, business, and scientific research. The College's research enterprise addresses critical challenges facing agriculture, natural resource management, food security, health, and rural and underserved communities, while its extension programs deliver research-based education and services throughout Texas. PVAMU Extension currently serves communities in more than 56 Texas counties through programs focused on agriculture and natural resources, community and economic development, family and community health, and 4-H youth development.

Reporting directly to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs serves as the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the College, and provides leadership for all academic, research, extension, and outreach activities. The Dean and Director is responsible for advancing the College's instructional quality, research productivity, enrollment growth, student success, and public service mission while ensuring alignment with PVAMU's strategic priorities and federal land-grant responsibilities.

The next Dean and Director will have a unique opportunity to lead one of the University's most mission-centered and externally engaged colleges during a period of significant institutional momentum. Key priorities include

strengthening academic programs; supporting faculty scholarship and innovation; expanding research capacity and extramural funding; enhancing extension and outreach impact; growing strategic partnerships with industry, government agencies, alumni, and community stakeholders; advancing enrollment and retention efforts; and stewarding resources to ensure long-term growth and sustainability. The Dean and Director will play a critical role in elevating CAFNR's visibility and impact while advancing PVAMU's commitment to serving the citizens of Texas through education, discovery, and engagement.

The ideal candidate will be an eminent scholar-practitioner with a demonstrated record of academic leadership, scholarly achievement, and success in securing external funding and developing strategic partnerships. Candidates must possess an earned doctorate and have a distinguished record of scholarly, research, or creative accomplishment commensurate with appointment as a tenured full professor in the College. The University seeks a collaborative and innovative leader with experience in academic administration, faculty development, enrollment growth, resource management, and accreditation. An appreciation for the historic missions of HBCUs and land-grant institutions, along with familiarity with federal land-grant systems, USDA programs, and extension activities, will be highly valued. While not required, candidates with experience as a faculty member or administrator at a research-intensive university are of interest to PVAMU.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.



Role of the Dean, College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources and Director

Prairie View A&M University is advancing its vision as a premier public research university while remaining deeply committed to its historic land-grant mission of teaching, research, and service. At the center of this work is the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR), a cornerstone of the University's efforts to strengthen agricultural innovation, community engagement, workforce development, and economic opportunity across Texas and beyond. CAFNR operates within the land-grant tradition, integrating academic programs, research, extension, and public service to address complex challenges in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, natural resources, and community development.

Position Overview

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean of CAFNR will serve as the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the College, providing strategic leadership for all of its academic, research, extension, outreach, and administrative functions while advancing Prairie View A&M University's mission as an 1890 land-grant institution.

The Dean oversees a diverse portfolio that encompasses undergraduate and graduate education, the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, the Cooperative Extension Program, and a broad network of partnerships with government agencies, industry leaders, community organizations, and agricultural stakeholders. Through these integrated efforts, CAFNR prepares future leaders in agriculture, nutrition, environmental stewardship, community development, and related fields while improving the quality of life for Texans through research-based solutions and outreach.

The following roles report to the Dean:

- Associate Dean for Academic Programs
- Executive Associate Director of the PVAMU Extension Program
- Executive Associate Director of CAFNR Research
- Chair, Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology (*Note: CAFNR is in the process of developing additional interdisciplinary departments within the College*)

Department Leadership

Department heads and program coordinators provide oversight of academic departments and units, supporting curriculum development, assessment, faculty mentoring, and day-to-day operations in alignment with school and college goals.

Administrative Infrastructure

Administrative and shared services personnel collaborate with the Dean's Office to support budgeting, academic scheduling, grants administration, communications, student support, and operational continuity across the College.

The Dean works closely with academic department heads, research center directors, extension administrators, faculty leaders, and administrative staff to ensure alignment across the College's teaching, research, and outreach missions. The Dean also collaborates with university leadership, including the Provost, Vice President for Research, fellow academic deans, and shared governance bodies to advance institutional priorities and strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships across campus.

University Collaboration

The Dean also works closely with University-level academic leaders, including the Provost, research leadership, and interdisciplinary institutes, to align CAFNR initiatives with institutional priorities, develop cross-college collaborations, and steward resources that strengthen teaching, research, and service.

A Defining Leadership Opportunity

The Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs have an extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of one of Prairie View A&M University's most visible and mission-centric colleges. As agriculture, food systems, environmental stewardship, public health, and community resilience become increasingly important societal priorities, CAFNR is uniquely positioned to expand its impact through innovation, scholarship, and service.

The next Dean will build upon the College's strong foundation while charting an ambitious path forward. The role requires a distinguished scholar-practitioner who can inspire excellence across a complex enterprise, foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, and elevate the College's reputation as a leader in teaching, research, extension, and engagement. The successful candidate will advance the University's commitment to serving communities throughout Texas while positioning CAFNR for continued growth and distinction at the regional, national, and global levels.

