



Dean, Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences

Leadership Profile

Winter 2025



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) seeks an inspiring and forward-looking leader to serve as Dean of the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences (BCAS).

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 Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences serves as the academic and intellectual core of the University and has a distinguished legacy of advancing discovery, creativity, and interdisciplinary learning. As PVAMU's largest and most academically diverse college, BCAS offers foundational coursework for all undergraduate students and provides a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs across the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, mathematics, fine and performing arts, and emerging fields. Rooted in the University's land-grant mission of teaching, research, and service, the College fosters critical thinking, ethical engagement, creative expression, and the pursuit of knowledge that strengthens communities and expands opportunity. The College comprises three newly structured academic schools: the School of Natural and Computational Sciences, the School of Communication, Arts, and Media, and the School of Culture, Community, and Human Development, and offers undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs.

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean of BCAS serves as the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the College and is responsible for cultivating an environment in which faculty, students, administrators, and staff pursue academic excellence. The Dean oversees a College with a budget of approximately \$18 million and more than 2,060 students, including 1,853 undergraduate students and 209 graduate students. BCAS has approximately 250 faculty and 22 staff who support its teaching, research, and service mission. The College contributes significantly to PVAMU's research enterprise, with faculty securing an average of \$3.8 million in annual research and grant funding over the last 3 years.

The next Dean of BCAS will have the opportunity to lead a central academic unit within a university experiencing significant momentum and transformation. The Dean will be expected to support faculty by providing strategic



leadership and infrastructure; advance interdisciplinary and innovative academic programs; manage and grow financial resources; champion student success; strengthen research productivity; and cultivate partnerships that amplify the College's impact across campus and the broader community.

Candidates must hold an earned doctorate and have a distinguished record of scholarly, research, or creative accomplishment commensurate with appointment as a 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, within a comprehensive and broad academic environment. Candidates must also have an appreciation of the historic mission of HBCUs and land-grant institutions and have the ability to effectively communicate its impact to a variety of constituents. While not required, candidates who have experience as a faculty member or an 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, Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences

Prairie View A&M University is entering a period of significant academic transformation, and the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences stands at its center. Guided by *Journey to Eminence 2035*, the University is reshaping its academic structure to strengthen integration, innovation, and institutional impact. Within this redesign, BCAS is being positioned as a powerful intellectual engine that unites the arts, humanities, social sciences, and STEM fields within a more coherent and strategically aligned academic home.

Position Overview

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the next Dean of BCAS will lead this newly envisioned College during a defining period of growth and renewal. The Dean serves as the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer for a College now organized into three schools:

- **School of Natural and Computational Sciences** (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and proposed programs in Neuroscience and Environmental Science)
- **School of Communication, Arts, and Media** (Communication, a new academic program in Journalism; Visual and Performing Arts, Music, Theater, and Languages, alongside Digital Media Arts)
- **School of Culture, Community, and Human Development** (Psychology, Sociology, History, African American Studies, and Community Development)

Each school reflects a purposeful alignment of academic programs designed to elevate interdisciplinary collaboration, enhance research productivity, and strengthen student learning. This refined structure enables faculty and students to explore scientific discovery, creative expression, cultural understanding, and human development in an integrated and collaborative environment.

Area Deans

The College's leadership model is designed to support this vision. Three Area Deans provide school-level leadership and oversee strategy, faculty development, program quality, research activity, and external engagement.

Associate Deans

The Dean is also supported by a team of three Associate Deans who help guide academic operations across the College, including leadership for the sciences and mathematics, research in the social sciences and humanities, and faculty, academic, and student affairs. Working in close collaboration with the Area Deans, these leaders strengthen research activity, support faculty development, advance academic policy, and promote student success, ensuring coherence and alignment across the College's programs and schools.

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.

University Collaboration

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

A Defining Leadership Opportunity

The Dean will lead the largest and one of the most academically influential colleges at Prairie View A&M University. BCAS plays a central role in shaping the undergraduate experience, advancing research at scale, and fueling the University's aspiration to be a premier public research institution. As PVAMU strengthens its academic organization, governance, and research infrastructure, BCAS becomes a vital catalyst for institutional ambition.

