



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVEALS ANONYMOUS DONOR FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES INITIATIVE: PRESIDENT RUTH J. SIMMONS

The gift of \$250K, a university match, and a \$500K grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation launched the \$1M initiative in 2018.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (July 17, 2020) – When Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) announced the establishment of an African American Studies Initiative in September 2018, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded the campus \$500,000, and the university matched a \$250,000 gift.

The Office of Development did not disclose the identity of the person who donated the quarter-of-a-million dollars, until today.

“As the university celebrates the progress of the African American Studies Initiative,” Vice President of Development Carme Williams stated, “we are pleased to reveal that President Simmons is the anonymous donor whose extraordinary generosity catapulted the program into existence. Ruth’s philanthropy is a powerful testament to her commitment to our students and Prairie View’s powerful legacy.”

The African American Studies Initiative is designed to infuse African-American Studies content throughout the PVAMU’s liberal arts offerings.

For more about why President Simmons invested in the university and its students, read today’s [article](#).

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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 eight 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.

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