Key Areas of Leadership

Strategic Academic Direction

The Dean will provide visionary leadership for the College's academic programs, ensuring excellence in curriculum, instruction, student learning, and faculty achievement. The Dean will support program innovation, enrollment growth, accreditation efforts, and student success initiatives while ensuring programs remain responsive to emerging workforce needs and the evolving agricultural, environmental, and food sectors.

Research Advancement and Innovation

The Dean will strengthen the College's research enterprise by supporting faculty scholarships, expanding research infrastructure, increasing extramural funding, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations. Working closely with university research leadership, the Dean will position CAFNR as a leader in addressing critical challenges related to agriculture, food security, environmental sustainability, nutrition, climate resilience, and community development.

Land-Grant Extension and Public Impact

As Director of Land-Grant Programs, the Dean will provide leadership for the College's extension and outreach activities, ensuring that research-based knowledge reaches communities across Texas. The Dean will strengthen partnerships with producers, families, youth, entrepreneurs, government agencies, and community organizations while advancing the public service mission that defines PVAMU's land-grant heritage.

Enrollment Growth and Student Success

The Dean will champion strategies to attract, retain, and graduate a diverse and talented student population. Working collaboratively with faculty, staff, and university partners, the Dean will promote experiential learning opportunities, undergraduate research, internships, and career preparedness while creating pathways that support student achievement and long-term success.

Operational and Fiscal Stewardship

The Dean will provide responsible stewardship of the College's financial, human, and physical resources. This includes oversight of budgeting, personnel management, facilities, strategic planning, and resource allocation to ensure that investments align with the College's academic, research, and extension priorities.

Faculty and Staff Development

The Dean will cultivate a collegial, supportive, and high-performing environment that promotes excellence among faculty and staff. Through mentoring, professional development, succession planning, and transparent leadership, the Dean will build organizational capacity and strengthen the College's culture of collaboration and achievement.

External Engagement and Resource Development

The Dean will serve as the chief ambassador for CAFNR, building and sustaining relationships with alumni, donors, industry leaders, agricultural producers, governmental agencies, foundations, and community partners. These efforts will strengthen the College's visibility, expand opportunities for students and faculty, and generate resources that advance strategic priorities.

Institutional Collaboration

The Dean will work collaboratively with university leadership, fellow academic deans, research partners, and shared governance groups to advance the University's strategic goals. Through these partnerships, the Dean will help strengthen interdisciplinary initiatives, enhance institutional effectiveness, and reinforce the University's commitment to excellence as a research-focused land-grant institution.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The following opportunities outline the areas where the Dean's leadership will be most essential.

Champion Student Success and Academic Excellence Across the Land-Grant Enterprise

The next Dean and Director will embrace PVAMU's historic land-grant mission by fostering a student-centered culture that promotes academic achievement, personal growth, and career readiness. As the leader of a college that prepares future professionals in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, natural resources, and environmental sciences, the Dean will ensure that students are supported through every stage of their academic journey. This includes advancing enrollment growth, strengthening retention and graduation outcomes, expanding experiential learning opportunities, enhancing industry engagement, and promoting global experiences that broaden students' perspectives. The Dean will cultivate an environment where students are empowered to become leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers prepared to address the opportunities and challenges facing their communities and the world.

Advance Academic Innovation and Future-Focused Program Development

The College is positioned for continued growth and programmatic expansion. The next Dean will provide strategic leadership to strengthen existing academic offerings while advancing innovative undergraduate and graduate programs that respond to emerging industry needs, workforce demands, and societal trends. Working collaboratively with faculty, students, industry partners, and university leadership, the Dean will champion curriculum modernization, interdisciplinary learning, and the integration of experiential education throughout the academic portfolio. The Dean will also ensure that programs maintain appropriate accreditation standards and continue to reflect the highest levels of academic quality and relevance. Through a clear vision for academic excellence, the next leader will position CAFNR as a destination for students seeking rigorous and transformative educational experiences.

Elevate Research Excellence and Strengthen the College's Impact

As a land-grant institution with a growing research portfolio, PVAMU has an opportunity to further expand the College's influence as a driver of discovery, innovation, and societal impact. The next Dean will cultivate a thriving culture of research, scholarship, and innovation that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and addresses critical challenges in agriculture, food systems, natural resources, environmental sustainability, and community development. The Dean will work to increase external funding, expand peer-reviewed scholarships, support technology transfer and commercialization opportunities, and strengthen graduate education. By investing in faculty success, streamlining research administration, and enhancing research infrastructure, the Dean will elevate the College's reputation and position CAFNR as a recognized leader in transformative and applied research that benefits Texas, the nation, and global communities.

