



## PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY TO BECOME THE FIRST HBCU TO HOST A SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEXAS EVENT

*The UIL Unified Track and Field meet takes place at the PVAMU Athletics Complex on Friday, April 16, 2021.*

**PRAIRIE VIEW**, Texas (April 9, 2021) – Dozens of the best young athletes from Southeast Texas are headed to Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) on April 16 to take part in the University’s inaugural Texas Special Olympics (SOTX) track and field contest. PVAMU is the first historically black college/university (HBCU) to host the meet in Texas.

“Special Olympics Texas is thrilled to be collaborating with Prairie View A&M to make our inaugural Unified Track & Field season a huge success,” shared Ben Johnson, Unified Champion Schools Specialist – East Region. “We believe that the Regional Meet will be a phenomenal experience that will forever be remembered by all that are involved with this historic event.”

PVAMU’s Track & Field Stadium has been a world-renowned host of USA Track and Field qualifying contests. The SOTX event will be a [University Interscholastic League \(UIL\)](#) competition. Unified teams consist of student-athletes with and without intellectual disabilities.

Airel Stewart, a senior biology major at PVAMU from Midlothian, Texas, worked to bring the meet to the University with the help of her professors.

“With [my professors’ support], and several others on campus, it took three years to bring the Special Olympics to PVAMU. And, to have President [Ruth] Simmons’ support? It meant everything,” said Stewart, who first volunteered with SOTX during her senior year in high school. “It was an experience that I latched on to. Being around the athletes helped build my character and my patience, and I loved it! I know the PVAMU volunteers will have the same life-changing experience with these outstanding kids!”

PVAMU will host seven teams from the East Region (Greater Houston area) for the contest. Athletes will compete in the following events:

- Long Jump
- Shot Put
- 100m
- 400m
- 4 x 100m Relay (Girls)
- 4 x 100m Relay (Boys)

Special  
Olympics  
Texas



Special Olympics  
Unified Champion  
Schools

#PLAY UNIFIED



The top four teams will compete in the Unified Track & Field UIL State Championship, April 29 - May 2, 2021, in San Antonio.

((More))

**About the event:**

**Event:** Special Olympics Texas Regional Track & Field Meet  
**Who:** Seven teams of student-athletes from the Greater Houston area  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021  
**Time:** 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Place:** PVAMU Track & Field Stadium

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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](http://www.pvamu.edu).

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