



## RIVALRY MEETS RESEARCH: PVAMU, TSU LAUNCH \$2.2M MACHINE LEARNING PROJECT

**PRAIRIE VIEW**, Texas (August 29, 2025) - As Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University prepare to face off in this weekend's [Labor Day Classic](#), the two rivals are also joining forces off the field. Together, they're leading a \$2.2 million research project that uses artificial intelligence to speed up the discovery of new materials — a breakthrough with the potential to transform manufacturing and defense technology.

**Materials science** focuses on improving everyday materials—like metals, ceramics, and plastics—so they perform better in products such as airplanes, cars, medical devices, and electronics. **Machine learning**, a form of artificial intelligence, helps computers analyze massive amounts of data, recognize patterns, and make accurate predictions. By combining the two fields, researchers can identify and develop stronger, lighter, and more efficient materials at a pace once thought impossible.

The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense's Air Force Office of Scientific Research, establishes the [Center for Scientific Machine Learning for Material Sciences](#). Texas Southern is leading the grant, with Prairie View A&M receiving \$600,000 to guide a major part of the work. They are joined by Texas A&M University and the University of Michigan.

At PVAMU, the effort is headed by Dr. Noushin Ghaffari, principal investigator, and Dr. Lin Li, co-principal investigator. At TSU, the project is led by two distinguished scientists. Together, these researchers are building advanced machine learning tools to predict, optimize, and simulate new materials with greater speed and accuracy.

Beyond advancing science, the project is designed to open doors for students. Both Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern will provide hands-on research experiences, summer workshops, and mentorship to prepare the next generation of engineers and data scientists.

So, while PVAMU and TSU will battle it out on the gridiron this weekend, they're proving that when it comes to innovation and education, they're playing on the same team.

To learn more about this cutting-edge research project or to schedule an interview with our scientists, please contact Liz Faublas-Wallace 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 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](http://www.pvamu.edu).

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