Strengthen the Land-Grant Mission Through Partnerships, Extension, and Community Engagement

The Dean and Director will serve as the chief champion of the University's land-grant mission by expanding meaningful partnerships that create lasting value for students, producers, communities, and stakeholders. The next leader will foster strong relationships with industry partners, governmental agencies, alumni, community organizations, and international collaborators to advance teaching, research, and extension priorities. Through strategic engagement and innovative programming, the Dean and Director will strengthen the College's role in supporting economic development, agricultural advancement, environmental stewardship, and community well-being throughout Prairie View, Waller County, Greater Houston, the State of Texas, and beyond. The successful candidate will recognize the unique opportunity to leverage the College's research, extension, and outreach activities to transform lives and strengthen the impact of the University's land-grant mission.

Invest in People, Strengthen Performance Excellence, and Steward Resources Strategically

The success of CAFNR depends on attracting, developing, and retaining exceptional faculty, staff, and students. The next Dean and Director will foster a culture of accountability, collaboration, and continuous improvement by investing in professional development, leadership cultivation, succession planning, and employee engagement. The Dean and Director will strengthen recruitment and retention efforts while promoting a workplace environment where individuals can thrive and contribute at their highest levels. As the administrative leader of a complex academic and land-grant enterprise, the Dean and Director will also ensure effective stewardship of financial, human, and physical resources. By enhancing operational effectiveness, improving administrative and compliance processes, aligning resources with strategic priorities, and creating systems that support long-term growth, the Dean and Director will build a high-performing and agile college positioned for sustained success and impact.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Candidates must hold an earned doctorate and have a distinguished record of scholarly, research, or creative accomplishment commensurate with appointment as a tenured full professor in the College. They should also have a strong trajectory of academic administrative responsibility, minimally at the level of department chair, associate dean, director, or equivalent. Candidates must also have an appreciation of the historic mission of HBCUs and land-grant institutions and be able to effectively communicate its impact to a variety of constituents. While not required, candidates with experience as a faculty member or administrator at a research-intensive university are of interest to PVAMU.

Additionally, candidates should have many of the following qualifications and qualities:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to engage effectively with diverse audiences and articulate a compelling vision for the College.
- A distinguished record of securing external support, including competitive grants, contracts, philanthropic funding, and other sponsored research opportunities.
- Proven success in enrollment growth, student retention, student achievement, and student success initiatives.
- Experience with specialized state and national accreditation processes and maintaining compliance with accreditation standards.
- Proven ability to mentor, develop, and evaluate faculty and staff while promoting excellence in research, teaching, extension, and service.
- A history of effective academic leadership supporting a broad range of disciplines within a culture of shared governance and collaborative decision-making.
- A successful track record developing alumni engagement and community relations initiatives that strengthen institutional visibility and support.
- Evidence of establishing public-private partnerships and industry collaborations that advance research, workforce development, innovation, and experiential learning opportunities.
- Familiarity with USDA programs, federal land-grant mandates, cooperative extension systems, and the unique opportunities they provide for teaching, research, extension, and community engagement.
- Strong financial acumen, including successful budget development, resource allocation, and fiscal management.
- Experience leading comprehensive strategic planning efforts and successfully translating plans into measurable outcomes.

About the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

The College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR) at Prairie View A&M University serves as a cornerstone of the University's historic land-grant mission, advancing learning, discovery, and engagement in ways that improve the lives of individuals, families, communities, and industries across Texas and beyond. CAFNR currently enrolls a total of 483 students, with a 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio, a 60% 6-year graduation rate (vs. 33% at 4 years), and a 90% job placement rate. Through an integrated approach to teaching, research, extension, and global engagement, the College addresses critical challenges in agriculture, food systems, human sciences, and natural resource management while preparing the next generation of leaders and innovators.

CAFNR is distinguished by its commitment to connecting academic excellence with real-world impact. The College's educational programs in agriculture, nutrition, dietetics, and natural resources provide students with rigorous classroom, laboratory, and experiential learning opportunities designed to prepare them for success in a diverse and increasingly global workforce. Housed within the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology, these programs equip graduates with the scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and leadership skills necessary to address complex societal issues related to food security, environmental sustainability, human well-being, and resource stewardship, while also preparing many students for advanced graduate and professional study.

The College further extends its impact through the Cooperative Extension Program, which delivers research-based education, outreach, and community engagement initiatives throughout Texas. With a particular emphasis on historically underserved and underrepresented populations, extension programs provide practical knowledge and resources that help individuals, families, and communities address contemporary challenges and improve quality of life. These efforts reflect CAFNR's long-standing commitment to ensuring that the benefits of university research and expertise reach those who can benefit most directly from them.

