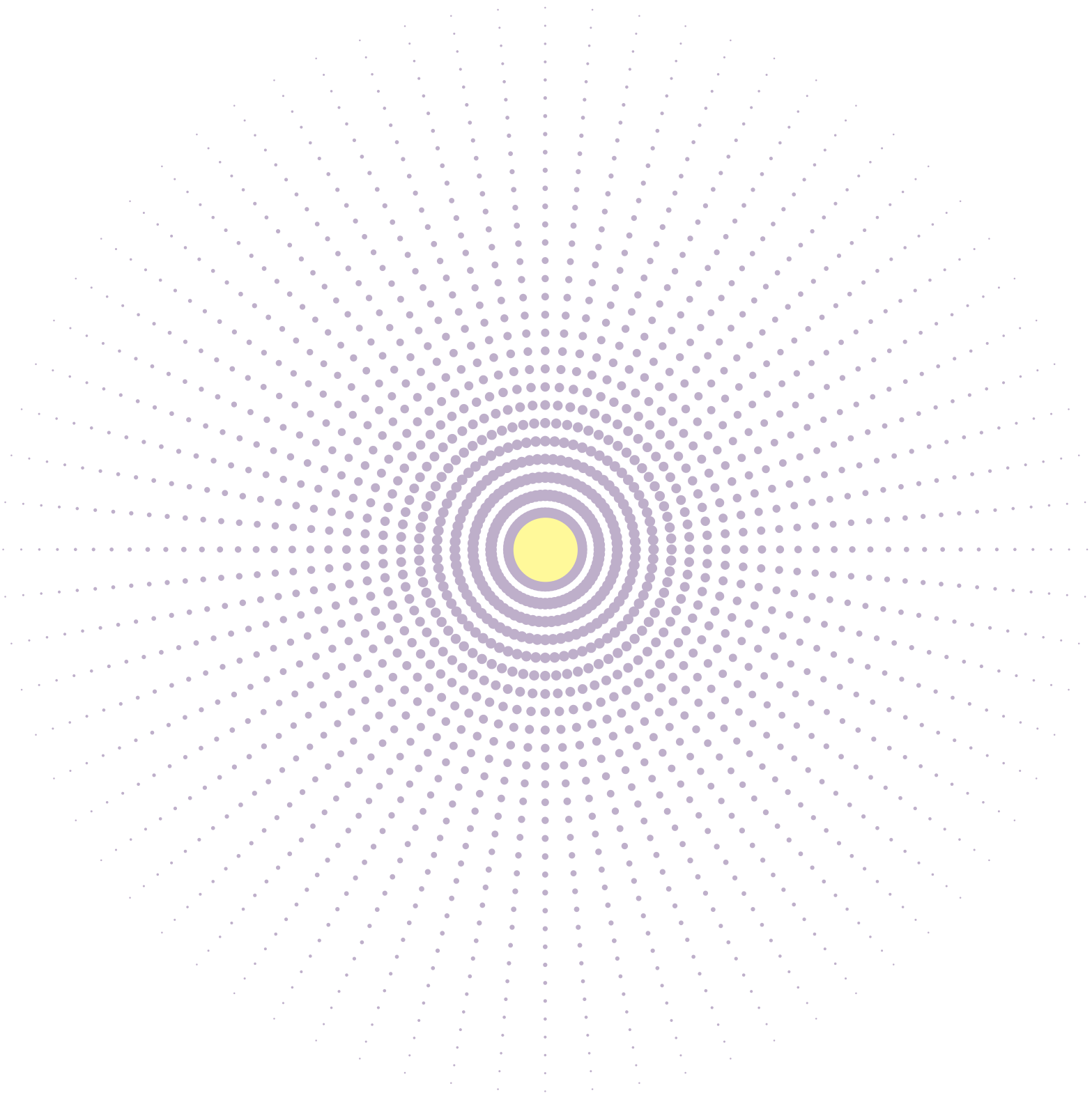


2020



ANNUAL REPORT

*Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology*



LETTER FROM THE INTERIM DEAN & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	02
MISSION	04
COJJP ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS	04
RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS	05
FACULTY SERVICE	06
RESEARCH PROJECTS	
Risk and Resilience: Examining Older Youth Experiences at the Start of a Pandemic	08
Texas Child and Family Study	10
PUBLICATIONS	
In print	11
Presentations	12
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
<u>Education</u>	
Royce West Forum and Lecture Series	14
The Gavel Series	15
Blackstone Pre-Law Society	15
Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center Brown Bag Series	16
15th Annual Research Symposium	17
2021 Undergraduate Research Opportunities: Beyond STEM	17
Research Using the Vast Selection of Datasets from ICPSR	17
Second Annual Summit on Improving the Outcomes of African American and Latinx Male Youth	18
<u>Community Engagement</u>	
Prairie View-Haverstock Venture	21
Haverstock Christmas Toy Giveaway	21
Excellence and Advancement Foundation	21
Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Community Giveaway	22
Agape Development	22
The Psychology Training Clinic (Waller County, Texas)	22
Mental Health Services in Sunnyside Houston	22
TRAININGS	
Travis County Parent Engagement Training	23
Truancy Prevention and Reduction in Hempstead Independent School District	23
Training for Substance Use Prevention	23
Mental Health First Aid	24
PARTNERSHIPS	
PVAMU Healthy Houston Initiative	24
Texas HB 906 Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services	24
Texas Racial Equity Collaborative	25
Children At Risk	25
DATA REPORTS	
Texas Juvenile Secure Facilities: Incident Trends 2020	25
Data Brief: COVID-19 Texas Juvenile Secure Facilities	25
Criminal Justice and Mental Health Professionals: Perceptions of Juvenile Sex Offending	26
What Parents Think...Data Briefs from the 2017 Statewide Needs Assessment	26
COJJP GLOBETROTTERS	
Gibson gives Keynote at International Victimology Conference in India	26
Studying the Criminal Justice System and City Slums in India	27
MURTI Research Symposium	27
DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS	28
NEW HIRES	28
RISING STARS: STUDENT ALUMNI	29

Letter from the Interim Dean and Executive Director

Dr. Camille Gibson



Dear Friends,

In 2020, like much of the world, the Center was forced to adjust to life in the era of COVID-19. Thankfully, it had already begun to put trainings in an online format to expand its reach. In many ways, life on zoom has increased access and participation in programming to farther corners of the state and even the world.

Of concern this year is the impact of COVID on the well-being of children in terms of the long term effects, the economic impact on the family including access to basic necessities such as housing and food, and health and mental health care. For many there is a need to address childhood depression and anxiety symptoms given a loss of the usual structures and social supports of life plus an increased exposure to violence and various forms of child abuse and trauma by simply spending more time in certain strained household environments. Beyond the home, many children have also been impacted by a digital divide, of which, the effects on academic achievement are unclear. Within Texas, concerns continue about the youth in the state's residential facilities. The Center has remained attentive and responsive to these issues by placing doctoral psychology practicum and internship students in the community, and by serving youth in the justice system in the Psychology Training Clinic. Its staff have partnered with other organizations to examine and propose legislation such as with Children at Risk's Racial Equity Collaborative.

The Center staff also contributed to the state's HB 906 Mental Health Task Force's report of recommendations given the mental health needs of Texas children in schools. This included attending to how undiagnosed mental health issues often become factors in school disciplinary practices and the need to address race-related trauma.

After a summer of protests worldwide in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, the Center facilitated efforts to encourage civic engagement toward community empowerment for sustainable change. Within the A&M System it has representation in the new Institute for Criminal Justice Data Analytics which is examining Texas's fidelity to the Sandra Bland Act. The Act requires sustained attention to police stops and in custody care.

Center highlights this year include participation in the Healthy Houston initiative offering mental health support and family relevant trainings in Sunnyside, Haverstock and other parts of Houston; developing its six-city community collaborative effort to prevent delinquency in Tyler, Austin, Waller, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. We are also expanding into Hidalgo county in 2021 and continuing the African American and Latino Young Males initiative to address the outcome gap of boys. This effort's annual summer symposium, featured keynote speaker Stedman Graham who spoke via zoom pro bono on nurturing self-leadership in our boys.

