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Prairie View A&M University

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PRAIRIE VIEW 10-YEAR PROJECTIONS — PV's Master Plan for physical development is examined by state officials who pledged more funds and support for Texas' 2nd oldest state university. PV A&M was established in 1876, along with Texas A&M, College Station.

State Officials Pledge Support For PV



Volume 55
Number 16

The **PANTHER**
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
UNIVERSITY
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

Special Edition
April, 1981

*Increased Funding
Proposed For Prairie View;
Help On The Way*

Texas Officials Cut Off Speculation on PV's Future

Governor William P. Clements, Jr., laid to rest any doubts about Prairie View A&M's future here Tuesday when he told a cheering audience of students and faculty, "I am completely committed to our Black institutions."

"I think you should have the option of attending a Black college — but I want no dilution of quality."

The governor gave the keynote address at the University's Spring Honor's Convocation. He also toured with other officials the university campus and received first hand information on programs and problems. He was accompanied by Harvey R. Bright, chairman of Texas A&M System Board of Regents; Tom Rhodes, chairman of the Governor's Desegregation Committee; and State Rep. Wilhelmina Delco.

Regents member Dr. John Coleman of Houston and Texas A&M System Chancellor Dr. Frank W. R. Hubert joined PV President A. I. Thomas in greeting the state officials.

His visit to the historically black college comes on the heels of Black Support Day held in Austin last week where the governor was visible in his support to a petition for more funds for Prairie View and Texas Southern Universities. The more than 175,000 signature petition was formally presented to the state legislature as hundreds of supporters

of both schools crowded in the house gallery.

Later, the governor was honored at a reception held by the black colleges in the state. Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, president of Prairie View, led his delegation.

Governor Clements and his party arrived on campus shortly after 9 a.m. and was met at the Administration Building by Dr. Thomas and his top aides. Following his tour, speech and press conference, a luncheon in the governor's honor will be held at the president's dining room in Alumni Hall, site also of the press conference.

Prairie View A&M University has been the victim of recent swirling controversies, primarily concerning funding and desegregation.

The latter came into sharper focus when Cynthia G. Brown, former assistant secretary for civil rights in the Department of Education ruled that although public colleges and universities in Texas retain illegal remnants of their racially segregated past, the segregation plan proposed by Texas Attorney General Mark White was, "provisionally acceptable."

Texas had already admitted some discrimination and had put in a two-fold plan into operation including a mix of cash and a stepped-up recruitment for white students at Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern Universities, and black students going to white schools.

PV Seeks "Special Purpose" Mission

Prairie View A&M University was authorized Tuesday to seek legislative designation as a "special purpose university," giving it additional missions of assisting students needing extra help and working with small and medium size businesses and communities.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents endorsed the "special purpose" concept for the predominately black school after Dr. A. I. Thomas, the

university's president, explained the purpose of the proposal and the needs that could be served.

"In addition to its basic role as an institution of higher education, Prairie View A&M University serves a special purpose role in assisting a distinct clientele and in developing a research capability and providing public service programs for this clientele," Dr. Thomas noted. "This special purpose requires

a clear legal designation for federal, state and philanthropic purposes."

If the Legislature concurs, the Texas Education Code will be amended to include the following statement of purpose for Prairie View A&M: "In addition to its designation and its designation as a land-grant institution, Prairie View A&M University is designated as a statewide special purpose institution of higher education for instruction research and public service programs which are dedicated to: (1) enabling students with latent aptitudes, talents and abilities and of diverse economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to realize their full potential; (2) assisting small and medium sized communities to achieve their optimal growth and development; and (3) assisting small and medium sized agricultural, business and industrial enterprises to effectively manage their growth and development."

The regents also approved a

revised academic organization for Prairie View, as amended by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. The regents had approved an earlier version of the plan to streamline operations by merging certain departments while giving other programs their own identity, as recommended by Dr. Thomas.

