

# PVAMU environmentalists pen Earth Day perspectives on the pandemic's impact on climate change

Date: April 22, 2020

By: Michael W. Douglas



## News Release

## PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

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*Scientists address Earth Day importance, and once-in-a-lifetime chance to fight climate change.*

**PRAIRIE VIEW**, Texas – Research scientists and professors in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences at Prairie View A&M University are using Earth Day 2020 to address a pivot in awareness the coronavirus pandemic is causing.

Along with its Spring 2020 Research Seminar Series held today online—the "Earth's Ecosystems Resiliencies in Response to Climate Change, Extreme Events, and Pandemics"—two professors have written informative perspectives about the significance of Earth Today this year and how the environment is forever changed.

### COVID-19 & Air Quality

Ali Fares, Ph.D., a professor of water security in the [College of Agriculture and Human Sciences](#) and a team of faculty, students and researchers looked into how COVID-19 global shutdown is impacting the air quality around the world.

Fares said, “COVID-19 also shows that if humans don’t protect the environment and live responsibly, we might lose some of the basics needs of our existence.”

Dr. Fares’ opinion piece: [COVID-19 could be once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fight climate change.](#)

Associate Professor Ram L. Ray, Ph.D., P.E., an associate professor who specializes in water resources, precision agriculture, and natural hazards such as landslides, floods, and droughts, has been studying climate change since 2012. Just like the pioneers who held the first Earth Day in 1970, he believes this pandemic should be a wakeup call.

“Focusing on climate change this Earth Day is a good idea because people should care about climate change, as it is extremely important to have food security, clean air, water and environment, and, most importantly, life and health security along with protection for future generations,” Ray said.

Dr. Ray’s full opinion piece here: [Importance of Earth Day 2020.](#)

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

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