This role calls for a visionary academic leader who can articulate a compelling direction for a newly aligned college and inspire faculty, students, and staff to pursue excellence with focus and cohesion. The Dean will build a culture that rewards curiosity, encourages innovation, and supports the creation of research and creative work that contributes to societal advancement.

Key Areas of Leadership

Strategic Academic Direction

The Dean will unify three distinct academic schools under a cohesive vision that strengthens teaching excellence, curricular relevance, and research leadership. Working closely with Area Deans, the Dean will champion new academic programs, support pedagogical innovation, and ensure that BCAS remains responsive to emerging fields and workforce needs.

Research Advancement and Interdisciplinary Growth

BCAS is positioned to play a pivotal role in advancing the University's research enterprise. The Dean will support faculty in pursuing external funding, establish new research collaborations, and advance interdisciplinary initiatives supported by the University's Institutes and Centers. This work will build a stronger research culture and elevate PVAMU's competitive standing nationally.

Operational and Fiscal Stewardship

The reorganization of BCAS was intentionally designed to be revenue-neutral or as close to revenue-neutral as possible. The Dean will steward this model with integrity, ensuring that resources are aligned with academic priorities and that operational systems support efficiency, clarity, and growth. The Dean will collaborate with Shared Services teams to strengthen administrative operations while maximizing the College's ability to reinvest in faculty, programs, and research infrastructure.

Student Success and the Undergraduate Core

BCAS remains foundational to the undergraduate experience. The Dean will work closely with the new University College to ensure that students transition successfully into majors, receive targeted academic support, and have access to research, experiential learning, and culturally affirming educational pathways. This partnership will create a seamless academic journey that elevates retention, persistence, and graduation outcomes.

External Engagement and Institutional Visibility

The Dean will elevate the visibility of the College across the region and nation by building partnerships with cultural institutions, research organizations, industry partners, and community agencies. This work will attract new resources, expand opportunities for students and faculty, and strengthen the College's role as a contributor to public good.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

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

Champion a Student-Centered Vision for Learning and Success

The next Dean will embrace PVAMU's powerful mission by leading with a deep understanding of who its students are and what they need to thrive. Many students are first-generation and must navigate financial and personal barriers on their path to graduation. As the gateway to successful matriculation for all students, the next Dean will foster an academic environment that removes bottlenecks, strengthens pathways to degree completion, and elevates both access and excellence. This includes working closely with the new University College to ensure a seamless academic journey from entry into the University to their major. The leader will support teaching and learning that develops students as thinkers, problem solvers, and future leaders, ensuring the College remains a place where intellectual curiosity, upward mobility, and personal transformation are possible for every student.

Elevate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Across a Broad Academic Enterprise

With the College positioned for significant growth in research, the next Dean will cultivate a vibrant scholarly culture that commands respect across disciplines. The restructuring of the College into three schools opens new avenues for interdisciplinary collaboration and shared inquiry, particularly in areas that respond to emerging societal needs and technological change. The Dean will model scholarly distinction, remove barriers to research productivity, encourage multi-investigator and cross-school initiatives, and strengthen the infrastructure that supports grant activity, creative production, and academic innovation. This is a rare and unique opportunity to expand the College's impact on PVAMU's strategic trajectory toward greater research prominence and institutional distinction. The next Dean should bring a clear vision for advancing the College's research, teaching, and service mission.

Lead the College Through Organizational Transformation with Clarity and Purpose

PVAMU's academic realignment presents a pivotal moment for the College of Arts and Sciences. The next Dean will guide faculty, staff, and students through this transition by implementing the new school structure with intention, consistency, and transparency. This includes aligning academic programs, supporting department transitions, empowering Area Deans, and building leadership capacity throughout the College. The Dean will introduce the systems, workflows, and predictable processes needed for a complex academic enterprise of this size. By unifying a large and multi-disciplinary unit that includes the sciences, social sciences, and humanities around shared goals, the Dean will transform structural change into lasting cultural momentum.