AIR CONDITIONING FOR RESIDENCE HALL

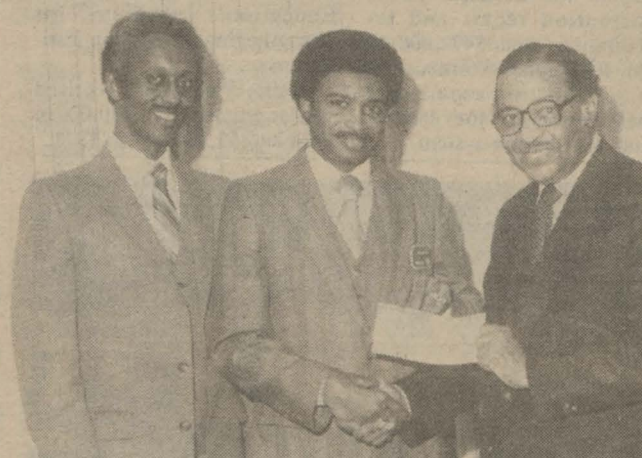
In other business affecting Prairie View A&M, the regents awarded a \$1,114,598 contract to J. K. Richardson Co. of Georgetown to air-condition Alexander, Buchanan, Suarez-Collins and L. O. Evans Halls. Additionally, the regents appropriated \$30,000 for accessories for the university's new all-weather track.

Board of Regents Chairman H. R. Bright appointed a committee to recommend a format for possible future study of The Texas A&M University System's organizational structure and reporting relationships.

Panther Newspaper Wins Regional Honors

The PANTHER, Prairie View A&M campus newspaper, has been awarded a special achievement plaque by the 30th Southern Regional Institute in the annual competition sponsored by Savannah State College in Georgia.

Support From Business and Industry



UNIVERSITY GIFT — Placement Director Brutus Jackson (left) and Engineering Dean A. E. Greaux accept check from R. W. Carter, Representative of Armco Steel Company of Houston.

Text of Governor Clement's Speech at PV A&M

Honors Convocation Is Occasion of Important Visit

During the course of my first two years in office, I have had the opportunity and pleasure of visiting many institutions of higher education in Texas, including Wiley College in Marshall, Paul Quinn College in Waco, Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, and Texas Southern University in Houston.

Each visit was a real pleasure for me, but none surpass the pleasure it gives me to visit the campus of Texas' oldest black state university, Prairie View A&M, the home of the Panthers.

It was on March 2, 1836, less than 50 miles from this campus, that a formal system of education was born in Texas when our state's declaration of independence was signed at Washington-On-The-Brazos. That document states:

"It is an axiom of Political Science that unless a people are educated and enlightened it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberties or the capacity for self-government!"

Since its founding, Prairie View has played an integral role in our educational system here in Texas and it has filled a great need in our state by helping our young people earn diplomas and enter the mainstream of American life.

Prairie View has provided the special understanding and programs that are needed by the students here, and it has nurtured and strengthened a commitment to the unique needs of Black Students.

Our concept of education in Texas is based on the idea of diversity. We recognize that our young people have different needs, different dreams, different backgrounds. This is why we have a large, diverse system of higher education in Texas. As we encourage this diversity, we improve the prospects for new and greater possibilities for our nation and our citizens.

Each of our institutions of higher education — whether it is Prairie View, or the University of Texas, or West Texas State, or Baylor — each enriches our state.

By meeting the unique needs of black students, Prairie View has helped black students enter the mainstream of society. It is indeed an outstanding credit to this great state!

During the previous session

of the Texas Legislature in 1979, the Reverend Jesse Jackson delivered a moving speech to both the house and the senate, and I had the privilege of hearing it.

He said something that I remember to this day, and I want to repeat it for you. I quote:

"There must be a commitment to save black colleges for the highest and most noble of reasons. These colleges, by default, have developed a specialty that was bred in their suffering. I'm not one who's inclined to run from suffering, because I know that suffering breeds character, and character breeds faith, and in the end, faith will not disappoint!" not disappoint!"