The Center and the College are approaching the dusk of 2020 exploring how to refocus more directly on its Juvenile Justice mission though a change in College structure, more dedicated resources to direct delinquency prevention programming statewide and integrated processes toward substantive juvenile delinquency prevention outcomes in the years to come.

We appreciate the many friends, partners and organizations assisting us in efforts to guide the children of Texas and their families on a positive trajectory.

Yours Sincerely,

C. Gibson

Camille Gibson, Ph.D., C.R.C.
Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
Interim Dean, College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology

Mission

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology are committed to the reduction of juvenile delinquency and crime in the State of Texas, and strive to attain national recognition in the areas of education, research, and service in doing the following:

- conducting, coordinating, collecting, and evaluating research in all areas relating to juvenile crime and delinquency;
- providing a setting for educational programs relating to juvenile delinquency and crime, including degree programs at Prairie View A&M University and other educational programs such as continuing education and in-service training for criminal justice and social service professionals;
- serving as a state and national resource for information on juvenile delinquency and crime; and,
- developing community-based programs, policies, and strategies to address juvenile delinquency and crime and related social problems; and,
- creating partnerships, collaborative efforts, or outreach, public service, or technical assistance programs to assist communities, governmental agencies, or private entities to implement programs, policies, and strategies that address juvenile delinquency and crime and related social problems.

COJJP Advisory Board Members

- Board Chair, Dr. Michael Villarreal, Education Faculty, University of Texas San Antonio, former member of the Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Royce West, Texas Senate
- The Honorable Borris L. Miles, Texas Senate
- The Honorable James White, Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Craig Washington, former member, Texas House, Senate and U.S. Congress
- Ms. Vickie Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer Texas CASA
- Ms. Joyce James, Joyce James Consulting, former Assistant Commissioner of Texas Child Protective Services Program
- Mr. Keith V. Branch, Assistant Deputy Director of Human Resources, Harris County Juvenile Probation
- Ms. Patricia Harrington, Director, Mayor's Anti-Gang Task Force, Houston
- Dr. Michael McFrazier, Dean, Prairie View A&M University College of Education
- Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner, District 4
- Dr. Abdul Haleem (Robert) Muhammad, Student Minister, Mosque No. 45, Urban Planner, Houston
- Dr. Emily Knox, Senior Research Scientist, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- The Honorable Carol Chaney, Judge, Waller County Court at Law
- The Honorable Aurora Martinez Jones, Associate Judge, Travis County District Court
- The Honorable Renee R. Betancourt, Judge, 449th District Court, Edinburgh
- Dr. Akalita Ross, College Alumna, Clinical Psychologist
- Andre Evans, Esq. College Alumnus
- Lakisha Alomaja, Esq. College Alumna

Research Grants and Awards

Broadus, A. Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. Statewide Adolescent Needs Assessment (SANA). Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Graduate Research Funding Award. \$10,000 Principal Investigator (Graduate Research Assistant Roberto de Freitas).

Gibson, C. Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. Police Misconduct. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award. \$5,000 Principal Investigator (Undergraduate Research Assistant, Leslie Lively).

Gibson, C. Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station. Powering up: Cybersecurity Education. \$20,000. Co-Principal Investigator (with Abhijit Nag, Dan Crieder, Ram Neupane, Vikrani Bhadauria and Mirley Balasubramanya).

Ouassini N. Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. Youth Perceptions of Police Trustworthiness, Court Procedural Fairness, and the Relationship to Political and Justice System Engagement. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award. \$5,000 Principal Investigator (Undergraduate Research Assistant, Kimaja Clay).

Ouassini N. Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Award. Participation in an intensive capacity building and curriculum development program in India, with visits to New Delhi, Jaipur, and Lucknow to understand how environmental pressures, social, cultural, and economic factors impact aspects of life in India. Research focus: The Relationship between the Criminal Justice System and the City Slums.

Ouassini, N. American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS). AIIS Research Fellowship for 2021-22. Research project titled Slums and Law Enforcement in India.

Shigemoto, Y. Prairie View A&M University Division of Research & Innovation Rapid-Response Grant Program (RAPID). Exploring State-level Variabilities between Community Resilience and Post-traumatic Stress Symptoms during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Multilevel Modeling Approach.

Yelderman, L. Texas A&M Energy Institute. Research Seed Grant. Renewable Energy for Distributive and Procedural Justice in the Development of Alternative Energy Resources for the City of Prairie View. \$40,000.00 (Co-PI; PI – Sarhan Musa)

Yelderman, L. Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. Parole Boards, Mental Health, and Punitive Legislation: An Exploratory Analysis. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award. \$5,000 Principal Investigator (Undergraduate Research Assistant, Dominique Ellis).

Faculty Service

Testimony to Address Policing that is Deadly to Black Americans

Dr. Camille Gibson has been invited to prepare testimony for the International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence against People of African Descent in the United States in December 2020. This inquiry is in support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) Human Rights Council pursuant to resolution 43/1 on "the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Africans and People of African Descent against Excessive Use of Force and Other Human Rights Violations by Law Enforcement Officers." The testimony (from Gibson and former undergraduate, now attorney, Lakisha Alomaja) will be videotaped in December for the National Conference of Black Lawyers working with the National Lawyers Guild in their efforts to investigate anti-Black violence by police in the United States, to recommend accountability measures, and to advise the UN High Commission. The invitation is as a result of a 2017 article by Gibson, with Juvenile Justice alumnus Dr. Julian Scott, and then criminal justice undergraduates Lakisha Alomaja, Ashley Minter and Leanna Davis "When perceptions are deadly: Policing, given the summer in Ferguson, Missouri and other similar stories, before and since" in the Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs.

Addressing Police Reform in Texas in the Aftermath of Sandra Bland

Drs. Kimberly Chism and Camille Gibson, Justice Studies faculty are associate members of the newly created Texas A&M University System's Institute for Predictive Analytics in Criminal Justice. Led by Alex de Carmen, the Institute's first project is reporting on Texas' progress in adhering to the 2017 Sandra Bland Act.

The Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission, Austin, TX

Dr. Shantae Motley, faculty member in Justice Studies serves on the Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care Implementation Task Force (SCTIC). This involves assisting with the creation of the Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment Database as a part of the Policy and Practice Workgroup. Dr. Motley also contributes to the Training Workgroup (SCTIC) and the Information Sharing, Data, and Funding Workgroup (SCTIC). The objectives of these initiatives include seeing that all persons who address specific types of juvenile cases are informed about trauma and the best practices for responding. The Task Force was created by the Children's Commission along with the Texas court system. Other entities involved include CASA, DFPS, and county judges. The group reports to Jocelyn Fowler.

Dual Status Courts Pilot Program (for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice involved youth)

Dr. Shantae Motley, along with Prairie View Juvenile Justice Ph.D. alumna Dr. Sherri Simmons-Horton (University of Texas-San Antonio) are doing a program evaluation of the Texas Dual Status Courts Pilot Program. They will be examining the pilot program's activities, characteristics, and outcomes. The goal of the pilot program is to have the juveniles' cases heard in one court instead of splitting the responsibility between the juvenile justice and child protection services courts. The Executive Director (Jamie Bernstein) of the Children's Commission oversees the pilot. The idea is to accomplish more with at risk youth outside of the justice system to the extent possible.

International Voice on Justice

Dr. Sessa Kethineni, Justice Studies faculty, was elected to the position of Executive Counselor for the International Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) for a two-year term, starting in 2021. Dr. Kethineni will also serve as the American Society of Criminology's (ASC) NGO Representative to the United Nations for a two-year term (2021-2023).

Research Projects

“Risk and Resilience: Examining Older Youth Experiences at the Start of a Pandemic”

This project was a collaboration between the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Student Affairs (Student Counseling Services) college adjustment, and PVAMU levels of preparedness and student support during the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes

The final sample included 265 first-year students attending the University.