Strengthen the Identity, Visibility, and Influence of Arts and Sciences

The College is the intellectual foundation of PVAMU and is essential to the success of every student, yet it has an opportunity to elevate its visibility and influence across campus and beyond. The next Dean will champion the College's achievements, highlighting its scholarly contributions, creative work, and interdisciplinary strengths. Through strategic partnerships with industry, cultural institutions, community organizations, and philanthropic entities, the Dean will expand the College's reach and impact. Within the University, the Dean will position Arts and Sciences as an indispensable collaborator across all colleges, contributing to a richer academic ecosystem and a stronger institutional identity.

Steward Resources Strategically and Build an Agile, Future-Ready College

The Dean will serve as a thoughtful and strategic steward of the College's financial and human resources during a period of structural change. With more than 250 faculty and a wide range of academic units, the College requires a leader capable of aligning resources with priorities and ensuring that academic and operational decisions support long-term growth. This includes strengthening shared services, improving workflow consistency, and investing in faculty development. The Dean will guide the College in developing new academic pathways that

reflect evolving workforce demand and societal needs, ensuring that decisions are grounded in data, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

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 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, within a comprehensive and broad academic environment. Candidates must also have an appreciation of the historic mission of HBCUs and land-grant institutions and have the ability to effectively communicate its impact to a variety of constituents. While not required, candidates who have experience as a faculty member or an administrator at a research-intensive university are of interest to PVAMU.

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

- A history of effective leadership supporting a broad range of disciplinary areas in a culture of shared governance
- A record of securing external grant funding as principal investigator or co-principal investigator
- Experience mentoring faculty in the development of their research and scholarship
- An ability to successfully lead and work collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students
- Evidence of support for student achievement and student success
- Evidence of growing programs and research
- Experience in managing and cultivating staff
- Experience leading organizational change and implementing new academic or administrative structures
- Financial acumen and proven abilities in budget and financial management
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to articulate a compelling message to a range of audiences
- Successful record of building community partnerships
- Experience in promoting faculty innovation in research, teaching, and service
- Demonstrated ability to provide civic leadership and to successfully work with constituents in academic, community, and governmental organizations
- A commitment to and evidence of securing external support and/or fundraising
- Knowledge of trends and best practices in instructional technologies and modalities
- Experience in strategic planning



About the Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences

The Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences stands at the center of Prairie View A&M University's academic life and intellectual identity. As the University's largest and most academically diverse unit, the College plays a foundational role in shaping every undergraduate student while supporting a broad spectrum of advanced study, research, and creative expression. The College embodies PVAMU's land-grant values by educating students to think critically, engage ethically, and contribute thoughtfully to the communities and industries they will serve. Its faculty and programs anchor the liberal arts tradition at PVAMU while advancing innovative inquiry that reflects the needs and aspirations of a rapidly changing world.

The College is home to a vibrant community of scholars, artists, scientists, and students whose work spans the full breadth of human knowledge and expression. From the natural and computational sciences to the humanities, fine arts, social and behavioral sciences, and emerging interdisciplinary fields, the College shapes PVAMU's academic ecosystem. It provides the intellectual foundation for all academic majors across campus.

Building on a history deeply rooted in the liberal arts, the College has grown into a dynamic academic enterprise with a strong commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Its faculty are dedicated to engaging students in transformative learning experiences that cultivate curiosity, broaden cultural understanding, and strengthen the analytical and creative capacities needed in today's global society.

The College enrolls approximately 1,853 undergraduate students and 209 graduate students. Students pursue their academic goals within an environment that values rigor, access, and mentorship, supported by 250 faculty, and 22 professional staff. The College operates with an annual budget of approximately \$18 million.

Mission

The Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences is committed to serving all students through academic programs aimed at developing creative thinking, critical analysis, problem solving, and communication skills that are fundamental to intellectual development and professional success. Equally important is the College's commitment to developing students' ethical and civic standards. The College strives to integrate teaching and research in the context of interdisciplinary learning through individual attention to students, innovative strategies of teaching, effective use of technology, and the promotion of economic development, partnerships, and cultural pursuits. An innovative and responsive spirit guides the College, balancing access and quality with efficiency, diversity, and a commitment to partnerships with local and global communities.

The College's departments and programs are aligned with the University's threefold missions: teaching, research, and service.