CAFNR also maintains a growing international presence through study abroad opportunities, global research collaborations, and partnerships with institutions and organizations around the world. These initiatives foster the exchange of knowledge, strengthen institutional capacity, and promote sustainable development by leveraging the land-grant functions of teaching, research, and service on a global scale.

Guided by sound public policy, scientific excellence, and effective resource management, CAFNR remains dedicated to advancing the agricultural, food, human, and natural resource sciences. Through active engagement in professional, scientific, and community-based endeavors, the College continues to strengthen its impact and contribute to the economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and overall well-being of Texas, the nation, and the world.

2025-2030 Strategic Plan: *From Root to Fruit*

The College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR) is entering a new era of innovation, transformation, and national leadership. Guided by the vision to transform lives and communities through experiential education, groundbreaking research, and innovative outreach, CAFNR is uniquely positioned to tackle the grand challenges of our time and lead sustainable solutions for agriculture, food systems, and community development. With the renewed spirit captured in its new theme, *From Root to Fruit*, CAFNR is charting a bold path to elevate the College's academic excellence, research innovation, global impact, and community engagement. Today's pressing challenges – such as food and nutrition balance, resilient natural resources, workforce development, and technological advancement – underscore the critical role of a modern land-grant college. CAFNR embraces these opportunities with a strategic approach that integrates teaching, research, and extension to foster innovation, economic empowerment, and social transformation. Situated strategically in Greater Houston – one of the fastest-growing and most diverse metropolitan regions in the United States – and backed by the strength of the Texas A&M University System, CAFNR leverages unique assets including a 770-

acre research farm, proximity to international markets, and dynamic community partnerships. These strategic advantages drive the College's mission to develop future leaders, promote social responsibility, create sustainable solutions, and build thriving communities at the local, national, and global levels.



Academic Offerings

Undergraduate Degrees:

- Agriculture (B.S.)
 - Concentrations:
 - Agribusiness
 - Agricultural Sciences – Teaching
 - Animal & Food Sciences (pre-vet focus option)
 - Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences
 - Plant & Soil Sciences
- Human Nutrition & Food (B.S. in Dietetics)

Graduate Degrees

- Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences (M.S.)
- Nutrition (M.S.)
- Food-Energy-Water Security (Ph.D. launching in 2027)

Accreditation

Prairie View A&M University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The Dietetics program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

Faculty Excellence and Research

Faculty in the College are deeply engaged in research, which is a central component of the College's mission. Through the [Cooperative Agricultural Research Center](#), CAFNR conducts both basic and applied research that generates new scientific knowledge and innovative technologies responsive to the needs of producers, communities, industries, and policymakers. Faculty, students, and research partners work collaboratively to advance solutions in agriculture, food systems, environmental science, and natural resource management, contributing meaningful scholarship that strengthens regional, national, and global outcomes. There are 29 active research projects. Sponsored research expenditures within the College contribute significantly to the University's overall research portfolio, which exceeds \$12 million annually.

The Cooperative Agricultural Research Center

The Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC) is the research arm of CAFNR. The 3+1 *missions* for its *vision of excellence in research* are: 1) Pursuit of innovative and relevant research, 2) Attainment of external grants for impactful research, and 3) Publications and presentations. +1) Establishing active linkages between research, student success, and extension outreach.

The research program consists of six systems: [Animal Systems](#), [Plant Systems](#), [Food and Nutrition Systems](#), [Natural Resources and Environmental Systems](#), [Social Systems and Allied Research](#), and Artificial Intelligence. The research programs also include the [International Goat Research Center \(IGRC\)](#), [Food Security Research Center \(FSRC\)](#), [Poultry Center](#), Meat Science Center, and Algae Center in the [Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch](#).

PVAMU Extension

Established in 1914, [PVAMU Extension](#) (formerly the Cooperative Extension Program) was developed by a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and land-grant universities. It continues to stand as a dependable community asset in over 56 Texas counties, dedicated to enriching and transforming the fabric of Texas communities. PVAMU Extension provides cutting-edge, research-based information to all Texans in support of our mission to build resilient families, improve farm sustainability, expand small businesses, and empower youth to be leaders now and into the future. The PVAMU Extension's main priority is taking knowledge gained through unbiased research and education and disseminating it directly to the people to create positive changes. This is accomplished through the work of local Extension agents, also known as Extension educators.

Extension educators apply various modes of modern technology to expose knowledge and tools but also rely on traditional human values and relationships to gain the attention and trust from the people they serve. As residents of the communities where they work, extension agents bring credibility to their roles as educators. Extension agents are supported by program specialists with expertise in technical subject matter areas. Extension Program Specialists play a critical role in implementing the mission of the 1890 Land Grant System through support to the Extension agents.