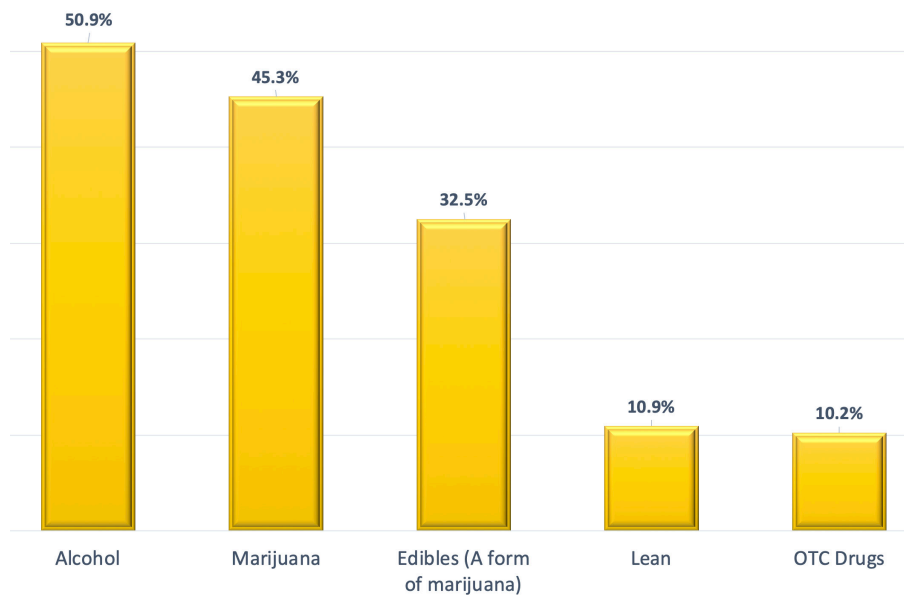
Demographics (n=265)		Freq	%
History	First Generation (First in family to attend college)	120	45.3
	First Year (Parents attended college)	145	54.7
Age	18	103	38.9
	19	148	55.8
	20	10	3.8
	23	1	0.4
	64	2	0.8
Sex	Male	60	22.6
	Female	205	77.4
Ethnicity/Race	Hispanic/Latin X	40	15.1
	African American or Black	235	90.4
	Multiracial (2 or more races)	14	5.4
	Asian	2	0.8
	Caucasian or White	4	1.5
	Prefer not to identify	5	1.9
Location	I live on campus	57	21.5
	I live off campus	26	0.8
	I live on campus until the COVID-19 pandemic occurred and then I moved.	182	68.7

Substance Use

An important risk factor for success in college is the exposure to illicit and/or psychoactive substances. Students highlighted a potential issue with 90.2% (n = 239) reporting that they had seen one or more drugs on campus (see figure below). Although exposure to illicit substances does not necessarily constitute use, such exposure does raise risk levels in vulnerable students by normalizing drug use on campus. Forty percent (n = 107) of students also admitted to trying drugs during their first year in college, and 12.5% (n = 14) stated that their first use began after starting college.

¹ A few students also reported having seen prescription drugs, academic enhancers, synthetic marijuana, and LSD, club drugs, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, crystal methamphetamine, and Flakka.

Figure 1: Primary Drug seen on Campus



Mental Health

The survey compared frequency of depression and anxiety symptoms during the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters. Reported symptom frequency for all symptoms remained consistently low (occurring ‘rarely, less than a day or two’) across both semesters. However, first year students did report a significant decrease in anxiety levels from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020 [$M = 2.28$, $SD = 1.03$ vs. $M = 2.08$, $SD = 1.07$, respectively; $[t(100) = 2.73, p < .01]$].

Availability and Accessibility to Mental Health Services

Using a 7 point Likert scale ranging from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 7 = Strongly Agree, students rated whether mental health services were available on campus and in the community during Fall 2019 than during Spring 2020. Students were more likely to agree that services were available on campus than within the community.

Figure 2: Availability of Mental Health Services

	PVAMU		Community	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Fall 2019	5.3	1.6	4.8	1.7
Spring 2020	5.0	1.7	4.6	1.9

Approximately half of all students agreed that they had the necessary accessibility (i.e., transportation) to services during fall 2019 (47.9%, $n = 103$, $M = 4.5$, $SD = 2.1$) and spring 2020 (52.4%, $n = 100$, $M = 4.8$, $SD = 2.1$).

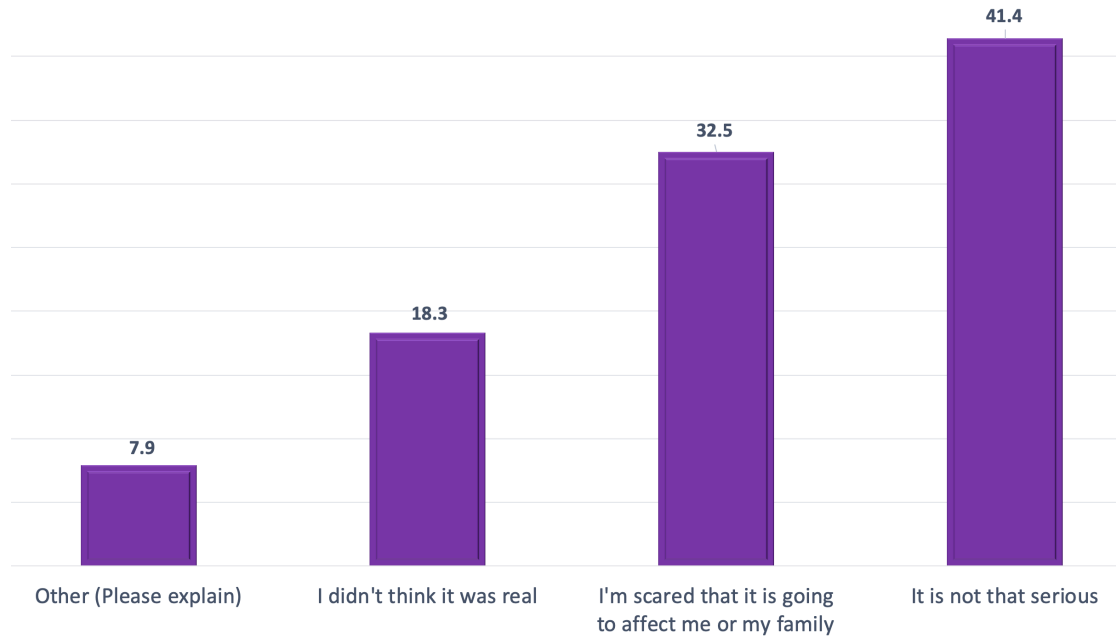
First Year Experience

Students described their first year experience through a series of eight questions that asked their perceptions of being supported, fitting in, making friends, joining clubs, being comfortable, feeling valued, and feeling a part of the PVAMU community. The majority of students agreed that they felt supported by the adults in their life during their first year of college, felt like they fit on campus, made at least one good friend, felt comfortable being themselves on campus and felt like part of the university community. In addition, 66.3% ($n = 130$) reported feeling “valued.” Student responses were mixed about whether they struggled to fit in at PVAMU with 41.2% agreeing that they did struggle.

COVID Pandemic

Student initial reactions to the pandemic were mixed with the top three challenges listed as transitioning to online classes (55.2%, n = 106), paying for expenses (14.1%, n = 27), and moving off campus and back home (13.5%, n = 26).

Figure 3: What was your immediate reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic rising in Texas?



Approximately half of the students (53.2%; n = 75) agreed that the university “did enough to support students during the pandemic.” Of those who disagreed, complaints centered around the following topics:

- Poor faculty and university communication with the students
- Grading issues
- Requests for a decreased class load
- Issues with housing and moving, particularly for international students
- Issues related to emergency funds/financial support and a lack of money
- Issues about a lack of needed technical resources

These statements may reflect the difficulties students encountered learning about and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of those who responded to the question, 80.9% (n = 144) indicated that they had not previously taken an online class. Of the remaining, 19.1% (n = 34) had taken an online class in the past, and 87 students did not answer the question.

In addition 68.2% (n = 122) believed online learning to be more difficult than face-to-face courses.

Texas Child and Family Study

There has been significant progress during Phase I of the Texas Child and Family Study. The residents and public officials at the two target research sites of Phase I (Dallas and Tyler) are eager to begin service development and program implementation. The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center is prepared to move into a 2,500 square foot, fully renovated county owned building in Tyler and city owned office space in Dallas during the spring of 2021. Through email, telephone and virtual meetings the Center has maintained a consistent line of communication with community partners and advisory council members around the state. In Phase II we expect to open offices in Austin and Houston. Followed by Phase III, which will include San Antonio and Brookshire.

