

**WALLER COUNTY PROCLAMATION
CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
AND COMMEMORATING ITS ENDURING LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE, SERVICE,
AND TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT**

Whereas Prairie View A&M University had its humble beginnings in the Texas Constitution of 1876, which created an Agricultural and Mechanical College with an act by Matthew Gaines, Walter Burton, and William Holland. 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, Prairie View A&M University traces its humble beginnings to the Texas Constitution of 1876, which provided for the establishment of an Agricultural and Mechanical College through legislative efforts led by Matthew Gaines, Walter Burton, and William Holland; and

Whereas, on August 14, 1876, the 15th Texas Legislature formally established the “Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth”; and Whereas, the institution welcomed its first eight students, who commenced their studies on March 11, 1878; and

Whereas, Prairie View A&M University, the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the State of Texas and the third-largest Historically Black College and University in the nation, is designated in the Texas Constitution as an “institution of the first class”; and with an enrollment exceeding 10,000 students and more than 85,000 alumni, PVAMU remains a Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) university and a proud member of The Texas A&M University System, committed to its land-grant mission of excellence in teaching, research, and service that strengthen communities throughout Texas and beyond; and

Whereas, the University was originally a teaching college, but in 1887 the curriculum was expanded to include agriculture, nursing, arts, sciences, and mechanical arts; it became a land-grant institution on March 14, 1890; began offering baccalaureate degrees in 1919; and established graduate studies in 1937, offering advanced degrees in multiple academic fields; and

Whereas, in 1945 the name of the institution was changed to Prairie View University, and in 1947 the Texas Legislature authorized expanded academic offerings equivalent to those at other major public institutions; 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, 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, innovation, 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 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 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, Prairie View A&M University has educated generations of graduates who have served with distinction as educators, engineers, scientists, military leaders, entrepreneurs, elected officials, jurists, and public servants at the local, state, national, and international levels; and

Whereas, the University's motto, "Prairie View Produces Productive People," is reflected in the integrity, leadership, and service demonstrated by its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners, and as the University commemorates its sesquicentennial anniversary, it has created a storied legacy of Productive Panthers dedicated to serving their communities, the State, the nation, and the world; 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Waller County Commissioners Court, upon the recommendation of Commissioner Kendric Jones of Precinct 3, does hereby proclaim August 14, 2026, as Prairie View A&M University Day in Waller County, Texas, and recognizes Prairie View A&M University for its enduring legacy, invaluable contributions to higher education, and continued role in developing leaders who exemplify purpose, integrity, and service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be entered into the public record of Waller County and presented with gratitude and esteem as a lasting tribute to the historic legacy and enduring contributions of Prairie View A&M University to Waller County, the City of Prairie View, the State of Texas, and the nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Waller County Commissioners do hereby set my hand and cause the Seal of Waller County to be affixed this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Signed,

The Honorable Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

The Honorable John A. Amsler

Waller County Commissioner, Precinct 1

The Honorable Walter E. Smith

Waller County Commissioner, Precinct 2

The Honorable Kendric Jones

Waller County Commissioner, Precinct 3

The Honorable Justin Beckendorff

Waller County Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Ms. Debbie Hollan

County Clerk