TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Dean, College of Science

Leadership Profile

Fall 2026



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Executive Summary

Texas State University (TXST) invites applications and nominations for a nationally recognized scholar and administrator to lead the newly reestablished College of Science as Dean.

Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is a member of the Provost's leadership team and serves as the chief academic and administrative officer for the College of Science. The Dean is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic vision to continue growing the College of Science's research and innovation portfolio, while effectively managing resources and personnel and providing high-quality graduate and undergraduate education in science. The Dean will oversee a team of associate deans, chairs, and directors, as well as administrative staff that manage a wide range of support functions.

This opportunity comes amid extraordinary momentum across Texas State University. The University enrolled more than 47,500 students in fall 2026, reported $196.4 million in research expenditures in 2026, and is investing $300 million over five years in research, faculty, and doctoral students. The Dean will capitalize on these investments to grow externally sponsored research, expand doctoral education, recruit and retain outstanding faculty, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthen areas of research excellence. The Dean will also champion high-quality undergraduate and graduate education, support student success, and ensure that the College responds effectively to continued enrollment growth and increasing instructional demand.

The successful candidate will be an entrepreneurial, collaborative, and visible leader who can steward resources strategically, cultivate philanthropic and external partnerships, and advocate effectively for the College. Candidates must hold an earned doctorate in a discipline represented within the College or a closely related field; possess a record meriting appointment as a tenured full professor; and demonstrate progressively responsible academic leadership experience. The next Dean will bring a strong commitment to research and innovation excellence, student success, shared achievement, and building an environment in which faculty, staff, and students can thrive.

For information regarding how to apply, submit nominations, or inquire about the role, please see the section "Procedure for Candidacy" at the end of this document.



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Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The Dean of the College of Science will be expected to advance the following priorities, among others:

- **Shape a strategy that builds upon Texas State's momentum and takes advantage of the College's reorganization.**

  The next Dean will join Texas State University at a consequential moment in its evolution and will have the opportunity to help establish the identity, priorities, and ambitions of a newly reestablished College of Science. In August, the Texas State University System Board of Regents approved separating the College of Science and Engineering into two academic colleges in fall 2027: the College of Science and the Ingram College of Engineering. The College of Science will bring together five departments: Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. The interdisciplinary Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization Program will remain a joint endeavor with the Ingram College of Engineering. The Dean will engage faculty, staff, students, and University leadership in defining a distinctive vision for the College that builds upon the strengths of its disciplines while creating new opportunities for collaboration. This individual must also ensure that the College's strategy advances the University's vision – *Hopes & Aspirations High* – and continues to build upon a culture of collaboration and teamwork among faculty and staff.

- **Leverage institutional strengths and resources to sustain research growth and doctoral program expansion.**

  The Dean will have the opportunity to advance a rapidly growing research and innovation enterprise. TXST reported $196.4 million in research expenditures in 2026, more than tripling its research expenditures in recent years, and has announced a $300 million investment in its research, faculty, and doctoral students through the Texas University Fund – a state-created endowment established in 2023 to support research at select public universities. As part of its *Bring Everything* initiative, the University is hiring Endowed Chair positions and pursuing strategic cluster hires in areas of distinction, including water and the environment, artificial intelligence and robotics, semiconductors, aging and dementia, and technology and society. The Dean must position the College and its faculty to take full advantage of this environment, including recruiting and retaining outstanding scholars, strengthening grant activity, and supporting emerging areas of research excellence. The College's disciplines connect to an established network of research centers, including the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Mathworks, the Institute for Molecular Life Sciences, and the Materials Applications Research Center. The Dean will be expected to build upon these existing centers, identify new opportunities, and continue to foster interdisciplinary work, including with the new Ingram College of Engineering.

  Equally important will be supporting TXST's expanding doctoral enterprise. The University has launched 11 new doctoral programs over the last three years, including a Ph.D. in Integrated Molecular and Biophysical Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Mathematics. The College has two long-standing Ph.D. programs in Integrative and Applied Biology and Mathematics Education, as well as a joint Ph.D. program with engineering in Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization.

- **Further student success for a continually growing student population.**

  TXST's rapid enrollment growth creates both opportunity and responsibility for the College of Science. The University enrolled a record 47,500+ students in fall 2026 and saw growth across undergraduate, graduate, and research doctoral students. Enrollment increases extended beyond the University's main campus in San Marcos: more than 4,000 students were served through the Round Rock Campus in fall 2026, and fully online students grew 54 percent. Against this backdrop, the Dean must ensure the College continues to deliver an outstanding educational experience while responding thoughtfully to increasing demand. This includes supporting high-quality instruction within the College as well as in foundational science and mathematics courses that its departments provide to students pursuing degrees in other colleges. Given the College's impact on education across the University, the Dean must be a collaborative partner with deans and senior administrators in addressing student success and progression across a range of degree programs. This

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individual should also champion hands-on learning, build upon the University's success in engaging students in undergraduate research, and work collaboratively across TXST to anticipate instructional and student-support needs created by continued growth. The University's larger strategy is built on the premise that access and excellence are complementary – nearly half of its students are the first in their families to attend college – and the Dean will be expected to advance both as the College continues to grow.