Publications

In print

Allen, T. T., & Whitt, A. (2020). An Examination of the Relationship Between Media Exposure and Fear of Victimization: Implications of the Superpredator Narrative on Juvenile Justice Policies. *Journal of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*, 71(4).

Caldwell, R. G., & Parham, T. A. (2020). The Bakari© Project: A Lifeline for African American Adolescent Development and Success. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 46 (6-7) 431-456.

Kethineni, S. (3rd Ed.). (2020). *Comparative and international policing, justice, and transnational crime* (3rd Ed). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. ISBN-13: 978-1531009144.

Kethineni, S. (2020). *Cybercrime in India: Laws, Regulations, and Enforcement Mechanisms*. T. J. Holt & A. Bossler (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of International Cybercrime and Cyberdeviance* (pp.327-343), London, UK. ISBN: 978-3-319-78439-7

Kethineni, S. & Grubb, J. (2020). An Evaluation of Redeploy Illinois on Juvenile Reoffending. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. First published online. June 2020. Doi: 10.1177/0306624X20928021

Kethineni, S., Harris, C., & Humiston, G. (2020). Specific crimes against humanity: Groups and minority rights. In S. Kethineni (Ed.), *Comparative and international policing, justice, and transnational crime* (3rd ed., pp. 259-286). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. ISBN-13: 978-1531009144

Kethineni, S., McCullough, S., & Charlton, R. (2020). Juvenile justice: A comparative perspective. In S. Kethineni (Ed.), *Comparative and international policing, justice, and transnational crime* (3rd ed., pp.143-166). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press ISBN-13: 978-1531009144

Kethineni, S., McCullough, S., Miriyam, T. N. (2020). Third Edition. *Correctional systems, philosophies, and innovations: A comparative perspective*. In S. Kethineni (Ed.), *Comparative and international policing, justice, and transnational crime* (3rd ed., pp. 113-137). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. ISBN-13: 978-1531009144

Kethineni, S., & Sundaravadivelu, D. (2020). Cryptocurrency and crime. In S. Kethineni (Ed.), *Comparative and international policing, justice, and transnational crime* (3rd ed., pp.463-491). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. ISBN-13: 978-1531009144

Ouassini, A., & Ouassini, N. (2020). Between a Rock and the Kasbah: Tourism Gentrification, Cultural Repackaging, and Identity in Tangier. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*: 0021909620943631. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0021909620943631>

Ouassini, N. (2020). Security through the Arab Winter: Cyber Strategies in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia. In S. Romaniuk & M. Majikian (Eds.), *Routledge Companion to Global Cyber Security Strategy*. London, UK: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Companion-to-Global-Cyber-Security-Strategy/Romaniuk-Manjikian/p/book/9780367024239>

Richards, S. N., Broadus, A. D., & Yelderian, L.A. (2020). Treatment and Non-treatment Professionals in Texas: Race, Sex, Age, and Level of Education Influencing Attitudes About Addiction. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 1-18. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042620971857>

Shigemoto, Y. (2020). Association between trajectories of personal growth initiative and posttraumatic stress after Hurricane Harvey: A latent growth mixture modeling approach. *Stress & Health*, October, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/smi.2995>

Shigemoto, Y. (2020). Reciprocal influence between posttraumatic stress and posttraumatic growth approximately one year after Hurricane Harvey: A bivariate latent change score modeling approach. *Traumatology*, 26(3), 317–324. <https://doi.org/10.1037/trm0000231>

Shigemoto, Y. (2020). Influence of community-level factors on relation between community resilience and posttraumatic growth. *Traumatology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/trm0000285>

Shigemoto, Y. & Kawachi, I. (2020). Social cohesion and quality of life among survivors of a natural disaster. *Quality of Life Research*, 29, 3191–3200. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-020-02590-7>

Shigemoto, Y., & Robitschek, C. (2020). Coping flexibility and trauma appraisal predict patterns of posttraumatic stress and personal growth initiative in student trauma survivors. *International Journal of Stress Management*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/str0000213>

Shigemoto, Y. & Rotischek, C. (2020) Personal growth initiative and posttraumatic stress among survivors of transportation accidents: Mixture modeling indicating changes in group membership over time. *Stress and Health*, 36, February, 365–375. <https://doi.org/10.1002/smi.2935>

Yelderman, L. A., Lawrence, T., Lyons, C., & DeVault, A. (2020). Actor-observer asymmetry in perceptions of parole board release decisions. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, Advance online publication. <https://doi:10.1080/13218719.2020.1821826>

Presentations

Cintron, M., Bolli, P. & Kumar, K. (2020, October). Student Police Academy: Survey results of Participants in “Building Community through Education and Understanding.” Virtual conference of the Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators.

Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2020, February). [Invited Keynote Address] Mentoring Matters! Innovative Approaches for Junior Faculty. Mbarara University Research Training Initiative Research Symposium, Mbarara, Uganda.

Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2020, February). [Invited Public Lecture] Critical Condition: Youth in the Juvenile Justice System. Mbarara University Research Training Initiative Research Symposium, Mbarara, Uganda.

Gibson, C. (2020, November). Eating an Elephant: Tackling White Supremacy so that Black and Brown Folks Can Survive the Police. Prairie View A&M University Virtual Speaker Series.

Gibson, C. (2020, October). Roundtable moderator and discussant. A Justice Classroom Collaborative. Virtual conference of the Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators.

Gibson, C. (guest of journalist Lindsey Blumell, October 10, 2020). London, UK Podcast: The Knowhow: Bill Cosby and the Me Too Movement.

Gibson, C. (moderator, June 2020). Political Science Summer Teach In: Race and Justice, George Floyd. Zoom Forum. June 2, 2020.

Gibson, C. (panelist, June 2020). Call to Action Post George Floyd and Too Many Others. Zoom Meeting Minorities and Women Section of ACJS.

Gibson, C. (2020, February) [Keynote address] Drug abuse among children from a victimological perspective. Seventh International and Eleventh Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology, Chennai, India.

Gibson, C. (2020, February) [Chairperson of session psychological impact of victims of crime]. Seventh International and Eleventh Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology, Chennai, India.

Gibson, C. (paper with S. Simmons-Horton & M. Prudhomme). (2020, March). Youth devotion to technological socializing: The impact on conventional bonds, social learning, deviant learning and risk of harm. Seventh International and Eleventh Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology, Chennai, India.

Rembert, D. (2020, October). Chair/ discussant. Current issues in courts and corrections. Virtual conference of the Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators.

Education and Community Engagement

Education

Royce West Forum and Lecture Series



The 17th annual Royce West Forum was a two-day event, held on February 11th and 12th. The theme was Juvenile Justice Crossroads: Redefining the Treatment of Children. In its tradition the forum shined a bright light on important issues related to juvenile justice and the overall well-being of children and families. This year a panel of experts from across the state and throughout the nation shared their wisdom with the campus and local community. The panelists included Dr. Jeannette Callahan Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and Medical Director of the Justice Resource Institute Northeast Health Service Unit. Dr. Callahan also provides care to detained and committed youth in the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services; Sharon Pruitt, the Assistant Attorney General with Juvenile Crime Intervention in Texas; Darryl Beatty, the Executive Director of the Dallas County Juvenile Department; Kameron Johnson, Public Defender for Travis County in Austin, Texas; Lt. Patrick M. Murray, Houston Police Department Juvenile Division; Charles Rotramel, the CEO of reVision Houston, a non-profit that works to break the cycle of isolation among the most profoundly disconnected youth, many of whom are involved in the juvenile justice system; and Austin-based Courtney Robinson, Ph.D., who is the Founder of Excellence and Advancement Foundation, which combats the school-to-prison pipeline; Attorney Sarah R. Guidry, the Executive Director of Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc., served as moderator for the panel "The State of Juvenile Justice."