He went on to say, and again I am quoting, "These schools have been able to reach and get the stone that the builder rejected and develop them, cultivate them, and nurture them to the highest levels of leadership in the nation!"

I agree with him wholeheartedly, and I am sure that you do too. I would only add that today's gathering is proof positive that our black colleges and universities also attract the best and brightest students.

I see our private and public black institutions as important components of our higher education system here in Texas.

Supporting black colleges and universities means supporting freedom of choice in our society: Allowing a student to attend the institution that best meets his or her individual needs.

They are important because they offer unique programs and educational settings. They are important because they meet needs other institutions do not meet. They are important because they succeed where others do not even venture.

I believe in the black colleges and universities of America. This is why I have served as honorary chairman of the United Negro College fund drive throughout the Sunbelt region. This belief is why I am here at Prairie View today.

I am well aware of the rich heritage and traditions of Prairie View A&M. I am here today to learn more about how we can make the future of this university ever brighter.

Prairie View University has served the state of Texas well during its first 103 years, and I submit to you that in the next 103 years, this university will serve our state ever better!

It's not enough for the State of Texas just to keep the doors

"... Prairie View has served the state of Texas well during its first 103 years and I submit to you that in the next 103 years the university will serve our state even better."

of Prairie View open. We must do more. We must see that Prairie View and all our Black Colleges and Universities are strengthened and that the doors of these fine institutions lead to ever better educational opportunities.

In my state of the state address to the Texas Legislature in January, I presented my budget recommendations for the upcoming two years. Some people labeled my budget as austere, and it is. Some called it a tight budget, and it is in fact a tight budget.

At the same time, it provides for significant increases in those areas where increases are most needed, and one of these areas is our state institutions of higher learning.

This is why I have recommended to the State Legislature that it increase appropriations to Prairie View A&M by 12.3 million dollars. That amounts to 37 percent more over the coming two years.

Included in my overall appropriation of \$45.3 million for Prairie View is \$12.6 Million for the repair of buildings on the campus; \$400,000 for new equipment; and \$480,000 for new Library books.

By contrast, the recommendation of the Legislative Budget Board for a 28.5 percent increase for Prairie View A&M amounts to nearly 3 Million less than my recommendation. In addition, my recommendation for Prairie View also exceeds the 26.2 percent increase that I have recommended for 33 of our state colleges and universities as a group.

My belief in and support of Prairie View A&M is part of my overall commitment to higher education in Texas. I believe that we have a duty in our state to supply our citizens with the basic building blocks needed to develop meaningful careers.

We must provide these necessary tools. As students in the state of Texas, not only do we have the resources to offer

you this education but we have a healthy business climate, a marketplace in which you can use them.

Our tax structure, our right-to-work law, our climate, and our way of life, and most of all our enterprising, can-do spirit that prevails in Texas, all add up to a healthy business climate and translates then directly into more jobs and more opportunities.

The unemployment rate in Texas is well below the national average and in 1979 alone, there was an increase of some 318,000 jobs in Texas. Some of the more sought-after graduates are those in teaching, engineering science, business, computer science, and health-related professions.

As education is the primary means of opening up the doors of opportunity, we must also realize and address the needs of people who suffer because of economic, social, or physical handicaps.

I am committed to being a Governor for all Texans, and a key part of this commitment is to make sure all Texans are represented and involved in our state government. Thus far, I have been able to obtain the service of many outstanding black Texans who are willing to contribute their time and talents to state government.

Two of them hold top leadership posts within the Governor's office — Joe Kirven as my administrative assistant and Robert McQueen as director of the governor's office of equal employment opportunity.

In addition, I have appointed black Texans to the Texas Youth Council, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education, the Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System, The University of Houston Board of Regents, the Texas Advisory Council on Small Business, the Texas Board of Corrections, and many other state boards and commissions.

These people, like all those who agree to serve their state, are performing a vital function of our society — a function

"They (Black Colleges) are important because they succeed where others do not even venture."

— Governor Clements



that keeps us moving forward. They are giving back to society the benefit of those talents that society has helped them to acquire.

