

# TADOHE

APRIL 2022 SPOTLIGHT  
HBCU CELEBRATION SERIES

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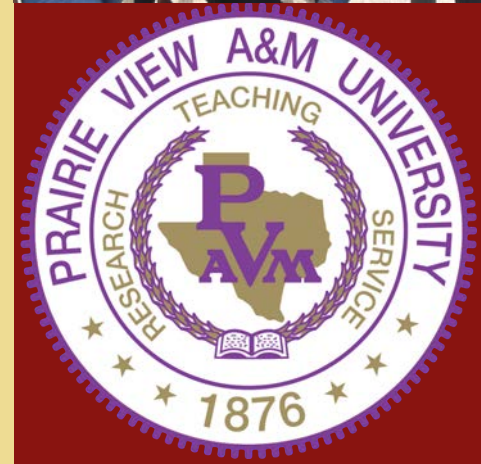
This issue: Prairie View A&M University

HBCUs have long been a cornerstone of the Black community. With the majority of them being founded a few years after the passing of the Emancipation Proclamation, they represent the desire that the Black community has for collective advancement through education.

This is one of the main reasons TADOHE wanted to utilize our platform to spotlight our Texas HBCUs and their accomplishments over the years. It is so important to value and celebrate these spaces because they foster the diversity and inclusion that TADOHE and our national association, NADOHE, were created to support.

## PVAMU Mission Statement

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 bachelors, masters, 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.



# A Brief History of Prairie View A&M University

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## The PVAMU Story

Prairie View A&M University, the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas, originated in the Texas Constitution of 1876. On August 14, 1876, the Texas Legislature established the “Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youths” and placed responsibility for its management with the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Bryan. The A&M College of Texas for Colored Youths opened at Prairie View, Texas on March 11, 1878.

The University’s original curriculum was designated by the Texas Legislature in 1879 to be that of a “Normal School” for the preparation and training of teachers. This curriculum was expanded to include the arts and sciences, home economics, agriculture, mechanical arts and nursing after the University was established as a branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station (Hatch Act, 1887) and as a Land Grant College (Morrill Act, 1890). Thus began the tradition of agricultural research and community service, which continues today.

The four-year senior college program began in 1919 and in 1937, a division of graduate studies was added, offering master’s degrees in agricultural economics, rural education, agricultural education, school administration and supervision, and rural sociology.

In 1945, the name of the institution was changed from Prairie View Normal and Industrial College to Prairie View University, and the school was authorized to offer, “as need arises,” all courses offered at the University of Texas. In 1947, the Texas Legislature changed the name to Prairie View A&M College of Texas and provided that “courses be offered in agriculture, the mechanics arts, engineering, and the natural sciences connected therewith, together with any other courses authorized at Prairie View at the time of passage of this act, all of which shall be equivalent to those offered at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas at Bryan.” On August 27, 1973, the name of the institution was changed to Prairie View A&M University, and its status as an independent unit of the Texas A&M University System was confirmed.

In 1981, the Texas Legislature acknowledged the University’s rich tradition of service and identified various statewide needs which the University should address including the assistance of students of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to realize their full potential, and assistance of small and medium-sized communities and businesses in their growth and development.



# A Brief History of Prairie View A&M University

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Continued

## The PVAMU Story (cont.)

In 1983, the Texas Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment to restructure the Permanent University Fund to include Prairie View A&M University as a beneficiary of its proceeds. The Permanent University Fund is a perpetual endowment fund originally established in the Constitution of 1876 for the sole benefit of Texas A&M University and the University of Texas. The 1983 amendment also dedicated the University to enhancement as an “institution of the first class” under the governing board of the Texas A&M University System. The constitutional amendment was approved by the voters on November 6, 1984.

In January 1985, the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System responded to the 1984 Constitutional Amendment by stating its intention that Prairie View A&M University become “an institution nationally recognized in its areas of education and research.” The Board also resolved that the University receive its share of the Available University Fund, as previously agreed to by Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.

In October 2000, the Governor of Texas signed the Priority Plan, an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights to make Prairie View A&M University an educational asset accessible by all Texans. The Priority Plan mandates creation of many new educational programs and facilities. It also requires removing language from the Institutional Mission Statement which might give the impression of excluding any Texan from attending Prairie View A&M University.

The University’s enrollment now exceeds 8,000 including more than 2,000 graduate students. Students come from throughout the United States as well as many foreign countries. In the last five years, 5,970 degrees were awarded, including more than 2,400 graduate degrees. During the University’s 130-year history, some 46,000 academic degrees have been awarded



# PVAMU Upcoming April Events:

## Spring Fest

PVAMU is celebrating their 2022 Spring Fest from April 3rd to the 9th. The theme for this year is "Flight 1876". Some of the events taking place include: Paint in the Park, Gospel Fest. Supa Luau Hump Night, PV Choice Awards, InPHestation w/ the PV Alphas, R&B Lovers Night, and many more.

## Research and Innovation Week

The Research & Innovation Week is an annual celebration of research excellence at PVAMU. Through multiple virtual and in-person events, participants will become more familiar with our world-class research and the innovative initiatives that make PVAMU a research institution to watch. The 2022 Research & Innovation Week is a time for researchers and innovators to come together and cultivate relationships that will continue to grow the Research & Innovation infrastructure. So Get READY. Get SET. Lets CONNECT!

## Cyntoia Brown Speaking to PV Students:

PVAMU's Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center 2022 Spring Speaker Series is hosting a talk by Cyntoia Brown-Long for their students. Cyntoia is an author, speaker, and advocate for criminal justice reform and victims of trafficking.

## Countdown to Commencement

The Office of the Registrar is hosting a "Countdown to Commencement" Graduation Fair for students preparing to graduate. "Countdown to Commencement" is an event that provides all the information students need to know about graduation and the commencement ceremony in one setting.



An institution is only as good as those who lead it. We would be remiss if we did not take space to show our appreciation and shine the spotlight on Prairie View A&M University's President.

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## Dr. Ruth J. Simmons



Ruth J. Simmons serves as President of Prairie View A&M University. She was President of Brown University from 2001-2012. Under her leadership, Brown made significant strides in improving its standing as one of the world's finest research universities.

A French professor before entering university administration, President Simmons held an appointment as a Professor of Comparative Literature and Africana Studies at Brown. After completing her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard, she served in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Southern California, Princeton University, and Spelman College before becoming president of Smith College, the largest women's college in the United States. At Smith, she launched a number of important academic initiatives, including an engineering program, the first at an American women's college.

Simmons is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship to France, the 2001 President's Award from the United Negro College Fund, the 2002 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University. Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the boards of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Holdsworth Center. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Square. Awarded numerous honorary degrees, she received the Brown Faculty's highest honor: the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal in 2011. In 2012, she was named a 'chevalier' of the French Legion of Honor.