



PVAMU STUDENT SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS ACHE M.A.P. PROGRAM

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (August 30, 2025) - Prairie View A&M University junior **Jai'Lani Guzman** is making Panther Nation proud as one of the select students chosen to participate in the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education's Mentoring and Achievement Preparation (M.A.P.) Program.

The competitive program, now in its third year, is designed to build a stronger, more diverse pipeline of future occupational and physical therapists. Students from across the country are immersed in three days of intensive, hands-on training at ACHE's campus in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where they work side-by-side with faculty, current graduate students, and healthcare leaders.

For Guzman, a health sciences major at PVAMU, the experience was transformative.

"The ACHE M.A.P. Program gave me a real look at what life as an OT graduate student is like," she said. "From the moment I arrived, I felt supported and encouraged. The sessions were not only informative but interactive and connecting with mentors and peers gave me more clarity and confidence about my path. This opportunity reminded me why I chose this field in the first place and strengthened my motivation to succeed."

The M.A.P. Program was launched in 2023 to inspire and support students from underrepresented backgrounds considering careers in health sciences. Participants receive ongoing mentorship and are invited to workshops and events that prepare them for the competitive graduate admissions process.

Dr. LaTisha Standokes, Executive Director of Admissions at ACHE's College of Health Sciences, said the program is changing the face of healthcare: "Through mentorship, exposure, and opportunity, we're helping build a more inclusive and representative future in diverse healthcare settings."

For more information about the ACHE M.A.P. Program, contact Dr. LaTisha Standokes at map@achehealth.edu.

Media inquiries about Prairie View A&M University may be directed to **Liz Faublas-Wallace** at 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 9,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its ten colleges, Undergraduate Studies and School of Architecture, boasting degree options leading to bachelor's to 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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