This is important, because to meet our challenges and problems and concerns, we must have a vast pool of talents — composed of people with training, experience, conscience, ethics, and a sense of community service.

Texas has been fortunate to have many citizens who fit this category, but we must expand this pool of talent to include Texans from all segments of our society. It's to our advantage, because people

are indeed our greatest natural resource, and to ignore the talents of any person is to ignore a resource, and we cannot afford to do that.

If every Texan pitches in and does their part, and if we all work together, then we can indeed achieve what is right for Texas.

This is the goal to which I am committed, and this is the challenge that I leave with you, and I have every confidence that in the great tradition of Prairie View A&M University and its graduates, you will answer the call of your state and your nation.

Thank you very much.

Board of Regents

Over \$6 Million in Construction Approved

Over \$50M Allocated to Prairie View in Past 10 Years

Contracts totaling more than \$6 million for Prairie View A&M University, including \$2.6 million to build an agricultural facility designed to make the school the national leader in dairy goat research, were approved Friday by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

The \$2,649,053 contract for the 10-acre agricultural complex was awarded to Drymalla Construction Company, Inc., of Columbus.

Other Prairie View awards are \$1,574,000 to James R. Godbe Company of Rockwall for chillers and expansion of the campus chill water system; \$1,372,950 to Loyd Electric Company, Inc., of San Antonio for electrical power distribution repair and rehabilitation, and \$473,000 to John R. Hughes Construction Co. of Austin, repair and rehabilitation of the campus water distribution system.

An appropriation of \$30,000 was authorized for street repairs and \$1,500 was allocated for a feasibility study regarding construction of new housing facilities and renovation of existing dormitories.

More than \$50 million has now been authorized by the regents within the past 10 years for Prairie View A&M's building program — a program surpassed by few institutions in the state and designed to build on the national strengths of the unique school with a predominately black enrollment.

The regents also authorized Prairie View A&M officials to apply for a \$500,000 grant under the U.S. Department of Education's program for strengthening developing institutions.

Prairie View A&M received similar grants for \$2,150,000 in 1974 and \$1,200,000 in 1978.

Departmental Programs

English Department Offers Programs In English and Speech

The Department of English offers the Bachelor of Arts Degree with two major options:

1. The Teacher Education Option is designated for students interested in teaching English or Speech on the secondary level. This program is approved by the Texas Education Agency.
2. The Language and Literature option provides specialized training in Language and Literature for those students desiring careers in the Arts and Letters.

The Department of English has a long history of providing English teachers for secondary schools throughout the state and the nation. Many of our graduates hold high positions in both secondary schools and colleges. More recently our graduates are entering the areas of writing and editing, advertising and personnel services, and are being recruited by major businesses and industry. The department has more demands for graduates than can be supplied with our present enrollment.

Emphasizing quality teaching and learning, the department prides itself in providing individual attention to its majors and minors through individual conferences and tutorial assistance. The department's faculty makes special effort to help its students to succeed in their course work.

There are several extracurricular programs our department sponsors. The English language and literature area sponsors a chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the national English honor society, periodic poetry readings and seminars. The Speech area sponsors the speech contest activities program for students throughout the university in its Forensics Society.

The Prairie View Forensics team participates in several major college speech tournaments and has for several years qualified students to represent the university in the National Forensic Association's national championship tournament. The team is making plans to go to the national tournament in Bowling Green, Kentucky in April of this year.

The department is proud of its strong and dedicated faculty: Prof. Millard F. Eiland, Head, Ph. D., Louisiana State University; Prof. Frankie B. Ledbetter, M. A., University of Colorado; Prof. William H. Chapman, M. A., University of Iowa; Prof. Curtis E. Johnson, M. A., University of Houston; and Prof. Joahanne Thomas, Ed. D., University of Washington. The department's faculty, housed in Hobart Taylor Hall — 2H259-264 (phone: 713/857-2354), will welcome inquiries from students interested in the department's programs.

