



## Vice President for Student Affairs

### Leadership Profile

Spring 2026



## Executive Summary

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), a public, comprehensive land-grant institution and the first public Historically Black College or University in Texas, invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). Founded in the Texas Constitution and designated in 1984 as an “institution of the first class,” PVAMU has long served as an engine of educational opportunity and leadership development for the state of Texas and beyond. Its mission remains rooted in achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service, while addressing the needs of the communities it serves.

PVAMU enrolls talented students from across the state, nation, and globe who are drawn to the University’s strong academic programs, land-grant heritage, and commitment to advancing student success. Through the [Journey to Eminence 2035](#) strategic plan, the University is charting an ambitious direction that prioritizes investing in people, strengthening academic relevance, enriching student success, and enhancing performance excellence across all divisions. These strategic priorities reinforce PVAMU’s commitment to cultivating graduates who demonstrate self-sufficiency, professional competence, and readiness for leadership and impact in their chosen fields.

[The Division of Student Affairs](#) at Prairie View A&M University is a dynamic, student-centered operation dedicated to fostering engagement, well-being, and success across the University’s diverse student body. The division is staffed by approximately 43 full-time employees who deliver essential programs, services, and support structures that enhance the student experience. This work is further strengthened by the team of 82 student workers, who contribute to service delivery while gaining valuable professional and leadership experience. With an annual operating budget of roughly \$9 million, the Division of Student Affairs is positioned to deliver high-quality programs, responsive services, and continuous improvements that align with PVAMU’s mission, land-grant heritage, and strategic direction.

Reporting directly to President Tomikia P. LeGrande, Ed.D., the VPSA serves as the Chief Student Affairs Officer and a key member of the senior leadership team. The role requires an accomplished leader who understands the modern student experience, anticipates emerging needs, and can drive operational excellence in a complex environment. The successful candidate will demonstrate strong partnership-building skills, a clear commitment to student learning and development, and the ability to lead with transparency, responsiveness, and strategic insight.

The next Vice President for Student Affairs will join PVAMU during a moment of tremendous momentum and opportunity. As the University advances key strategic initiatives, including holistic student development, enhanced learning environments, and organizational effectiveness, the VPSA will have a profound influence on shaping the student experience. The VPSA will be responsible for aligning student affairs programs with institutional goals; expanding support systems that foster student engagement, well-being, and persistence; and ensuring the division operates with integrity, accountability, and continuous improvement.

PVAMU seeks an energetic, forward-thinking leader who will build upon the University’s strong foundation while helping to propel its student success mission to the next level. The ideal candidate will bring a deep understanding of student affairs practice; a record of effective management; experience using data to guide strategic decisions; and the capacity to inspire teams toward shared goals. This is an exceptional opportunity for a visionary leader to join a distinguished land-grant university poised for continued growth, performance excellence, and national impact.

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 Vice President for Student Affairs

The Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) serves as Prairie View A&M University's Chief Student Affairs Officer and reports directly to the University President. In this capacity, the VPSA provides leadership and vision in administering a comprehensive range of programs and services related to campus programming and the development of a robust student life experience. The role is central to shaping a campus culture that promotes the academic achievement and personal, leadership, and professional development of all undergraduate and graduate students. The VPSA also plays a key part in supporting crisis response, contributing to institutional initiatives, advocating on behalf of students, and fostering collaborative relationships among students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

As the senior leader for student life, the VPSA is responsible for guiding the strategic direction and operational effectiveness of the University's Student Affairs functions. This includes offering forward-thinking leadership that frames student life as an integral component of the educational and belonging experience and ensures that all services and programs align with PVAMU's mission, land-grant heritage, and strategic priorities. The VPSA works in close partnership with the President to establish divisional goals and metrics, translating institutional expectations into actionable plans that strengthen student support, engagement, and success.

In leading the Student Affairs division, the VPSA oversees organizational design, staff development, fiscal stewardship, and performance management. This responsibility extends to cultivating a high-performing team, supporting professional growth across units, and maintaining operational structures that enable the division to adapt to the evolving needs of students. The VPSA collaborates extensively with Academic Affairs to ensure that co-curricular learning complements academic programs and that students experience a coherent continuum of support throughout their educational journey.

