



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM APPROVES NEW CENTER FOR RACE AND JUSTICE AT PVAMU

The center is one of many initiatives spawned after the death of Houston native George Floyd.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (November 12, 2020) – Today, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the new Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice at Prairie View A&M University. PVAMU announced its creation in June following the death of George Floyd and the civil unrest that ensued.

President Simmons mentioned the formation of the center, along with other initiatives, in an open [letter](#) to the university community. She acknowledged that “fighting racism and discrimination and upholding justice must always be among our highest callings.”

The Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice will engage research, publishing, and training to develop strategies aimed at overturning systemic biases that impede the ability of minorities and other groups to access their full rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

On June 11, H-E-B Chairman Charles Butt became the center’s first donor with a \$1 million personal gift to add President Simmons’ name.

Endowed Political Science Professor Melanye Price, Ph.D., will lead the center, which will be a hub of learning, research, and activism. Plans for the center include:

- Requiring all incoming PVAMU students to take a course on the history of race, class, and gender in the U.S.
- Creating a research fellowship program that will bring scholars from across the nation to the campus annually
- An activist-in-residence position, which will bring advocates, activists, and those who have worked on the behalf of justice to the campus to build on PVAMU students’ long history of political engagement.

The Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice launches in 2021.

For more information, contact Melanye Price, Ph.D., at mtprice@pvamu.edu.

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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.

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