Announcement . . . Admissions and Financial Aid Services Available on Commencement Day—May 3

Prairie View A&M University is pleased to announce a special service for the convenience of (1) our parents and guardians of prospective and presently enrolled students, (2) our prospective new students and transfer students, and (3) our presently enrolled students.

The University has established special Sunday Opening Hours for the Office of Admissions and for the Office of Student Financial Aid. These hours will be observed on Commencement Sunday, May 3, 1981. The Offices will be open for regular business from the close of the Commencement Convocation until 5:00 p.m.

The Admissions Office and the Student Financial Aid Office will conduct business in the Student Financial Aid Center. The Student Financial Aid Center is located on the corner of Avenue C and 5th Street, east of Banks Hall and across the street from the Industrial Education and Technology Building.

I. OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

The Prairie View A&M University Office of Admissions will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, May 3, 1981 immediately after the Commencement Exercises. Admissions Office personnel will provide information and assist with the completion of all admissions forms.

II. THE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID CENTER

The Prairie View A&M University Office of Student Financial Center will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, May 3, 1981, immediately after the Commencement Exercises. Student Financial Aid personnel will provide information, assistance, and accept applications.

A Successful Venture

Black College Support Day

Hundreds of Prairie View students, staff members, alumni and friends gathered in Austin March 9 to present petitions signed by over 200,000 supporters of Texas' two traditional Black universities — PV and Texas Southern.

Organizers and supporters state the purpose of Black College Support Day were:

1. To express appreciation of Governor William P. Clements, Jr., Lt. Governor William P. Hobby, Speaker of the House William Clayton, the Black Caucus, and those members of the legislature who have supported Prairie View A&M University, Texas Southern University, and the total Black College community of Texas.
2. To encourage legislative support for the two historically Black public colleges through full fiscal funding of the current budget requests for Prairie View and Texas Southern Universities.
3. To show broad-based public support for the success, productivity and viability of Prairie View A&M University, Texas Southern University and private Black Colleges.
4. To recognize the positive contributions that these historically Black Colleges and universities make to Texas, the nation and the world.
5. To assure the capabilities of the historically Black universities are enhanced in their efforts to provide quality education.

Controversy over Prairie View surfaced recently when Rep. Foster Whaley, Democrat from Pampa suggested a bill which would "liquidate" Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern University, compelling students and faculty to integrate into majority-white state colleges.

Motorcades and buses from various sections of the state arrived at the Capitol Building about 10:00 a.m. with the highlight of presentation of petitions held for 11:00 a.m.

Following the presentations, a press conference for Rep. Wilhelmina Delco and the Texas Black Caucus was held in the Capitol Building. Visitors assembled in the Gallery of Texas House of Representatives after lunch to witness a regular session of the legislature about 2:00 p.m.

Representatives of colleges and universities across the south attended the two-day meeting which features sessions on campus and in Houston. Thursday's program included general sessions, initiation ceremonies, a luncheon and banquet. A reception was held at 4:00 p.m. in the President's campus house.

1981 Summer Programs In Engineering

The following special programs in Engineering will be conducted during the 1981 Summer Session:

1. Engineering Concepts Institute (E.C.I.)
2. Engineering Science Advancement Institute (E-SAI)
3. Engineering Foundation Institute (E.F.I.)
4. Engineering Internship Program
5. Summer Engineering Experience Project (SEEP)
6. Minority Introduction To Engineering (MITE)
7. Pre-College Engineering Program (Pre-CEP)

These seven programs should account for approximately 700 students enrolled in the University during the 1981 Summer Session.



PRESENTING PETITIONS IN SUPPORT OF PV-TSU — Hundreds of PV-ites and TSU followers filled the State Capitol to support the 200,000 petitions presented to the Texas Government.

National Alpha Mu Gamma

Foreign Language Group Has Convention at PV

The National Convention of Alpha Mu Gamma, the collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society was held on the Prairie View A&M campus Thursday and Friday, April 2-3. The convention and Spring initiation are sponsored by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages. It was the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the society.