The VPSA works closely with campus safety and wellness partners to ensure that emergency responses are coordinated, timely, and centered on student well-being and continuity of learning. This leadership includes serving on institutional committees, advising senior leadership, and contributing to the development of policies that enhance student life, campus operations, and institutional readiness.

Visibility and accessibility are essential qualities of the position. The VPSA regularly engages with students and student-led organizations, seeking to understand their experiences and perspectives while championing initiatives that enhance the overall quality of campus life. Through active communication and collaboration with faculty and staff, the VPSA reinforces a culture of support, accountability, and shared commitment to student achievement.

The VPSA represents the University in matters related to student life within the Texas A&M University System and the broader higher education community. This includes sharing PVAMU's accomplishments, contributing to professional conversations, and ensuring that Student Affairs remains aligned with best practices and emerging trends in the field. The VPSA also serves as a key partner in advancing PVAMU's Journey to Eminence 2035 strategic goals by integrating performance excellence, holistic development, and student success throughout the division's work.

The VPSA is a trusted advisor to the President, a strategic collaborator across campus, and a dedicated advocate for a student experience grounded in PVAMU's mission and values. Through leadership, vision, and operational acumen, the VPSA plays a pivotal role in ensuring that Prairie View A&M University continues to prepare students for academic achievement, professional accomplishment, and lifelong success.

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## Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The Vice President for Student Affairs will be expected to:

- **Lead a Cohesive, Student-Focused Division**

The Vice President will provide vision and leadership for a comprehensive student life program that strengthens the overall educational experience and drives measurable student success. Working directly with the University President, the VPSA will take the lead on advancing most of the priorities in Goal #3 of PVAMU's strategic plan, *Journey to Eminence*. The VPSA will establish clear goals and metrics for the division, ensuring all programs and initiatives align with university priorities and deliver measurable outcomes. Through ongoing monitoring and evaluation, the VPSA will assess programmatic and operational effectiveness and implement the changes required for continuous improvement across the portfolio. The VPSA will join a senior leadership team eager to collaborate on planning and policy development so that Student Affairs priorities remain aligned with university strategy and performance expectations. The VPSA will steward the division's operational excellence by leading planning, human resources, policy development, facilities, and budgetary functions for all reporting departments, including the thoughtful allocation of activities fees.

- **Develop a Comprehensive Residence Life Program**

PVAMU will soon move from a P3 partnership to managing and owning its 12 residential properties. PVAMU houses over 50% of its students, and there are plans underway to build a new dormitory that will open in August 2028. Demand for university housing remains strong, and there are opportunities to further expand the University's housing options with thoughtful planning. The next VPSA will play a key role in developing a comprehensive residence life program that provides an impactful living and learning environment for students.

- **Provide Leadership to the Division of Student Affairs**

The Division of Student Affairs is made up of dynamic, nimble, and highly engaged staff dedicated to the University's mission, eager to meet the needs of the student body and University community, and steadfast in becoming national leaders in best practices in Student Affairs. The staff is committed to upholding excellence in Student Affairs practices and welcomes a leader who will help them to collaborate and engage around the complex questions facing Student Affairs staff on campuses across the country. In order to provide a high-quality experience for students, the VPSA will need to address the current staffing shortage in the unit. This work includes designing, implementing, and maintaining an organizational structure and staffing model that can effectively accomplish the division's goals; overseeing recruitment, training, supervision, professional development, and evaluation of staff; and providing direct supervision, coaching, and assessment of programs and personnel across oversight units. The VPSA will cultivate a high-performance culture that recognizes and celebrates staff achievements while reinforcing accountability and standards of excellence.

- **Advance Co-Curricular Learning and Student Success**

In close partnership with Academic Affairs, the VPSA will serve as a thought leader and expert resource on Student Affairs for the academic units and oversee the development of co-curricular programs that enhance students' intellectual and personal development through robust collaboration with faculty and staff. A strong proponent of student learning, the VPSA will champion shared learning outcomes and a disciplined approach to program assessment, ensuring that co-curricular efforts demonstrably support persistence, completion, and post-graduation readiness. As an engaged institutional leader, the VPSA will participate in university governance and assist the President in decision-making related to students' non-academic activities, while contributing to the development, communication, and implementation of policies that shape a cohesive student experience.

