



## HOUSTON ENDOWMENT AWARDS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION \$1.5M GRANT TO PREPARE, PRODUCE MORE QUALIFIED TEACHERS OF COLOR

*Houston Endowment selected PVAMU based on its history of working to advance racial equity and justice.*

**PRAIRIE VIEW**, Texas (February 23, 2021) – Houston Endowment has awarded Prairie View A&M University's [Whitlow R. Green College of Education](#) (WRGCOE) one of the College's largest grants in its 141-year history. The foundation is investing **\$1.5 million** in the College to support PVAMU's Educator Preparation Program, increasing the number of qualified teachers of color and preparing the educators for long-term success. The grant is part of **\$20 million** in funds [Houston Endowment awarded](#) to several Houston-area organizations committed to making racial equity and social justice in Houston a reality.

"I am elated that Houston Endowment has chosen to support the faculty and staff members' efforts to raise the academic profile of the WRGCOE and promote an environment that is dedicated to continuous quality improvement and student success. The grant will help enhance the quality and distinctiveness of programs and services to best prepare students for careers as accomplished educational professionals," said Dean Michael L. McFrazier, Ed.D.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, America is becoming more diverse each year and is expected to be "majority-minority" by 2044.

"Minority teacher representation is critically low nationally and is not keeping up with the changing racial makeup of America's children," said Dean McFrazier. "We specialize in developing resilient educators who are committed to improving outcomes in communities that are historically underserved."

Houston Endowment's grant will support the College's established priorities, including recruiting and producing teachers of color in high-need/critical shortage areas, providing instruction that is evidence-based and grounded in culturally responsive practices, employing and developing faculty that are knowledgeable and skilled, and fostering strong K-12 and community partnerships. These priorities are focused on enhancing educator preparation effectiveness in the College and supporting PVAMU's proven record of producing certified teachers of color in classrooms across the region, state, and nation.

Read more about PVAMU's plans for Houston Endowment's grant [here](#).

For more information, contact Dean Michael McFrazier, Ed.D., at [mlmcfrazier@pvamu.edu](mailto:mlmcfrazier@pvamu.edu), (936) 261-2102.

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### About the WRGCOE:

- Established April 19, 1879, by the Texas Legislature as a school for training teachers of color;
- Offers three undergraduate degrees, seven master's programs, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership;
- Produces the largest percentage of Black/African American teachers in the State of Texas; and
- 97% of teachers produced at PVAMU remain in the classroom for five years or more. This is significant because the retention rate in the profession is dismal (i.e., 1-2 years). Teachers prepared at PVAMU are resilient and committed to the profession.

**About Prairie View A&M University:** Designated an institution of "the first class" in the Texas Constitution, Prairie View A&M University is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the state. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degree programs through nine colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit [www.pvamu.edu](http://www.pvamu.edu).

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