Representatives of colleges and universities across the south attended the two-day meeting which features sessions on campus and in Houston. Thursday's program included general sessions, initiation ceremonies, a luncheon and banquet. A reception was held at 4:00 p.m. in the President's campus house.

Mrs. Mamie McCloud was in charge of the convention, and she is assisted by Ms. Olivette Higgs, department

chairman and other department members and personnel in the office of Academic Affairs.

Energy Center Gets Go Ahead

A proposed multimillion dollar energy affairs center to study the impact of energy on minorities has been given the green light at Prairie View A&M University.

The Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System, of which Prairie View A&M is a part, authorized the school "To establish an Energy Affairs Center and

appoint the appropriate staff for conducting the activities of the center."

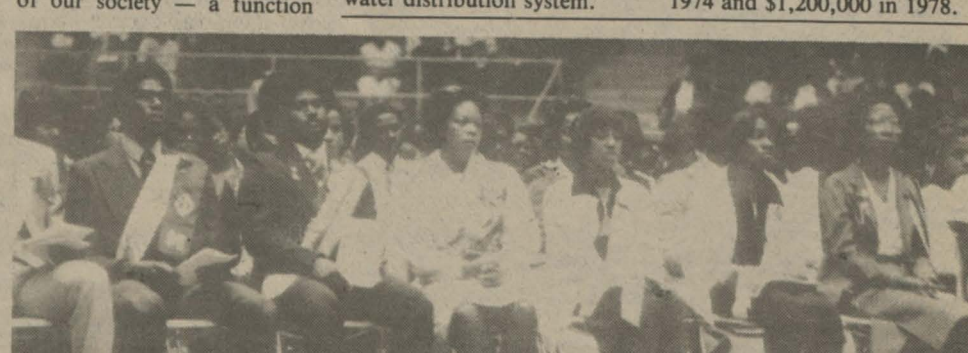
The organization will serve as a regional center for teaching, research and public service in the area of energy. The center will deal specifically, but not exclusively, with the impact of energy on low-income people.

PV Grads Get Top Jobs



PROOF POSITIVE — Texas Ag Commissioner Brown brags on PV employees as he visits campus to recruit more of "PV's Productive People."

HONORS CONVOCATION —



Over 500 Honor students were special guests for the University's Annual Convocation. Governor William "Bill" Clements was the speaker.

Academic Year Calendar

Spring Semester, 1980-81

- April 16 — Easter Recess Begins
- 21 — Easter Recess Ends — Classes Resume
- 26 — Parent's Day
- 15-30 — Early Registration for Summer Session
- May 3 — Spring Commencement
- 4-9 — Final Examinations
- 16 — Spring Semester Closes,
Residence Halls and Dining Hall Close
- 11-22 — Faculty Renewal Conference
- 25 — Intercession Recess Begins

Summer Session, 1980-81

FIRST TERM

- June 1 — First Summer Term Opens
- 1-2 — Regular Registration
- 3 — Classes Begin, Late Registration Fee Begins
- 8 — Late Registration Closes
- July 1 — Early Registration Second Six Weeks
- 3 — Independence Day Recess
- 10 — Final Examinations
- 11 — First Summer Term Closes

SECOND TERM

- July 13 — Second Term Opens
- 13-14 — Regular Registration for 3-Weeks and 6-Weeks Courses
- 15 — Classes Begin. Late Registration Fee Begins
- 20 — Late Registration Closes
- 31 — Final Examinations for 3-Weeks Courses
- July 27 thru
- August 29 — Early Registration for Fall Semester
- 16 — Summer Commencement
- 22 — Final Examinations for 6-Weeks Courses

Fall Semester, 1981-82

- August 26 — Fall Semester Opens
- August 31 thru
- September 1 — Registration
- 2 — Classes Begin

THE PANTHER
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BULK RATE
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PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

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All About . . .

Prairie View A&M University



"Moving
Ahead"

Pantherland

"Serving Texas at the points of greatest need"