



# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

## MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Community

From: Ruth J. Simmons   
President

Re: **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$10,000,000 GIFT FOR FINANCIAL AID**

Date: November 9, 2020

I am pleased to announce that the generosity of an anonymous donor will allow the university to establish an initiative to assist juniors and seniors impacted by the COVID crisis to remain enrolled and graduate on a timely basis. Called **Panther Success Grants**, these unrestricted funds will be the critical difference in enabling these students to continue and complete their studies. Numerous academic institutions have experienced declines in enrollment, high drop-out rates, and questions about whether students from low-income groups will be able to persist in their studies given high unemployment, disparate COVID health outcomes, continued economic uncertainty in the coming months, and the many other challenges families face as a consequence of the pandemic. While enrollment at PVAMU has increased slightly in the current year, many students and parents report that remaining enrolled will be a significant challenge.

Emphasizing the need to ensure that students well on their way to successful college completion can graduate in spite of the crisis, the university will initially focus on scholarships for juniors and seniors who are making satisfactory progress toward degree completion and are able to graduate within 6 years but whose personal finances or financial aid is insufficient to satisfy remaining college costs associated with completing their education. Job loss due to COVID has, in many instances, impeded working students' ability to pay even small unfunded portions of the cost of college. Where such students face a shortfall in funding, the Panther Success grants will be able to fill in that shortfall. Students will be eligible for grants of up to \$2000 per semester (for a maximum total of \$4,000 per academic year), the amount that students on average can contribute annually from working. Panther Success Grants will be available to in-state, out-of-state and international students alike.

The Panther Success Grants will be awarded starting immediately and continue until the \$10,000,000 fund is exhausted.