



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY AND SHELL INK \$6M PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND STUDENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The five-year innovation research agreement also supports the university's growth and infrastructure.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (January 18, 2022) – On Tuesday, January 18, Shell Global Solutions (Shell) and Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) signed a \$6 million research and innovation partnership. The PVAMU-Shell Nature Based Solutions (NBS) Research Program will be headquartered in the Historically Black University's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences. The five-year, \$5-million research agreement will focus on innovation and agriculture.

“Diversity, equity, and inclusion is a passion of mine. Shell is striving to become one of the most diverse and inclusive organizations in the world, a place where everyone feels valued and respected,” said Gretchen Watkins, president of Shell Oil Company. “This commitment starts with our employees and includes our work with external partners such as research institutions and universities like Prairie View A&M.”

The Shell-PVAMU NBS partnership will allow Shell to tap into the university's 700 acres of farmland dedicated to research, including state-of-the-art greenhouses.

“This is the first partnership research partnership that we will have signed following the announcement recently, that we have been reclassified to our [Carnegie] Research 2 capacity,” said PVAMU President Ruth J. Simmons. “So that's a very important classification to us to recognize that we are growing as a research institution and that we're joining 130 other institutions in the country in being in that classification.”

For Magesh Rajan, PVAMU vice president of Research & Innovation, today's signing culminates nearly a year of meetings, presentations, and research exploration.

Rajan said, “This partnership marks a significant milestone in our relationship, paving pathways for Prairie View A&M faculty and students to involve in interdisciplinary research and innovation activities with Shell research and development team solving global challenges.”

Shell's nature-based solutions [projects](#) seek effective carbon dioxide utilization and carbon capture by employing innovative renewable energy and environmental sustainability methods.

Selda Gonsel, president of Shell Global Solutions, said, “The research agreement in particular will – among other things – build a state-of-the-art greenhouse on the campus research farm while leveraging Shell staff and expertise on joint research projects to help train the next generation of scientists.”

((more))

An additional \$1 million contribution to Prairie View A&M will further Shell's investment in diversity and inclusion. Those funds will be used for university infrastructure improvements and to support PVAMU's growth while creating a more diverse technical talent pipeline through retention programs, providing work experience opportunities to students to be developed into the next generation of scientists.

View the full news conference [here](#).

Shell leadership statements from the signing and their headshots are included.

###

About Shell: Shell Global Solutions is an affiliate of Royal Dutch Shell plc, which is incorporated in England and Wales, has its headquarters in The Hague and is listed on the London, Amsterdam, and New York stock exchanges. Shell companies have operations in more than 70 countries and territories with businesses including oil and gas exploration and production; production and marketing of liquefied natural gas and gas to liquids; manufacturing, marketing and shipping of oil products and chemicals and renewable energy projects. For further information, visit www.shell.com.

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.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Michael Douglas

Manager, Office of Marketing & Communications
Division of Research & Innovation
936-261-1574 • mwdouglas@pvamu.edu

Candace Johnson

Executive Director, PVAMU Office of
Marketing and Communications
936-261-1566 • [cajohnson@pvamu.edu](mailto:cjohnson@pvamu.edu)

Division of Research & Innovation • 936-261-1570 • research@pvamu.edu • pvamu.edu/research