Open letter to PVAMU students from President Dr. George C. Wright

August 21, 2009

Dear PVAMU Students,

Prairie View A&M University’s rich heritage is grounded in a commitment to educating students to be productive professionals and citizens of their communities. As a land-grant institution dedicated to teaching, research and service, the University strives to provide high-quality services, programs and opportunities that allow you, the student, to live and learn in a safe environment conducive to reaching your full potential. As you prepare for the 2009 fall semester, please know that we are working diligently to ensure that your time on “The Hill” is safe, academically stimulating and full of new experiences and opportunities.

Last school year, a committee comprised of representatives from campus housing, student conduct, student affairs, public relations, health and counseling, student activities and leadership and auxiliary services, met weekly to discuss various measures that could be enacted to prevent inappropriate behavior and to ensure the safety of our students. As a result, a number of new initiatives will be instituted this school year:

- Greater emphasis on student learning achievement in and out of class;
- Additional student programming including lectures, speakers and forums designed to encourage positive interactions with members of the University community;
- “Guaranteed” responsive customer service in University housing facilities including University Village and University College;
- Banners promoting positive behaviors and school pride lining campus sidewalks and walkways;
- Signs outlining prohibited conduct posted in communal areas, residential facilities and classrooms;
- An increased presence of public safety officers across campus;
- Campus emergency phones more accessible and visible; and
- More effective enforcement of University policies and procedures especially the Student Conduct Code to ensure a climate that encourages learning.

While the University staff is committed to instituting these measures, I ask that you do your part. Students, as citizens of the Prairie View A&M University community, you must take responsibility for upholding campus values, first by focusing on your primary reason for coming
to college and then by both following stated rules and procedures and by reporting inappropriate including violent incidents to the proper authorities.

**YOU** are the face of Prairie View A&M University. Your behavior, good and bad, sets the tone for our current and future students. Likewise, your behavior affects the support we receive from government officials, alumni, and the community. Choosing to participate in inappropriate acts will cause you to risk future opportunities. If you are arrested and convicted, those charges will follow you throughout your life and will be reviewed when you apply for employment, rent an apartment, apply for a loan, attempt to buy a home or tell your children and grandchildren about your life and how you want them to conduct theirs. These are only examples, but it is important that you understand the consequences of making decisions or taking risks that will impact your future.

The upcoming semester will be full of opportunities and challenges, and I invite you to face the challenges head on and use the opportunities to learn about the many positive activities and programs that PVAMU has to offer. Plan to make new friends, participate in student organizations, go to athletic events and movies, and attend lectures and concerts. Above all, take advantage of PVAMU’s commitment to educating students both inside the classroom and beyond those walls.

Again, we are truly grateful for students like **YOU** who help PVAMU achieve its mission of excellence in teaching, research and service. Have a great academic year!

Sincerely,

George C. Wright
President