Students were very engaged and raised interesting and provocative questions related to the current state of our juvenile justice system. Judge Earnestine Gray from the Orleans Parish in New Orleans, Louisiana gave a sterling talk about the intent of Juvenile Court and how the court has evolved over the past 120 years. She went into great details to discuss the current challenges of combining the principles of jurisprudence and child welfare to establish what is in the best interest of the child. Overall, it was an informative and inspiring event that lived up to the expectation of the Royce West Forum legacy.

A working group comprised of the panelists was created to develop a white paper. Their charge was to propose a plan of action to address issues that were raised during the panel discussion. Included in the discussion were some of the most pervasive and confounding juvenile justice issues in the state of Texas and around the nation. Some of the issues include: raising the majority age to 18, certification of juveniles and racial disparities in youth confinement. The Center will use this document to support their policy reform initiative that will be presented to the state legislature.

The Gavel Series

Tenants' and landlords' rights continued to be a subject of grave community concern. The need for more generalized and "user friendly" legal knowledge prompted the decision to host Landlord Tenant Law, in February 2020 at the launching of the Gavel Series' 7th year. The session featured our community partner, Judge M. Elaine Jackson, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 of Waller County, Attorney Richard Amagwula, Staff Attorney along with Kelly L. Austin, Managing Attorney—both of whom are with the Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy. This session focused on landlord – tenant disputes, duties, remedies and the court processes. With face-to-face sessions ceasing due to COVID-19, and the University's concern for constituent safety, the Gavel Series accommodated its audience and hosted its next session in a digital format.

Since its inception, The Gavel Series has actively engaged in voter education. In October 2020 it presented the Your Vote, Your Right webinar. Panelists Leah C. Aden, Deputy Director of Litigation at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., Louis A. Bedford, IV, Election Protection Legal Fellow of the Texas Civil Rights Project, and Dr. Michael O. Adams, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Executive Master of Public Administration Program of Texas Southern University, covered electoral politics, voting rights, voter suppression, and election protection. Using a virtual platform increased audience participation and attendance in unprecedented times. The Gavel Series has served hundreds of internal and external constituents. Through the leadership of Grady M. Paris, Esq., our founding community partner M. Elaine Jackson, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 Waller County, the Center's staff, and support from our partners at the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy at Texas Southern University, we continue to provide legal knowledge in a "user friendly" format.

Blackstone Pre-Law Society

Blackstone Pre-Law Society modified its platform to a digitally based organization in its efforts to thrive and promote student engagement, exposure and increased enrollment numbers of culturally responsible Black and minority undergraduate students into law schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. With new officers elected for the 2020 – 2021 academic year and the pandemic challenges, the organization heightened its longstanding collaborative efforts with the Political Science Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. This collaboration has been inclusive; benefiting the organization's members, students across disciplines, staff and alumni.

Emerging through adversity and under the guidance of Grady M. Paris, Esq. and Nathan K. Mitchell, Ph.D., webinars focused on pre-law advising, admissions, financial aid, and personal statements have promoted student engagement. The Rita and Doug Neagli Pre-Law Advising fund has sponsored these webinars that have included law school admissions deans from the University of Colorado, UCLA, University of Miami, George Washington University and the University of North Carolina. With this funding, a pilot program initiative has been created to provide a diverse cohort with on-going comprehensive pre-law advising services from former Law School Admission Dean, Anne M. Richard of AM Richard Consulting. This pilot is promising and we look forward to strengthening current efforts.

Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center Brown Bag Series

November 6, 2020: **Dr. Santiba Campbell** gave a presentation on “Defining Academic Success and Identifying Student Satisfaction”. A native of North Carolina, Dr. Campbell received her BA in psychology from Winston-Salem State University. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Delaware. Her basic research question was “What factors determine whether, in the face of perpetual threats posed by racism and racial discrimination, African Americans maintain positive psychological well-being, physical health, achieve success and reach personal goals, or adopt negative self-images and other destructive behaviors?” This was examined through racial identity development, intersectionality, and contemplative practices lens, with an interest in college student success and satisfaction.



December 4, 2020: **Dr. Angela Broadus** gave a presentation based her recent research titled “Experiences of First-Year Undergraduate Students Attending a Rural Historically Black College/University (HBCU)”. Dr. Angela Broadus joined the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M in April of 2016. She completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno’s Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Program, plus an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a B.S. in Psychology from Sam Houston State University. Since her arrival at Prairie View A&M, Dr. Broadus has developed 11 substance prevention workshops and has traveled extensively throughout the state to offer these workshops to those who work with or parent adolescents. Dr. Broadus brings 12 years of experience teaching online and face-to-face classes in substance use disorders and child development at the University of Nevada, Reno. She brings additional experience as a professional community trainer in the field of substance abuse prevention with the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) and in workshops related to substance use among older adults.

15th Annual Research Symposium

This year brought with it so many challenges that turned our world as we know it upside down. We had festive plans for the 2020 Annual Research Symposium in its 15th year! Despite the pandemic’s diversion of celebrations, we needed to recognize the hard work and talent that the 187 students invested all year working closely with their faculty. There was student representation from every college at the university as well as from nearby Blinn College. The numbers of undergraduate students interested and involved in research has grown steadily over the past 15 years at the university. As a high-impact undergraduate activity, we believe that this experience opens the world of possibilities for students in terms of their academic and future careers once they graduate. The undergraduate research experience is an opportunity for students to develop their observation and critical thinking skills for an ever-changing workforce. It prepares our graduates to lead using empirically-sound information.

2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities: Beyond STEM

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (TJCPC) at Prairie View A&M University, in partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Research (Office of Research, Innovation, and Sponsored Programs (ORISP)), held its Fourth Annual Undergraduate Research Information Session on October 19, 2020. This year, the session was held virtually on Zoom with 79 undergraduates registered. The session highlighted information from representatives of the following summer programs:

- Reuse Water Quality Research and Extension Experiences for Undergrads (REEU) at PVAMU
- Summer Undergraduate Research Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Michigan State University Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Summer Research Opportunities Program
- University of Michigan Future Public Health Leaders
- Summer Health Professions Education Program at UT Health
- Summer Research Program at Texas A&M School of Medicine

As a companion to the virtual session, a compilation of summer research opportunities was created for students to further explore. Many of these programs were not specifically targeted for science, engineering, mathematics, and technology (STEM) majors as we wanted to highlight the possibilities of all majors to become involved in summer research.

Research Using the Vast Selection of Datasets from ICPSR

During the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty may have been derailed in their research efforts because collecting primary data was difficult. On October 29, 2020, the Center provided a Zoom webinar to over 40 faculty and graduate students about existing data available through ICPSR -- a data archive serving the social and behavioral sciences, broadly defined. The presenter: Dr. Lynette Hoelter is an associate archivist and the Director of Instructional Resources at ICPSR. She is passionate about data use and quantitative reasoning/statistical literacy, especially within the undergraduate social science curriculum. She is also involved in several projects that contribute to social science data infrastructure.

As an institutional member, Prairie View A&M University has access to data from over 15,000 studies on topics ranging from education to aging, health care to the arts, and criminal justice to the environment. During the webinar, participants learned about the kinds of data in the collection and how to find them, as well as how ICPSR can help with other steps in the research process to ensure research transparency and replicability. Discussion of training opportunities in data stewardship, analysis, and substantive topics was also presented. Every PVAMU student, staff, or faculty member can create their own free MyData login with ICSPR at <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/rpxlogin>. In 2019-2020, 837 datasets were downloaded by PVAMU graduate and undergraduate students, staff, and faculty.



Second Annual Summit on Improving the Outcomes of African American and Latinx Male Youth

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
2ND ANNUAL
SUMMIT ON IMPROVING THE OUTCOMES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AND LATINX MALE YOUTH
August 6, 2020 | 9:00am - 2:30pm
A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Summit Website: <https://bit.ly/2XMon8r> Registration: <https://bit.ly/3cBRMdy>

During this virtual summit, you will learn from leading researchers about the current trends and educational changes affecting African American and Latinx young males.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
MACH-III
children atRisk

For more information, contact: Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Ph.D. sfkouassi@pvamu.edu or Stella Smith, Ph.D. stsmith@pvamu.edu

On August 6, 2020 the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (TxJCPC) and the Minority Achievement Creativity and High Ability (MACH-III) Center at Prairie View A&M University organized the Second Annual Summit on Improving the Outcomes of African American and Latinx Male Youth. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the summit was hosted virtually for 525 registrants and livestreamed via social media to an audience of 3,595 attendees. During the event, leading researchers shared data and directions on how families, schools, and communities can help young African American and Latino males survive and thrive in the current dual pandemics: COVID-19 and systemic racism.