Schools

- **School of Natural and Computational Sciences** (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and proposed programs in Neuroscience and Environmental Science)
- **School of Communication, Arts, and Media** (Communication, English, a new academic program in Journalism; Visual and Performing Arts, Music, Theater, and Languages, alongside Digital Media Arts)
- **School of Culture, Community, and Human Development** (Psychology, Sociology, History, African American Studies, and Community Development)



Academic Offerings

Undergraduate Degrees

- African American Studies (BA)
- Biology (BS)
- Chemistry (BS)
- Communication (BA)
- English (BA)
- Digital Media Arts (BA)
- History (BA)
- Mathematics (BS)
- Music General Studies (BA)
- Music Performance (BA)
- Physics (BS)
- Psychology (BA and BS)
- Sociology (BA)
- Theatre (BA)

Graduate Degrees

- Chemistry (MS)
- History (MA)
- Sociology (MA)
- Juvenile Forensic Psychology (MS)
- Clinical Adolescent Psychology (PhD)

To learn more about the academic offerings in BCAS, click [here](#).

**Note: BCAS is undergoing an academic realignment that will be finalized in Fall 2026. All academic programs that are currently listed on the website will not be under the realigned BCAS.*

Student Outcomes

The College plays a central role in PVAMU's commitment to student success, serving as the academic home for many of the University's most high-enrollment and high-impact programs. While College-specific data will be added upon confirmation, the College contributes meaningfully to the University's strong levels of student persistence and degree completion. Graduates from the College pursue careers across education, government, industry, research, the arts, media, non-profit organizations, and corporate sectors, as well as competitive graduate and professional programs.

Students benefit from high-impact learning practices that include undergraduate research, laboratory and studio experiences, internships, practicum placements, fieldwork, study abroad, and community-engaged projects. These experiences strengthen academic achievement, enhance career readiness, and promote the development of ethical, civic-minded leaders.

Accreditation

Prairie View A&M University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Several programs within the College hold or align with specialized accreditations, including accreditation for Music through the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Faculty Excellence and Research

Faculty in the Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences are deeply engaged in advancing knowledge and artistic expression. They publish in leading journals, exhibit creative work nationally and internationally, secure competitive grants, and hold leadership roles in professional societies. Their research and creative activity contribute to innovations in scientific discovery, digital media, cultural studies, environmental analysis, behavioral and social science, literary scholarship, and artistic performance. The College's faculty foster a culture of intellectual curiosity and mentorship, integrating research into undergraduate and graduate learning. Sponsored research expenditures within the College contribute significantly to the University's overall research portfolio, which exceeds \$3.8 million annually. Faculty collaborations span local, regional, national, and global networks, demonstrating the reach and relevance of scholarly work within the College.

To learn more about BCAS faculty, click [here](#).

Partnerships and Community Engagement

The College maintains a strong presence in both the campus community and the wider region through partnerships that enrich learning and extend the University's impact. Collaborations with school districts, cultural organizations, nonprofit agencies, scientific laboratories, media and arts organizations, and governmental partners create pathways for experiential learning, applied research, and community service.

These partnerships support internships, communication and media projects, service-learning initiatives, environmental and scientific research efforts, artistic performances, and community-centered programming. They also help connect PVAMU students to professional networks and leadership opportunities that prepare them for meaningful careers and engaged citizenship.

Facilities and Infrastructure

The College operates across several academic buildings that house state-of-the-art classrooms, science laboratories, technology-rich learning environments, creative studios, music rehearsal spaces, digital media labs, performance venues, and collaborative research facilities. Recent renovations and infrastructure improvements have enhanced laboratory spaces, upgraded digital technologies, and expanded areas dedicated to student research, advising, and academic support. These facilities support an educational experience that blends rigorous academic study with hands-on learning, creativity, and discovery.



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 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.

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 \(CANFR\)](#)
- [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 Juvenile Justice](#)
- [College of Nursing](#)
- [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 \$7.8 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 153,000 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 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 in FY2024
- 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 of 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 **February 13, 2026**.

Application materials should be submitted to PVAMUArtsandSciencesDean@wittkieffer.com.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Christine J. Pendleton and Bree Liddell

PVAMUArtsandSciencesDean@wittkieffer.com

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