



TEXAS NATIVE AND PVAMU ALUMNUS CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER, II RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS FOR UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 COMMENCEMENT

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (December 1, 2025)- Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is proud to announce that Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, a distinguished alumnus whose life exemplifies perseverance, purpose, and public service, will deliver the keynote address at the University's 30th Fall Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, December 13, at 9 a.m. in the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Building (Baby Dome).

A ten-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Cleaver represents Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, the home district of President Harry S. Truman. His life's work, rooted in fairness, faith, and service, stands as a powerful reflection of Prairie View A&M University's mission to prepare students to lead, serve, and make an impact in their communities.

A native Texan, Congressman Cleaver attended Prairie View A&M University, where he played football, joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and was involved in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He often credits his formative years with inspiring his lifelong commitment to community empowerment and civil rights.

Throughout his distinguished career, Congressman Cleaver has been recognized for his integrity, determination, and leadership in public service. In 2016, as a Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, he co-authored the *Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act*, the most sweeping federal housing reform in two decades, which passed unanimously by Congress. Two years later, his leadership earned him the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award, an honor shared with President Bill Clinton, Senator John McCain, and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"Prairie View A&M University is honored to welcome Congressman Cleaver back to campus as our Fall Commencement speaker," said PVAMU President Tomikia P. LeGrande. "His distinguished career and lifelong commitment to service embody the principles we seek to instill in every graduate. Additionally, as an alumnus, his profound perspective on leadership, perseverance, and purpose will undoubtedly inspire our students as they prepare to make their own mark on the world."

This fall, 708 students are poised to join the ranks of Prairie View's proud alumni: 12 doctoral, 160 master's, 3 post-baccalaureate, and 533 undergraduate candidates. Together, they represent the next generation of "Productive Panthers" shaped by the University's enduring values of knowledge, character, and responsibility.

Media seeking additional details about Prairie View A&M University's Fall Commencement or wishing to speak with university officials may contact Liz Faublas-Wallace, Communications Specialist III, 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 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.