- **Ensure Student Development Through High-Quality, Responsive Student Services**

Leading from an asset mindset, the VPSA will promote the social, emotional, and overall health of PVAMU students and further a culture of care and responsiveness that supports engagement and achievement. As an advocate for student success initiatives and learning across all dimensions of student life, the VPSA will strengthen students' development by expanding impactful, enriching experiences that connect them to the University and their goals. The VPSA will be an experienced and committed advocate for all PVAMU students across its three campus locations, ensuring students receive support in their development of character, leadership, perspectives, and career planning through effective programming, services, and residence life.

The VPSA will encourage a culture of innovation to explore creative and entrepreneurial ideas that advance student success and promote best practices related to student well-being. This individual will be expected to have a forward-looking approach to utilizing technology to best serve students. The VPSA and Student Affairs staff will develop plans to ensure the delivery of services to students that advance the strategic mission of the University, enhance the vibrancy of campus life, increase student satisfaction, and show sensitivity to the day-to-day experiences of all students.

- **Ensure Institutional Readiness and Alignment**

The VPSA will ensure institutional readiness and responsiveness by coordinating prompt, well-communicated support in response to campus emergencies, providing care to students and staff, while maintaining continuity of the learning environment. The role involves close collaboration with Campus Police to ensure appropriate follow-up on student-related matters and sustained coordination that forges strong linkages between Student Affairs and other university units and divisions. The VPSA provides indirect leadership of the Student Government Association and other student leadership councils to help cultivate constructive student voice and participation in campus life.

Externally, the VPSA will elevate PVAMU's reputation by participating in national conferences, presentations, and professional organizations to share university successes and best practices and representing the institution on student-related matters in the City of Prairie View and in Waller County.



## Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

PVAMU's Vice President for Student Affairs will be a deeply experienced, student-centered, energetic, and innovative leader who embraces forward-thinking strategies to anticipate and meet the developmental needs of contemporary students. The VPSA will also be a proven collaborator with a sincere appreciation for excellence in education, as well as the networking and entrepreneurial skills required to work successfully with a wide range of individuals and constituencies across multiple divisions. The VPSA will understand and embrace the HBCU experience and how Student Affairs plays a critical role in enhancing that experience.

### Required Education & Experience:

- Earned terminal degree from an accredited university.
- Minimum of 10 years of progressive experience in student affairs leadership.
- Demonstrated experience in leading the development of outstanding co-curricular opportunities for students.
- Demonstrated experience in overseeing a broad range of student services, programs, and activities.
- Demonstrated experience in managing large budgets.
- Demonstrated experience in developing programs for student facilities and overseeing construction and renovation projects.
- Proven ability to build and maintain effective partnerships with Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Student Success, and other areas across the University.
- Proven ability to leverage data to reach strategic decisions, generate innovative ideas and solutions, and effectively measure outcomes.
- Proven ability to implement student affairs best practices in a complex HBCU research university.
- Proven ability to build, manage, and motivate effective teams.
- Proven ability to manage multiple projects concurrently with a close eye on attention to detail within established timelines.

### Preferred Qualifications:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong analytical, planning, and organizational skills.
- Knowledge of issues and trends in higher education.
- A strong record of exemplary personal and professional integrity.
- Passion for a high standard of excellence with continuous improvement.

## 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 continues 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, which was 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 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

### Tomika 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 Texas 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 recreational 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 welcome. 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 Prairie View A&M University in this search. Review of applications is underway and will continue until the position is filled. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by April 17, 2026.

Please submit all applications, nominations, and inquiries to **the search team** through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by [clicking here](#). New users should select “**Register Here**” to create an account before proceeding. After logging in, navigate to “**Open Positions**” and locate the role by entering the institution’s name and clicking on the search wheel.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Christine J. Pendleton and Jenna Brumleve

[PVAMUVPSA@wittkieffer.com](mailto:PVAMUVPSA@wittkieffer.com)

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