Using state-wide, county, and regional needs-based assessments, specialists create programs, services, products, and processes to meet the identified needs of the families and communities. In addition to developing state-wide, regional programs, specialists provide technical guidance to county agents in multiple facets of their

county's program development. To be effective in their roles, specialists receive numerous professional licenses/certificates, terminal degrees, training in adult and youth learning, and the best practices for working with various communities.

Educational outreach activities and informal class series are offered through four basic program areas: Agriculture & Natural Resources, Community & Economic Development, 4-H Youth Development, and Family & Community Health. State program leaders in these areas provide statewide supervision and leadership for Extension Agents, Program Specialists, Student Workers/Interns, and Administrative Associates. They also determine program direction, future trends, establish priorities and guide performance plans to produce positive impacts.

PVAMU Wellness in Houston is another signature program offered in six counties. PVAMU Wellness in Houston comprises five PVAMU colleges that work collaboratively to curate programs that forge educational, healthcare assessment, and outreach programs. The five colleges are: **The College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, the College of Nursing, the College of Public Affairs and Societal Impact (formerly the College of Juvenile Justice), the College of Business, and the School of Public and Allied Health (SPAHE)**. Its mission is to address health disparities and food insecurities by promoting health, wellness, and nutrition to limited-resource communities in the Greater Houston area, ultimately encouraging healthy, long-term lifestyle changes and behaviors. The project's primary objectives consist of an exhaustive curriculum tailored to assess and meet the needs of various communities.

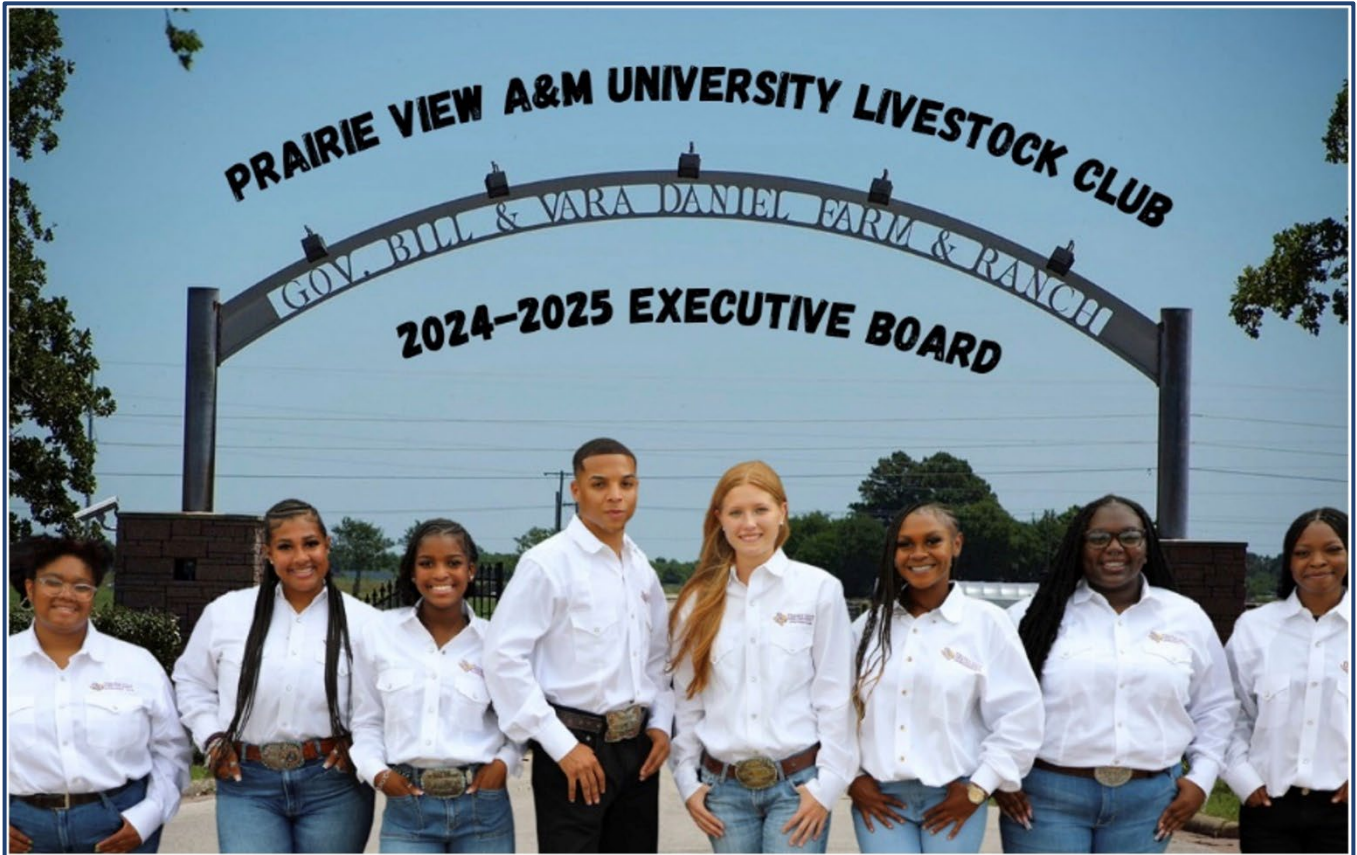
Access to information is one of the many ways PVAMU Extension works to empower communities, be responsible stewards of federal funds, address emerging issues, and provide excellent customer service to the people they serve.

