



CHICAGO NATIVE TO GRADUATE FROM PVAMU AS FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (December 9, 2025)- A South Side Chicago native will graduate from [Prairie View A&M University](#) this month as a first-generation college student, completing a non-traditional academic path that began more than a decade ago.

[Sylvia Sydney Bridges](#), a Communication major with a minor in Social Sciences, will receive her degree from Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) during its Fall Commencement Ceremony on December 13. Bridges transferred to PVAMU in 2022 and will become the first person in her immediate family to earn a college degree.

Bridges, originally from Chicago's South Side, is among Prairie View's growing number of first-generation students completing degrees this fall. She began her higher education journey in 2013 and re-entered college after a break in attendance, a path common among non-traditional and returning college students nationwide.

Bridges has been active in campus media including PVUKNO Radio and KPVM-TV and is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, and the National Organization of Out-of-State Students. She also participated in Prairie View's Chicago Club, which supports Illinois students attending the University.

Bridges says she has always been proud to represent Chicago on campus and throughout her academic journey. "Being from Chicago is a major part of who I am, and I'm proud to bring that with me everywhere I go," she said. Bridges plans to pursue a career in broadcasting and digital media following graduation.

Prairie View A&M University continues to see increased enrollment from Illinois and the Midwest, including students from Chicago, who attend the Texas-based HBCU for academic programs in communication, business, and STEM-related fields.

PVAMU will host its [Fall Commencement](#) ceremonies December 12–13 at the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Building on the University's campus.

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PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, founded in 1876, is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas and the third largest Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the nation. Designated as an "institution of the first class" in the Texas Constitution, the enrollment exceeds 10,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its ten colleges and schools, boasting degree options leading to bachelor's and doctoral-level degrees. A Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) University and a member of The Texas A&M University System, PVAMU is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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