“We have a broad target for participants, including educators, students, parents, policymakers, and all interested parties that support positive educational outcomes for African American and Latinx young males,” TxJCPC Director **Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi** and MACH-III Associate Director **Dr. Stella Smith** said in a Q&A that was posted to the PVAMU website. “The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and further exacerbated

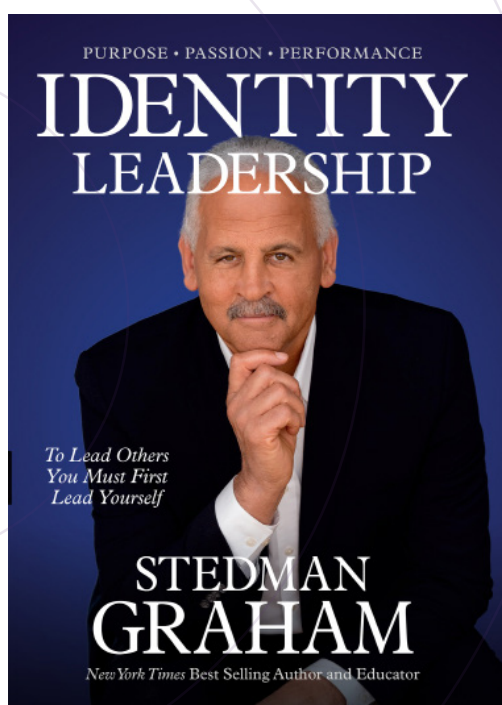
the disenfranchisement and disparities that already exist in public education. This summit provides African American and Latinx young males, their families, communities, and schools with research-based information on the disparities and suggestions for where to go from there.”

The TxJCPC and MACH-III Center decided to join forces a few years ago to see how they could help improve the lives of these two groups of boys, who have been the most disproportionately affected by society in the U.S. “We first began discussing this idea a few years ago in Austin at a meeting with representatives from several organizations and institutions around the state of Texas,” the directors said. “We wanted to see what we could do to improve the educational outcomes of these young men. As we talked, we realized that one area where we, as research centers at a higher education institution, had the expertise to affect and support were the grassroots efforts of community organizations that are on the ground supporting our students who do not have access to support for program assessment and sustainability efforts.”

In forming this interdisciplinary partnership, they planned the *First Annual Summit on Improving the Outcomes of African American and Latinx Male Youth* in 2019 to provide stakeholders from the Houston metropolitan area an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and learn about processes for organizational development and sustainability. With the 2020 summit, the centers aimed to do the same thing – find solutions to help future generations and leaders among African American and Latinx male youth.

“Texas State Senator **Royce West** (D) provided us with a charge to develop strategies to close the achievement gap for African American and Latinx male students in Texas,” said Frazier-Kouassi and Smith. “Responding to his charge were persons representing the Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Committee, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, independent school districts, and other higher education personnel. This planning group met over several months to review an extensive body of research related to the root causes and the potential solutions.

“We want participants to leave the summit with a better understanding of the current trends, including police reform, school segregation, COVID-19. And also, the micro and macrosystems that undergird the challenges and opportunities for African American and Latinx young male success,” they said. “We hope that our participants will be inspired to continue to advocate for these students in new and innovative ways, because in the current dual pandemics of COVID and resurgent racism, it is critical to have a dialogue about challenges and strategies to support our African American and Latinx young males.”



The featured keynote speaker for this year’s summit was **Mr. Stedman Graham**, Chairman and CEO of S. Graham and Associates, a management and marketing consulting firm. He is the author of 12 books, including two New York Times best sellers and one Wall Street Journal bestseller. In addition to Mr. Stedman, summit presenters included **Dr. Delores Jones-Brown**, **Dr. Andrea McDonald**, and **Ms. Valerie Sterne**. Dr. Delores Jones-Brown, Professor Emeritus from the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York was the founding director of the John Jay College Center on Race, Crime and Justice where she also served as a faculty research fellow. Her areas of research and scholarship include: race, crime and the administration of justice, police-community relations, juvenile justice, and the legal socialization of adolescent males. Dr. Jones-Brown gave a presentation on “Systemic Racism in Policing: True Confessions and Potential Solutions”. Dr. Andrea McDonald is an Assistant Professor of Health and current curriculum chair in the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Prairie View A&M University. Dr. McDonald’s primary research interests center on underserved minority youth health and risk factors (food preparation literacy). Dr. McDonald’s

presentation on “COVID-2019 Impacts on the Education System and Future Directions for African American and Latinx Youth” was especially timely. Ms. Valerie Sterne is a doctoral student in Education Policy and Planning at the University of Texas at Austin with over 15 years of experience as an educator. Her interest in patterns of school segregation and school integration policy served as a springboard for her presentation on “Racial Disparities in School Poverty”.

Following the three presentations in the morning; an afternoon panel of discussants including **Dr. Rosa M. Banda** (Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi); **Dr. Laura J. Cortez** (Founder and CEO, Cortez Consulting); **Dr. Camille Gibson** (Interim Dean, College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology & Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University), **Dr. Howard Henderson** (Founding Director of the Center for Justice Research and Professor of Justice Administration in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University); and **Dr. Enrique Romo** (Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Weber State University). This panel of experts offered an expanded discussion of the morning's topics. **Dr. Michael McFrazier** (Professor and Dean of the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education at Prairie View A&M University) served as the panel's moderator. The recording and all presentations as well as additional resources are available at <https://www.pvamu.edu/mach-iiicenter/programs-2/summit/>.

Community Engagement

Prairie View-Haverstock Venture



The Prairie View Haverstock Venture Project is a partnership between The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program. They began to hold weekly meetings to discuss how they will leverage their resources to create a research/service plan. The result of those meetings led to an intervention schedule that is designed to provide a pathway to self-sufficiency and improved quality of life for residents in the Haverstock Homes community. There are four targeted population groups in the community for whom services will be delivered. They are: (1) youth (2) mothers with children (3) young men and (4) older residents. The overwhelming majority of residents in the Haverstock community is low income, unemployed; academically challenged and lack competitive job skills. The ultimate goal is to facilitate the transformation of this community into a living space where children can thrive and adults can live comfortably and revive the pursuit of their career aspirations. This community will also serve as a research laboratory for the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. The Center will use this space to conduct surveys and focus groups on issues related to juvenile justice and child and family well-being.

Haverstock Christmas Toy Giveaway

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Program ended the year 2020 on a high note. We participated in the Haverstock Apartment Homes' annual Christmas toy giveaway. Children and their parents lined up to receive a Prairie View gift bag that included a t-shirt, lanyard and calendar. Residents at the Apartment Home Complex are excited and looking forward to the services and programs offered on site by Prairie View A&M University.



Excellence and Advancement Foundation

The Excellence and Advancement Foundation is an Austin based community partner. They provide service to at-risk children and families throughout Travis County. They are in partnership with the Center to implement The Child and Family Study in Austin. Their access to children and youth are critical to our effort to create evidence based programs and services. Center staff hold weekly meetings with the Foundation to assist in developing a parent engagement and community development service delivery model. This model was an integral part of a recent grant that was submitted to the State of Texas. If the grant is funded the Center will continue its role as a consultant.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Community Giveaway (Dallas, Texas)

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is a critical community partner. To strengthen that relationship and gain rapport with the Dallas community we participated in their annual Juneteenth community celebration. This year, to practice social distancing, it was a drive-through, contactless event. We gave away t-shirts, cups, bags and lanyards to more than 500 families in Dallas County. We also had an opportunity to meet and interact with other organizations and potential community partners.



The Psychology Training Clinic (Waller County, Texas)

The Psychology Training Clinic continues to offer mental health assessments and services to the community, including persons referred by Waller County Juvenile Probation and the Waller County District Attorney's Office. Given the pandemic, services have been available via telemental health. The Clinic Director is Dr. Brandon Sylvester.