Program Areas:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community and Economic Development
- Family and Community Health

Facilities and Infrastructure

The College shares the new state-of-the-art building (AgBusiness) with the College of Business at the epicenter of the campus. The [Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch](#) is a 770-acre teaching farm and home to greenhouses, cattle facilities, a student-led garden, a meat laboratory, a planned veterinary treatment facility, and many more exciting learning opportunities.



About Prairie View A&M University

Overview

Excellence. It's a word that is synonymous with Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU). An institution of the first class, as designated in the Texas Constitution, PVAMU is the second-oldest public university in the state and a member of the Texas A&M University System. Founded to educate historically underserved students in the state of Texas with an initial enrollment of eight students, PVAMU's current enrollment exceeds 10,000, educating students from all backgrounds and representing 46 other states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 89 countries.

Located in Prairie View, Texas – just outside of Houston's suburbs and about 50 miles from downtown Houston – the 1,440-acre campus lives up to its motto, "Prairie View Produces Productive People." The University has the honor of counting among its graduates a Brigadier General, two Lieutenant Generals, a Vice Admiral, the first Black female engineer to be registered by the state of Texas, the founder of the United Negro College Fund, numerous academicians, professional athletes, entertainers, and artists who have made tremendous impacts on their communities and the world. Empowered by a shared sense of history and experience as well as PVAMU's relentless commitment to providing the highest quality of education, research, and service, PVAMU's graduates make their mark as scholars and go on to make history.

Dedicated to its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service, PVAMU is renowned for producing engineers, architects, nurses, and educators. In fact, the University currently ranks first in the nation in graduating African American architects; third in producing African American engineers; sixth in producing African American graduates in agriculture; and is ranked in the top 20 nationally for producing African American graduates in physical sciences, marketing, and psychology. PVAMU is also the fourth-most prolific producer of nurses in the state of Texas. In 2026, Forbes ranked PVAMU No. 3 among the nation's top public HBCUs.

The University's 11 colleges and schools boast over 70 degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. In 2021, PVAMU attained the R2 Carnegie Research Classification (Doctoral University; High Research Activity) – one of only 11 HBCUs to be granted R2 status and one of only four Texas A&M University System members in this category.

Prairie View A&M University provides transformative experiences for students, and its inspiring faculty continue to produce groundbreaking research. The University has built an unparalleled reputation for empowering scholars to carry its rich legacy of distinction into the world. Excellence lives at PVAMU.

Mission

Prairie View A&M University is a state-assisted, public, comprehensive land-grant institution of higher education. The University was designated in a 1984 amendment to the Texas Constitution as an "institution of the first class." It is dedicated to achieving excellence and relevance in teaching, research, and service. It seeks to invest in programs and services that address issues and challenges affecting the diverse ethnic and socioeconomic population of Texas and the larger society, including the global arena. The University seeks to provide a high-quality educational experience for students who, upon completion of bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degrees, possess self-sufficiency and professional competence. The experience is imbued by the institution's values, including, but not limited to, access and quality, accountability, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility.

Values

Access and Quality

Prairie View A&M University will provide equal educational opportunities to increasing numbers of persons from underserved populations residing primarily among the economically and socially bypassed communities; further, the University will provide educational programs designed to prepare all graduates to compete successfully in the graduate and professional schools, as well as in the labor force.

Leadership

Prairie View A&M University will stimulate, initiate, and implement programs and services to both inspire and guide students, faculty, and staff in developing their self-confidence, self-discipline, and other requisites to becoming successful leaders in their professions and in their communities; further, the University will offer campus-based and distance education programs to enhance the life chances for persons in its service areas.

Relevance

Prairie View A&M University will respond to the need for highly literate, technologically competent graduates educated to excel in the 21st-century workforce; further, the University will extend the products of its research and service to address concerns and solve problems such as violence, abuse, and misuse; drug and alcohol abuse; mental, physical, and psychological neglect; environmental injustice; and other forms of social dissonance that compromise the quality of life for the citizenry.

Innovation

Prairie View A&M University will be dedicated to the pursuit and discovery of new knowledge, ideas, and artistic creation that have a transformative impact on our communities, state, nation, and the world.

