



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

April 10, 2020

A Message to the Prairie View Community

These past weeks have been filled at every turn with news of heartbreaking developments and losses. Like others around the world, our campus community has been beset by fear, uncertainty and grievous loss. Beloved colleagues, friends and family members have passed; our teaching and learning routines have been disrupted and we have often been left to wonder, “When will this end?”

This Spring season is both literally and metaphorically a time of renewal as we invariably look toward planting new seeds of promise and hope. I am personally hopeful about our future, even as we continue to question what might befall the university in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis.

In such a moment as this, we must ask ourselves what we can do to alleviate the suffering and need caused by the collision of these two challenges. Prairie View A&M University has been a source of hope for tens of thousands of students, employees and families over the past many decades. It must be that in these times even more so.

And so, in the spirit of this Easter season, I ask that we recommit to planting the seeds of hope once again by caring for one another, strengthening and protecting the bonds of community that have so long nourished us, and recommitting to serving the broader society. Education should teach us, not that we are better or worthier than others, but that our education carries a special burden: to lift up, care for and serve others. In that spirit, many in our community have reached out to provide resources to first responders and area agencies. Similarly, we are establishing a fund to support efforts to provide meals for the shut-in in the city of Prairie View and otherwise to extend a hand to those in need.

On our campus, our commitment to offer kindness, empathy and respect to our fellow Panthers should be inviolable. These times have revealed starkly the many challenges that community members may face because of the public health and economic crises. I ask that you be understanding of the difficulties posed by these unique times. Reach out to your fellow students and colleagues, comfort those who are grieving and speak to them of the hope you have for the future.

In this season of rebirth, remember that we will recover. Together, we will be stronger. Together, we will find strength to overcome any obstacles to the powerful faith that our forebears bequeathed to us.

I wish everyone a safe, healthy and peaceful Easter.

Office of the President

P.O. Box 519; Mail Stop 1001 Prairie View, TX 77446-0519

Phone (936) 261-2111 Fax (936) 261-2115

www.pvam.edu