



**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY WELCOMES INAUGURAL SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE  
AT THE RUTH J. SIMMONS CENTER FOR RACE AND JUSTICE**

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (October 6, 2025)- Prairie View A&M University welcomes Dr. Princess H. Williams as the first Scholar-in-Residence at the Ruth J. Simmons [Center for Race and Justice](#). This milestone underscores PVAMU's proud legacy of advancing scholarship, protecting students' rights, and standing at the forefront of civil rights and voting rights advocacy.

In her new role, Dr. Williams will lead a national survey amplifying the voices of Black women voters and direct the HBCU Voting Rights Lab, an initiative dedicated to elevating the history of voting rights and civic engagement within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). She will also continue her own research on the political impact of Southern identity, work that will culminate in the completion of her forthcoming book *Southbound: How Southern Identity Contours the American Political Mind*.

Dr. Williams is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Jackson State University and later completed both her master's and Ph.D. in political science at the University of Michigan. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the University of California Presidential Fellows Program.

"This is both an honor and a responsibility," Dr. Williams said. "The Center's mission to advance access, justice, and understanding aligns directly with my research and my passion. I hope to build a foundation of civic engagement and mentorship that will endure for years to come."

The Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice was established to foster scholarship, dialogue, and action at the intersection of race and justice. By leading public history projects that document Prairie View A&M and Texas history, the Center trains students to become archivists, community scholars, and public storytellers. With the appointment of its first Scholar-in-Residence, the Center sets a precedent for future research and programming that will impact students, faculty, and the broader community.

To learn more about Prairie View A&M's Scholar-in-Residence, the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice, or to schedule an interview with Dr. Princess Williams or Dr. Melanye Price, Director of the Center, please contact Liz Faublas-Wallace in the Office of Communications at [lswallace@pvamu.edu](mailto:lswallace@pvamu.edu).

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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](http://www.pvamu.edu).

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