Social Responsibility

Prairie View A&M University will promote active participation in constructive social change through volunteerism, leadership, and civic action on the part of its faculty, staff, and students; further, the University will utilize channels available for influencing public policy on the local, state, national, and international levels.

Schools and Colleges

- [College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources \(CAFNR\)](#)
- [Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [College of Business](#)
- [Whitlowe R. Green College of Education](#)
- [Roy G. Perry College of Engineering](#)
- [College of Nursing](#)
- [College of Public Affairs and Societal Impact \(formerly College of Juvenile Justice\)](#)
- [School of Architecture](#)
- [School of Public and Allied Health](#)
- [University College](#)
- [Honors College](#)

PVAMU 2035: Journey to Eminence Strategic Plan

PVAMU 2035: Journey to Eminence was developed through an iterative and collaborative process involving stakeholders from across the campus community. This plan reflects the University's core priorities, including key performance indicators to measure success over the next 10 years. *PVAMU 2035: Journey to Eminence* is guided by the vision that Prairie View A&M University will be a premier, public, research-intensive HBCU that serves as a national model for student success.

The strategic plan revolves around five goals:

- Invest in PVAMU's People and Performance Excellence
- Advance Teaching Excellence and Academic Relevance
- Drive Strategic Advancement of Research
- Enrich Student Success and Holistic Student Development
- Foster Social Responsibility within Prairie View and Beyond

The Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M University System was created by the Texas Legislature in 1948 to manage the evolution of a statewide educational, research, and service system. Its roots lie in the founding of what are now Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University as land-grant colleges in 1876.

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a budget of \$9.1 billion. Through a statewide network of 12 universities, a comprehensive health science center, eight state agencies, and the RELLIS Campus, the Texas A&M System educates more than 175,000 students and makes more than 23 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. System-wide research and development expenditures exceed \$1.6 billion, helping to drive the state's economy.

Each member of the A&M System has its own mission, history, and goals. The oldest institution and founding member of the A&M System is Texas A&M University, established in 1876. Many of the member universities and agencies joined the A&M System decades after being established. Together, they strive to provide educational programs, outreach, and community enhancement services, as well as research that will improve the lives of people in Texas and beyond.

- More than one-in-five students in a public university in Texas are enrolled in an A&M System institution.
- Texas A&M consistently ranks in the forefront among public universities in Texas in retention rates, keeping students enrolled, and on course for graduation, both overall and for African American and Hispanic students.
- A&M System students receive about \$849 million in scholarships and grants annually.
- The A&M System awarded 38,422 degrees in FY 2024.
- The A&M System's faculty includes recipients of the Nobel Prize, National Medal of Science, Pulitzer Prize, World Food Prize, and the Wolf Prize, as well as members of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

Leadership

Aashir Nasim, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs



Dr. Nasim is a seasoned administrator with a proven track record in faculty development, research, and curricular innovation, as well as a commitment to student success, enrollment, and retention efforts.

Since joining PVAMU in 2024, Dr. Nasim has focused on revamping the academic enterprise, positioning the University's vision to become a national model for research excellence, innovation, and student success, while staying rooted in its historic mission as a land-grant and HBCU. Under his leadership, research has expanded, student success efforts have been strengthened, and new academic programs have been launched.

Prior to joining PVAMU, Dr. Nasim served in progressively senior leadership positions at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). A full Professor of Psychology and African American Studies, Dr. Nasim served as Department Chair of African American Studies and held executive administrative positions, including Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Vice President for Institutional Equity, Effectiveness, and Success. He served as Vice President

and Senior Advisor to the President, where he was instrumental in partnering with other vice presidents in designing and fostering initiatives and programs focused on faculty and undergraduate student retention and success.

During his tenure as Department Chair for African American Studies, he led curriculum transformation efforts that resulted in record increases in student enrollment, retention, and success among majors. Dr. Nasim is a respected teacher and scholar in his own right, with about \$20 million secured in extramural research awards and more than 75 peer-reviewed publications. His research has informed the development of youth tobacco use prevention programs in Virginia and contributed to national policy development on flavored tobacco products.

Dr. Nasim began his career at James Madison University (JMU) as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. Prior to that appointment, he was a Fellow of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program.

He is an alumnus of Howard University, earning a Master's and Ph.D. in Child Developmental Psychology. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Biology from Augusta University (AU), and he is also a veteran of the Gulf War.