- **Effectively manage existing resources and identify new resources that will support students, faculty, and staff.**

  The College's ambitions will require a Dean who is a strong steward of existing resources, an entrepreneurial generator of new revenue, and an advocate for additional investment. The Dean must work closely with faculty, staff, and University leadership to establish priorities and make thoughtful decisions regarding faculty and staff support, facilities, space, research infrastructure, and academic programs. At the same time, this individual should be an active external ambassador for the College, articulating its impact and aspirations to alums, donors, corporations, foundations, government partners, and the broader community. The Dean will be expected to partner effectively with University Advancement in fundraising and build relationships with industry and other partners that can generate opportunities for students and faculty. As TXST simultaneously expands enrollment and invests significantly in its research enterprise, the next Dean must ensure that resources are strategically aligned with the College's highest priorities and support an environment in which faculty, staff, and students can thrive.



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Key Responsibilities

As the chief academic and administrative officer of the College of Science, the Dean is expected to be a visible, engaged, and strategic leader who builds relationships across stakeholder groups, including with faculty, staff, students, alums, donors, industry partners, and the broader community. The Dean shall work collaboratively with colleagues across the University to advance the mission of Texas State University, continue progress toward R1 status, and grow graduate and undergraduate enrollment.

Key responsibilities include:

- Lead the College's efforts to achieve R1 status through support for the research enterprise, expanding externally sponsored research, growing doctoral programs, recruiting and retaining highly research-active faculty, and developing a culture of interdisciplinary and cross-college collaboration.
- Foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology commercialization throughout the College.
- Prioritize student success through championing high-quality, innovative instruction in all departments and proactively adopting student success initiatives related to retention, timely graduation, providing research experiences, and introducing work-integrated learning and career readiness opportunities.
- Serve as the lead fundraiser and ambassador for the College by building strong relationships with alums, corporate and foundation partners, and donors and partnering closely with University Advancement to grow philanthropic support.
- Support Texas State's enrollment strategy through developing appropriate program options at both the San Marcos and Round Rock campuses that reflect workforce needs, building pipelines from Central Texas high schools and regional community colleges, and scaling capacity in alignment with Texas State's growth trajectory.
- Expand the College's online and hybrid offerings and identify opportunities for new online degree and certificate programs that improve access to higher education and respond to market needs.
- Oversee all aspects of the College's budget and resource processes, utilizing resources responsibly and planning strategically to maximize opportunities and avoid waste.
- Recruit, develop, and lead a high-performing workforce, fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- Maintain strong collaboration and synergy between the College of Science and the Ingram College of Engineering.
- Represent the College to University leadership, the Texas State University System, external agencies, industry, and the community.

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Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Required Qualifications

- Earned doctorate in a discipline represented within the College of Science or a closely related field.
- A record of teaching, research, and service sufficient to merit appointment as a tenured full professor within one of the College's departments.
- A strong record of progressively responsible academic leadership experience (e.g., department chair, associate/assistant dean, or equivalent, including experience with budgets, tenure and promotion processes, and program development or assessment).
- Experience supporting and developing faculty from different disciplines and academic appointments (such as tenured, tenure-track, and teaching faculty/lecturers).
- Demonstrated commitment to research excellence and to advancing an institution's research profile.
- Demonstrated commitment to student success and to serving a student population representative of the state of Texas.
- Evidence of successful budget, personnel, and resource management.
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills.
- Experience in fundraising, donor cultivation, or external partnership development.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in leading the effort to expand partnerships with other institutions, industries, companies, and alumni to improve the stature and reputation of the institution nationally and internationally.
- Experience in an institution pursuing or holding R1/high-research-activity status.
- Experience working across multiple science, math, and agricultural science disciplines.
- Experience developing or expanding online or hybrid academic programs.
- Experience implementing and operationalizing change that impacts a range of stakeholders.

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About the College of Science

In 1966, Texas State founded a School of Science with four core departments, and it has steadily grown for the past 60 years. In 2011, the College of Science was renamed the College of Science and Engineering to reflect the growth of the College and its engineering programs.