Mental Health Services in Sunnyside, Houston

Spring 2020, the College continued its service delivery in the Sunnyside, Houston community through Provision Academy. Clinical mental health services were available to middle to high school students through the Clinical Adolescent Psychology Ph.D. program and the Psychology Training Clinic.

Agape Development

Agape Development is a Houston based community partner. To support them and improve our presence in the community we attended the grand opening of their community center. Our interaction with them has laid the foundation for future community collaborations and projects.



Trainings

Travis County Parent Engagement Training

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Travis County's Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct One, continue collaborative efforts to prevent and reduce truancy. From December 2019 to March of 2020, face-to-face Parent Engagement training workshops were offered at the courthouse complex to middle and high school students and their parents. These participants attended four consecutive training sessions which included: a) Communication: Talking "At" or Talking "With"; b) Effective Parenting; c) Effective Advocacy; and d) Parental Involvement: Parents Being Present.

Training for parents of elementary school students was conducted at various campuses in the Austin Independent School District. Specific trainings for parents of K through 5th grade students were implemented to address absenteeism, tardiness, and early dismissals—all of which were determined to have been excessive and unexcused. A total of 224 individuals, parents and/or students from both Manor and Austin school districts, participated in these trainings.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face trainings were discontinued in March; however, the need to empower parents to become meaningfully engaged in the lives of their children heightened. To continue to meet this need by providing guidance, Judge Williams, Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, allowed the Parent Engagement program developer and trainer, Grady M. Paris, Esq., to participate in juvenile court dockets involving truancy filings via zoom. Beginning January of 2021, parents and their students, who are referred to the Parent Engagement training program will receive their training online.

Truancy Prevention and Reduction in Hempstead Independent School District (H.I.S.D.)

As a result of the Center's collaboration with H.I.S.D. and it being awarded a grant from the Juvenile Justice Criminal Justice Division of Governor's Abbott's office, Hempstead High School hired a full-time truancy officer and a part-time Parent Engagement specialist in 2020. Technical support for a continuation grant, consultation, and training for the high school's truancy prevention and reduction program was provided by Grady M. Paris, Esq. In January of 2020, face-to-face evening training sessions were offered at the high school to 10 different families referred by the Truancy team. Direct student telephone conferencing follow-up was provided as needed to students through May, 2020. Truancy prevention and reduction training will be provided to families and their students through spring 2021 given the grant.

Training for Substance Use Prevention

Due to the COVID pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions, one in-person substance use workshop was presented during the year (to the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department). Beginning in June, we offered zoom workshops for probation offices in Harris County (five workshops) and Fort Bend County (two workshops). Eight workshops were presented for the year, reaching 123 participants .

During 2020, we also developed one new course and worked with Symbiosis, a New York-based curriculum design team, in converting core substance use workshops to a fully interactive and online format. The new core course, developed specifically for Texas probation officers, has been a popular addition to our substance use workshop curriculum (From Discipline to Rehabilitation: Barriers to and Solutions for Change).

Mental Health First Aid

Due to the COVID pandemic, we held only one face-to-face Youth Mental Health First Aid responder workshop on the PVAMU campus. In early summer, the National Behavioral Council converted the YMHFA curriculum to an online format with training provided to all instructors. Once re-certified in the online format, we held three more YMHFA workshops with the Rosehill Christian School teachers and staff, and with nursing students in Plainview, Texas. For the year, four YMHFA workshops were completed, reaching 40 participants.

Partnerships

PVAMU Healthy Houston Initiative

In October, with an investment of \$750,000 from the Texas A&M University System, Prairie View A&M University launched Phase I of the Healthy Houston Initiative. The initiative is to address mental and physical health gaps in specific underserved communities (Alief-Westwood, Acres Homes, Fort Bend, Gulfton, Kashmere Gardens, Magnolia Park-Manchester, Near Northside, Second and Third Wards, and Sunnyside) in the nation's fourth largest city.

Building on its existing programming, the initiative will offer instruction and direct health services regarding nutrition, basic health monitoring, finances, and mental health. The Colleges partnering to deliver the services are Agriculture and Human Sciences, Nursing, Business and the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology's Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Dr. Angela Broadus, lead trainer in the Center will contribute virtual sessions of Mental Health First Aid as well as Substance Use and Misuse trainings; and Center Associate Director Grady Paris will offer a two week virtual version of Parent Engagement trainings in Phase II, Year I. In so doing, the Center is building on its 2019 to 2020 work in Sunnyside in which it offered direct mental health services to high school students via its psychology clinical doctoral students. It is also utilizing its partnerships in the Haverstock Hills community toward strengthening the self-efficacy of the youth therein toward positive life outcomes.

Texas HB 906 Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services

This year Camille Gibson and Susan Frazier-Kouassi from the Center participated in the Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services, contributing to its Year 1 Report. The Texas Education Agency submitted the report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Texas Legislature as required by law in November. Chair Senfronia Thompson and Senator Beverly Powell are making it their mission to see that the report and the recommendations therein are given thorough attention. The report is available at the Texas Education Agency (TEA) *Legislative Reports* at: <https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/legislative-reports>

Recommendations include systematically attending to school personnel knowledge regarding mental health; examining school climates; attending to the whole family; and, monitoring the extent to which inattention to child mental health may be contributing to disciplinary practice disparities.

²Note that we taught 733 fewer during 2020 due to COVID.

Texas Racial Equity Collaborative (TREC)

Susan Frazier-Kouassi and Camille Gibson from the Center have been a part of the Children at Risk Texas Racial Equity Collaborative (TREC). The Collaborative met bi-weekly via zoom to examine issues of racial disparity magnified in 2020 by the pandemic. Initially chaired by Jerry Hawkins, of Dallas Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation, the Collaborative drafted a Childhood Racial Disparities Impact Statement Bill (SB 108) filed by Senator Royce West in the House this fall. The bill calls for an examination of potential racial disparities in any proposed legislation impacting children.

Children at Risk (CAR)

The Children at Risk Institute is an academically oriented policy and research collaborative focused on facilitating research and scholarship to promote new and innovative public policy solutions to the challenges faced by children. The Institute oversees the Journal of Family Strengths and the Journal of Applied Research on Children. It further helps guide and direct the research activities of CHILDREN AT RISK, as well as identify new projects and partnerships that will strengthen its research and advocacy. Both Camille Gibson and Susan Frazier-Kouassi are members of the Institute; as well as serving on the editorial board of the Journal of Family Strengths as Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor respectively. This fall the journal launched a call for papers for an upcoming special issue on “Improving the Outcomes of African American and Latino Male Youth”. Dr. Frazier-Kouassi is sharing the guest editor responsibility with Dr. Stella Smith (Associate Director of Minority Achievement, Creativity and High Ability Center, Prairie View A&M University).

Data Reports

Texas Juvenile Secure Facilities: Incident Trends 2020

Researchers in the Center are working to compile a data report summarizing incident trends for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department secure facilities. This report is timely, as it follows recent media attention regarding concerns of reported assaults and other violations in youth facilities in Texas. The data being compiled come from public reports provided by the Office of Independent Ombudsman which outline yearly incidence rates (e.g., use of pepper spray, restraints, assaults, etc...) and filed complaints. The report will provide an overview of incidents in 2020 and will assess trends across the past five years. The report will be available in January 2021.

Data Brief: COVID-19 Texas Juvenile Secure Facilities

Given the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, juveniles detained in secure facilities are at high risk for exposure to this deadly disease. Leaders in juvenile corrections and youth advocacy groups have called for the release of as many juveniles in facilities as safely possible to reduce potential exposure to this disease. This data brief summarizes positive cases of COVID19 in youth and staff members in Texas Juvenile Justice Department secure facilities, as well as the department’s response to handling COVID-19. This brief also provides a comparative glimpse into how juvenile secure facilities in Texas are handling the pandemic in comparison to other states. This data brief will be available in January 2021.