Tomikia P. LeGrande, Ed.D., President, Prairie View A&M University



Tomikia P. LeGrande, Ed.D., became the ninth President of Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) on June 1, 2023. Her career in higher education is marked by successive leadership roles and professional achievements. She is a national thought leader and facilitator in higher education, specializing in topics such as student success, enrollment management, educational equity, and leadership development. Before joining PVAMU, Dr. LeGrande served as Vice President for Strategy, Enrollment Management, and Student Success at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where she led the development and implementation of the University's strategic plan, priorities, and goals to influence national prominence, strategic partnerships, and student access and success. Other senior-level leadership roles prior to VCU include Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at the University of Houston-Downtown and Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management at Winston-Salem State University.

Throughout her career, Dr. LeGrande has focused on advancing equity, accessibility, and affordability in higher education. She works to create and sustain engaging and supportive cultures for faculty, staff, and students, resulting in positive institutional outcomes. She has been prolific in securing resources to support innovation and accelerate progress. In all her career endeavors, Dr. LeGrande has created "cultures of care," utilizing her expertise in strategic planning, new technology implementation, change management, and policy and business process redesign. With a personalized approach, she engages at all levels of an organization, forming, deploying, and managing cross-organizational teams that identify and resolve impediments that may impact university progress.

The art of leadership is Dr. LeGrande's passion. She creates challenging yet supportive environments that embolden the pursuit of wide-ranging and future-focused goals. She embraces developing and cultivating leadership at all levels of an organization and has documented success in procuring funds to support programmatic expansion and change.

As a two-time graduate of HBCUs and having earned a doctorate in higher education leadership, Dr. LeGrande understands the transformative power of education in helping students dismantle class, social, and cultural barriers. She believes that centered and effective leadership in higher education can amplify and accelerate the social mobility of all students, particularly those from underserved and underrepresented communities.

At the national level, Dr. LeGrande is actively engaged in issues of access, parity, higher education policy, and leadership development. She testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor in 2019 during a hearing on "Innovation to Improve Equity: Exploring High-Quality Pathways to a College Degree." She was also the recipient of the Governor's "Champion for Change Award" for the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2021.

A native of Savannah, GA, Dr. LeGrande earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Savannah State University, an M.S. in Chemistry from North Carolina A&T State University, and an Ed.D. from Texas Tech University.

The City of Prairie View

The city of Prairie View, Texas, is a city on the frontiers of change, nestled in Northern Waller County, along U.S. Highway 290. With a population of approximately 8,184, the city is a vibrant college town, open for educational, recreational, and historical tourism-related businesses. The city has a small-town atmosphere and is situated only minutes from Houston. The city is adjacent to the cities of Waller and Hempstead and not too far from Austin and College Station, Texas. Prairie View is home to the historic Prairie View A&M University, the largest employer in the county, Jones Elementary School, and Tapscott Public Park, which features a water park, as well as hotels, businesses, restaurants, and churches. Close-by recreation options include skydiving, hot air ballooning, gun ranges, rodeos, and golf courses. The city government is committed to the growth and prosperity of Prairie View while preserving its historic charm and down-home flavor. The government consists of a fully staffed City Hall, Police Department, and Municipal Court. The city of Prairie View's future plans, in partnership with Prairie View A&M University, include developing a shopping strip, recreation center, bowling alley, cricket stadium, opportunities to commercialize university research, and much more, as "We are a city at the point on the frontiers of change."

The Greater Houston Area

Prairie View A&M University sits in Waller County, just outside of Houston's suburbs and about 50 miles from downtown Houston. The Greater Houston Area is the fifth-most populated metropolitan area in the United States, encompassing Waller and eight other counties along the Gulf Coast of Southeast Texas. Houston is home to the country's most diverse community, with no ethnic or racial majority, and the city welcomes people from across the nation and the world. Ranking third in the number of foreign consulates it houses, Houston is indeed a truly international city. More than 90 languages are spoken in the Houston area.

One of only five American cities with resident professional companies in all four major performing arts – ballet, opera, theater, and symphony – Houston also boasts professional teams in football, baseball, basketball, and soccer. The New York Times called Houston possibly the most interesting city in America for young artists. The Houston area contains more than 55,000 acres of parks, public green space, and open water. The Kemah Boardwalk and the city of Galveston, located on the Gulf Coast, offer a variety of outdoor and water recreation activities. Businesses also recognize the allure of Houston's offerings. Twenty-five companies on the Fortune 500 list call the Energy Capital of the World home. Aeronautical research is unsurpassed at NASA headquarters, and the Texas Medical Center remains the largest medical center in the world, with 47 highly lauded research and treatment institutions.

More information on Houston can be found here: <https://www.visithoustontexas.com/about-houston/>.



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting Prairie View A&M University in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **November 6th, 2026**.

Please submit all applications, nominations, and inquiries to **the search team** through the WittKieffer [Candidate Portal](#). Nominations and inquiries can be directed to Christine J. Pendleton and Jess Cummings at PVAMUAgDean@wittkieffer.com.

Prairie View A&M University is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action/ Veterans/ Disability Employer.