That growth has continued, and in fall 2026, COSE enrolled 10,105 students, more than 3,000 more than the next-largest college. The University's research has expanded as well, from $33 million in 2011 to $196.4 million in 2026, with COSE playing a significant role in the institution's success. Texas State is on the verge of achieving R1 status and now receives a full share of the Texas University Fund. Texas State is currently investing $300 million in research over the next five years and conducting strategic hiring across five areas of strength: water, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, aging and dementia, and digital humanities.

The College of Science will be home to five departments and one program shared with the Ingram College of Engineering:

- Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Department of Biology
- Department of Physics
- Department of Mathematics
- Department of Agricultural Sciences
- Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization Program with dual reports to the Dean of the College of Science and the Dean of the Ingram College of Engineering

The department fields a broad portfolio of graduate and undergraduate degree programs and conducts significant, externally funded research. The College provides both specialized and foundational instruction that serves students across the University and plays a key role in Texas State’s student academic success efforts.



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About Texas State University

Overview

Texas State University is a public, student-centered research institution guided by an unwavering belief in the power of education to transform communities, power economies, and reimagine the world. Its students come from every walk of life, from across Texas, the nation, and the world. Over the last two years, TXST has added 32 new degree programs (including 10 doctoral programs) designed to support workforce needs, research growth, and economic development. Student demand continues to accelerate, with applications exceeding 74,000 and enrollment hitting a record 47,500+ students in fall 2026. Overall, TXST is the fastest-growing university in Texas, adding more students than any other university in the state between fall 2022 and 2026 (over 9000 additional students).

Today, nearly half of TXST's students are the first in their families to attend college. Providing access to higher education for these first-generation college students and offering multiple pathways to a degree are core elements of TXST's institutional strategy. Over the last several years, the University has created more than 30 transfer and co-enrollment partnerships across Texas, launched nearly 60 online degree programs, and grown online enrollment 500%. In addition, TXST has launched 11 doctoral programs in the last three years. TXST has also expanded workforce-focused academic offerings and increased support systems designed to help students persist and graduate.

TXST's research expenditures reached $196.4 million in 2026, more than tripling in recent years and placing the University on a path toward Carnegie R1 classification by 2027. The University recently announced it is making a $300 million investment in its research enterprise and faculty through its inclusion in the Texas University Fund (TUF). TXST is making strategic investments in areas critical to the future of the American economy and society, including artificial intelligence and robotics, semiconductors, water resources, aging and dementia, and technology and society.

University Plan

In 2023, TXST launched *Hopes & Aspirations High*, an ambitious vision with five bold strategic imperatives – elevate student success, Run to R1, increase enrollment, grow the Round Rock Campus, and become an employer of choice. The University also continues to expand its footprint and upgrade its facilities through its current master plan.



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Leadership

Dr. Kelly Damphousse, Ph.D., President



After being named President in 2022, Dr. Damphousse has presided over a period of extraordinary growth, including record enrollment increases, a steady trajectory toward achieving Carnegie R1 research status by 2027, and the University's move to the Pac-12 Conference in 2026, which elevated the school's athletic and academic national profile. Research expenditures have doubled in the past three years and tripled over the last decade. The University has also expanded educational access and invested in initiatives designed to meet students where they are and to serve communities across Texas.

Dr. Damphousse began his academic career at the University of Alabama at Birmingham before joining Sam Houston State as a faculty member and later serving at the University of Oklahoma for 20 years. At OU, he was named Presidential Professor of Sociology in recognition of his nationally acclaimed research on terrorism, substance abuse, and the criminal justice system. He transitioned into University leadership roles, serving as Associate Dean and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He also served as OU's Faculty Athletics Representative and as the founding Faculty in Residence at Headington Hall. Before joining TXST, Dr. Damphousse served as Chancellor of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro for five years.

Dr. Pranesh Aswath, Ph.D., Provost



Dr. Aswath is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas State and a tenured Professor in the Ingram School of Engineering. His focus includes examining academic structures, resource allocation, policies, and procedures to ensure that the efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators align with the University's goals and that academic priorities, including student academic success and faculty and staff success, are implemented efficiently.

In addition to his experience in academic operations, Dr. Aswath is an accomplished scholar. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Materials International (ASM), Fellow of the Society of Tribology, Lubrication Engineers (STLE), Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), and Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (FNAI). He has published over 150 journal papers, graduated 20 Ph.D. students and 35 master's thesis students, commercialized several technologies in materials science, and holds multiple patent publications and filings. Prior to his role at Texas State University, Dr. Aswath was a full professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering at UT Arlington and held several administrative roles there, including the inaugural Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Engineering, Inaugural Vice Provost, and Senior Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives and Interim Provost at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Aswath earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics, Chemistry, and Math from St. Joseph College, Bangalore University, and a Bachelor of Engineering in Metallurgy from the Indian Institute of Science. He earned a Master of Science in Materials Science and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at Brown University.