Criminal Justice and Mental Health Professionals Perceptions of Juvenile Sex Offending

Juveniles who commit sexual offenses are highly amenable to treatment and have low recidivism rates. Despite this, current policies and justice-related responses to juvenile sex offending tend to be highly punitive (e.g., mandated public sex offense registration) which contribute to substantial collateral consequences and barriers to successful rehabilitation. In light of this, and due to a paucity of research in this area, we are conducting an exploratory survey of criminal justice and mental health professionals across the U.S. to better understand their perceptions surrounding juvenile sexual offending and potential challenges of working with this population. Further, we are gathering recommendations for how to improve services, treatment, and policies regarding youth who have committed sexual offenses. We plan to continue recruitment into mid-spring, but currently have 150 survey responses from professionals in 38 different states.

What Parents Think...Data Briefs from the 2017 Statewide Needs Assessment of Families with Adolescents

The Center created a series of short 1-2 pages briefs based on the findings of the 2017 Statewide Needs Assessment of Families with Adolescents. Starting in December, the center will highlight data from the survey. This survey consisted of a statewide representation of adult Texas residents with adolescents (age 12-17). The survey covers general beliefs about adolescents, crime within their communities, causes of delinquency, barriers to successful crime-free adolescence, suggestions to reduce crime within this population, the level of influence that specific institutions hold in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, and adolescents' accessibility to mental health and substance use treatment in their communities.



COJJP Globetrotters

Gibson gives Keynote at International Victimology Conference in India

Camille Gibson, Interim Dean of Prairie View A&M University's College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology and Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, was an honored guest and resource at the Silver Jubilee Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology in Chennai, India. Dr. Gibson was a part of a delegation of international scholars from countries such as Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Bosnia, and Herzegovina at the conference, which was held Feb. 28-March 1.



The event was hosted by the University of Madras, which has a criminology and psychology focus, and the Stella Morris College's Department of Psychology. The conference was the 7th International and 11th Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Victimology.

Gibson delivered a keynote address on drug abuse among children from a victim's perspective, a paper presentation on youth risk in cyberspace, and she chaired a panel on psychological impacts on victims of crime.

"The conference was an excellent opportunity to learn about research and practice developments in various parts of the world, relevant to the work that we do in the College in serving the State," she said.

Studying the Criminal Justice System and City Slums in India

Nabil Ouassini, Assistant Professor in Justice Studies received the highly competitive Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) award. As one of the selected awardees, Dr. Ouassini participated in an intensive capacity building and curriculum development program in India. The group visited New Delhi, Jaipur, and Lucknow to understand how environmental pressures, social, cultural, and economic factors impact aspects of life in India. Dr. Ouassini's specific focus was on the relationship between the criminal justice system and the city slums. The award allowed him to participate in this intensive capacity building and curriculum development program in India from December 2019 to January 2020. While in New Delhi, Dr. Ouassini had the opportunity to better understand the cities of Jaipur and Lucknow to understand how environmental pressures, social, cultural and economic factors impact aspects of life in India.

MURTI Research Symposium



Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center travelled to Uganda earlier this year. She was invited to deliver two lectures at the Mbarara University Research Training Initiative (MURTI)'s research symposium in Mbarara, Uganda. Dr. Frazier-Kouassi's public lecture, "Critical Condition: Youth in the Juvenile Justice System," took place on February 19th focusing on the research and scholarship focus of the center. More than 200 students, faculty, and community members attended this lecture. On February 20th, she gave her keynote address titled, "Mentoring Matters! Innovative Approaches for Junior Faculty," a lecture targeted towards new faculty as they begin their careers. "This trip is significant because of the possibility of creating an international, collaborative partnership with Mbarara University of Science and Technology in the area of research and development, and youth crime and crime prevention," Frazier-Kouassi said.

In her public lecture, Dr. Frazier-Kouassi elaborated on one of the pressing issues in the U.S. related to juveniles, the 'school-to-prison pipeline,' a problem rooted in the historical and contemporary forces in our country.

During this trip, she was able to explore future opportunities to collaborate with MURTI and other institutions on youth topics. It would mean an opportunity for PVAMU to expand its research partnerships, as well as creating internships, visiting scholar programs, and other academic efforts.

The symposium's theme is "Mentoring as a catalyst for the next generation of researchers in NCDs and HIV in Africa." MURTI is part of a five-year grant, now in its final year of implementation, aimed at building research capacity for junior faculty at MUST to conduct public-sector research focused on rural health priorities. The week-long symposium examined topics such as HIV prevention and treatment, particularly in rural southwestern Uganda; cardiovascular diseases in rural populations; mental health disorders in rural Uganda; neurology in HIV and cardiovascular disease, and mental health and neuro-radiology in rural populations; and research administration, research ethics, and research communication capacities necessary to succeed as the next generation of independent investigators in Uganda.

Doctoral Dissertations

- Summer 2020. LaDonna Brown. Student Codes of Conduct and School Bullying Policies: Content Analysis. Chair: Dr. Myrna Cintron
- Summer 2020. Shantae Motley. Adverse Childhood Experiences: Inducement into Substance Abuse. Chair: Dr. Myrna Cintron
- Summer 2020: Lasheka Allen. Intra-minority Intergroup Support: An Application of the Common In-Group Identity Model versus the Social Reconnection Hypothesis. Co-Chairs Dr. Sherecce Fields (Texas A&M University) and Dr. Corey Columb

New Hires



Dr. Kristan Russell joined Prairie View A&M University in August of 2020 as an Assistant Professor of Justice Studies and Research Scientist in the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College, her M.A. in Forensic Psychology from Roger Williams University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Russell's research interests fall within the inter section of psychology and the legal system. Broadly, her research focuses on juvenile justice, stigma, perceptions of offenders, juvenile corrections, justice policy, and sexual offending.

Rising Stars: COJJP Alumni

Ph.D. candidate beats COVID-19 to earn fifth degree, second degree from PVAMU



Lasheka Allen is a Salisbury, North Carolina native, Durham, North Carolina business owner, wife, mother, minister, and, as of late, a COVID-19 survivor, who received a doctorate in Clinical Adolescent Psychology from Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) this summer.

“After having an unexpected surgery, and then, with my family and I having COVID-19, I completed my internship and dissertation,” she said. “We are doing just fine. Now, it’s time for me to graduate!”

This year, Allen becomes the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology’s first graduate of the new clinical adolescent psychology doctoral program’s curriculum, which was relaunched in 2014 to meet revised state standards. “When the College first contacted me about joining the new program, it appealed to me right away. I’ve always been interested in becoming a licensed clinical psychologist,”

said Allen, who received two bachelor’s degrees, one in psychology and another in family and consumer sciences, plus a master’s degree in psychology from North Carolina Central University, and a second master’s degree in psychology from PVAMU.

Allen uprooted her husband, son, and daughter and moved from North Carolina to Texas, away from their family and friends, and away from everything they knew. “I was content where I was,” she said. “But three people inspired me by moving away from everything they knew to pursue purpose. My mother moved from North Carolina to New Jersey, by faith, for ministry; my best friend, TaVares, moved to New York City to pursue his dreams; and my mentor, Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson, moved to Massachusetts to become a provost before his current position. They each strengthened my faith and prompted me to step out to obtain what God had for me. I am so glad that I did because now, with this new degree, I can do more to help the communities I seek to serve.”

Allen says the support she received from classmates, professors, friends, and family was extremely influential. “Getting a Ph.D. in any field is challenging and requires great effort and commitment,” she said. “My experience at PVAMU has been instrumental in building my faith, resiliency, and determination. While matriculating at PVAMU, I met professionals, who are now mentors, and classmates, who will be lifelong connections. These people will be key to me meeting my professional and personal goals.”

Allen and her family moved to Indiana in the summer of 2019 so she could complete a required yearlong internship. She was selected to remain at the facility for a post-doctoral fellowship this year.

She expects to become a licensed eligible clinical psychologist by the end of the year, after completing the Examination for the Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP).

“I want to thank everyone involved in the program at PVAMU, and those that took time to revamp it. If it were not for them, I would not be here. I’m also grateful for the challenges and obstacles I experienced during the journey; they helped make me who I am. God brought me; faith kept me; friends and family supported me, so I am ‘Phinished!’” she said.

Adapted from news article written by Marchita Shilo.



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