

Proclamation Celebrating
Prairie View A&M University's 150th Anniversary

Whereas Prairie View A&M University had its humble beginnings in the Texas Constitution of 1876, which created an Agricultural and Mechanical College. On August 14, 1876, the 15th legislature established the "Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth." The first eight students enrolled and began their studies on March 11, 1878; and

Whereas The University was originally a teaching college, but in 1887, the curriculum expanded to include agriculture, nursing, arts, sciences, and mechanical arts. It became a land-grant institution on March 14, 1890 and in the early 1900's, they began offering baccalaureate and advanced degrees; and

Whereas In 1945, the name of the institution was changed to Prairie View University and on August 27, 1973, the name was officially changed to Prairie View A&M University, affirming its status within the Texas A&M University System; and

Whereas Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas, the third largest Historically Black College and University in the nation, and is designated as an "institution of the first class" in the Texas Constitution. Enrollment at PVAMU exceeds 10,000 students and includes more than 85,000 graduates; and

Whereas Throughout its history, Prairie View A&M University has played a transformative role in expanding access to higher education, particularly for historically underrepresented communities, while fostering academic achievement, ingenuity, and civic engagement; and

Whereas Under the visionary leadership of President Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande, Prairie View A&M University has embarked on the ambitious "Journey to Eminence" plan to elevate the institution as a premier public Historically Black College and University and national model for student success, emphasizing research excellence, increased graduation rates, and strong post-graduate outcomes; and

Whereas Prairie View A&M University is recognized as a Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) university and is home to numerous distinguished research centers and institutes, including the National Center for Infrastructure Technology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, which advance knowledge, innovation, and community impact across disciplines; and

Whereas At PVAMU, students are inspired to realize their potential and reimagine the future, benefiting from a vibrant campus community representing multiple states and countries, engaging in more than 170 student organizations, and excelling in academics, athletics, and professional development opportunities; and

Whereas The celebration of Prairie View A&M University's 150th Anniversary provides an opportunity to honor its historic contributions, recognize its present-day impact, and affirm collective support for its continued growth, excellence, and mission in the years ahead.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes Prairie View A&M University for its outstanding contributions to higher education and its unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service and extends its best wishes to students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alums as they continue to build on the University's proud legacy.

Approved this 21st day of July 2026.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: **ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**
County Clerk