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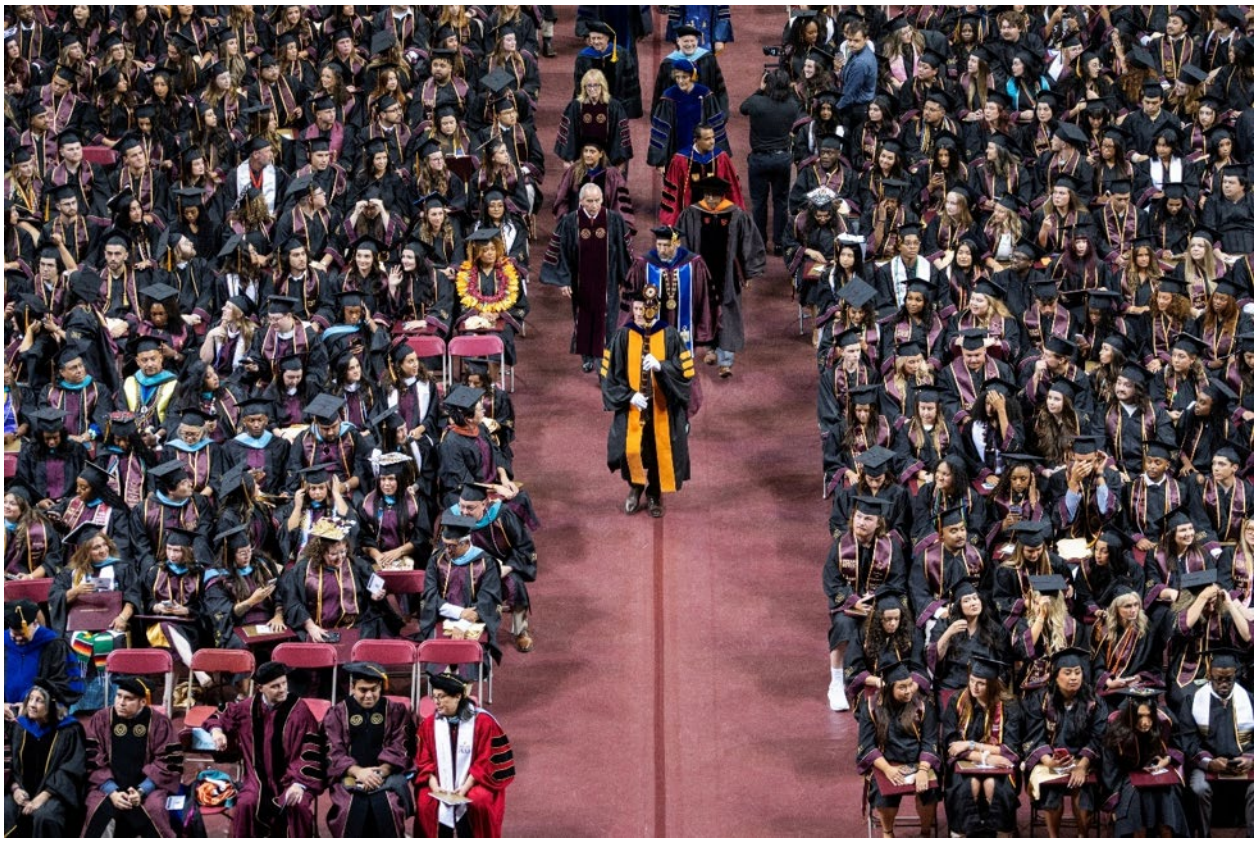

Procedure for Candidacy

Applications, nominations, and inquiries can be submitted through the **WittKieffer Candidate Portal**. Applicants should submit, as separate documents, a CV or résumé and a letter of interest that addresses the themes outlined in this profile. WittKieffer is assisting Texas State University in this search. For full consideration, candidate materials should be received by **January 26, 2027**.

Nominations and inquiries can also be directed to Ryan Crawford, Alejandra Gillette-Teran, and Sarah Seavey at **TXST-COSDean@wittkieffer.com**.

Texas State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other basis protected by federal or state law in employment, educational programs, and activities and admissions.

Employment with Texas State University is contingent upon the outcome of record checks and verifications including, but not limited to, criminal history, driving records, education records, employment verifications, reference checks, and employment eligibility verifications.

*In accordance with federal law, all new employees must complete the Form I-9 and provide **acceptable documentation** verifying their identity and authorization to work in the United States. Texas State University participates in E-Verify, and employment is contingent upon the successful verification of work authorization. Employees are required to maintain valid work authorization to satisfy the conditions of Form I9 at all times during their employment and the university makes no implicit or explicit promises to financially support visa or permanent residency applications.*

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