

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Eighty-Two (82)



March 17, 2024

The opinions expressed in this bulletin are those of the Board of Directors of the Sul Ross Group and do not represent the opinions of The Association of Former Students, its officers, or leadership. The SRG is a nonpartisan organization. Our intention is in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, to keep the Sul Ross Group membership informed on pertinent topics and occurrences at TAMU in a timely manner and enlist their support when required.

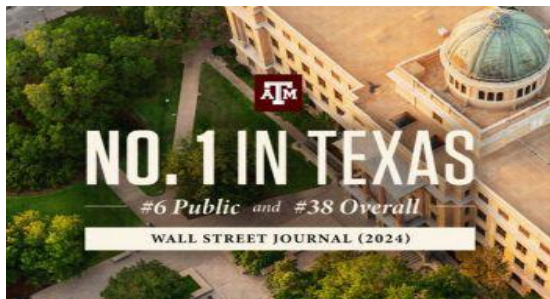


Figure 1 - A&M is Number 1 in Texas

TEXAS A&M RANKED NO. 1 UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE BY WALL STREET JOURNAL

By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 Eugene Sutio / Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Texas A&M was ranked first in the Lone Star State and sixth in the nation among all public universities in the 2024 Best Colleges in the U.S. rankings published by *The Journal* in collaboration with College Pulse and Statista. Overall, Texas A&M was ranked 38th in the nation. All but one university in the top 20 are private colleges.

In Texas, A&M was followed by Rice University, which ranked 64th nationally; The University of Texas at Austin, which finished at 118 nationally; University of St. Thomas, at 158 nationally; and Southern Methodist University, at 175 on the national list. "This achievement solidifies what we already know; Texas A&M is a great university. To be named the top university in the state of Texas and among the top public universities in the nation is a reflection of the high-quality and exceptional education Aggies receive from our world-class faculty," said Gen. (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, President. "It's also a testament to our commitment to graduating students on time so that they can go on to do remarkable work in their chosen careers and positively impact their communities, the state, our nation and the world."

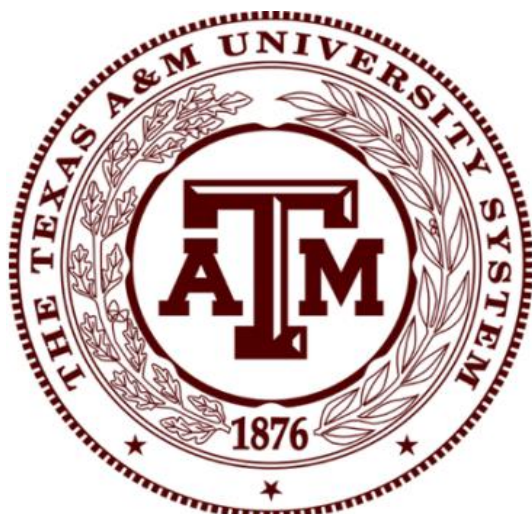
The rankings are based on a formula of student outcomes, the learning

environment and diversity. Student outcomes are calculated through an analysis of graduation rates, graduation salaries and cost of attendance. The learning environment of each university is based on student surveys that include views on quality of learning opportunities, career preparation, satisfaction with facilities and an overall score. The measure of diversity is calculated using metrics for racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as disability status of students and faculty.

Texas A&M was 14th in Texas for social mobility, a ranking of universities that considers the proportion of students coming from lower-income families. The rankings “emphasize how much a college improves its students’ chances of graduating on time, and how much it boosts the salaries they earn after graduation.”

Additionally, Texas A&M was ranked first in the state and 62nd nationally for its impact on graduates’ salaries as it relates to the cost of attendance.

To read more, go to: Texas A&M Ranked No. 1 University In The State By Wall Street Journal - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



ROBERT BISHOP APPOINTED VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ENGINEERING AND DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Texas A&M Today FEBRUARY 26, 2024.

Texas A&M University Regents voted today to name Robert H. Bishop as Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University. Bishop was also named the sole finalist for the director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station.

While at A&M, Class of '79, Bishop was selected to be a co-operative engineering student at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. Bishop graduated with both a bachelor's and master's degree in aerospace engineering from Texas A&M before earning his PhD at Rice University in electrical and computer engineering.

Bishop became the dean of engineering at Marquette University in 2010 and was selected to lead The University of South Florida's college of engineering in 2014. At the University of South Florida, he founded a non-profit start-up awarded more than \$100 million in Department of Defense contracts. Bishop also has extensive experience working with NASA. He will now lead one of the nation's top-rated engineering colleges increasingly focused on both defense and space exploration.

The fact he's an Aggie is not a surprise — Aggie engineering has a long history of creating innovative leaders with great accomplishments. Bishop was also named as

sole finalist for director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, a state research agency that solves problems through applied engineering research and development and collaboration with industry, government, and academia.

“Returning to Texas A&M to help build the future of this outstanding program is an opportunity I have worked toward all my life,” Bishop said. “I can’t wait to get started. From working with NASA to build the Texas A&M Space Institute, to working with the Department of Defense and the Army Futures Command to protect our nation, to finding and developing the brightest minds in Texas with our Engineering Academies, there is just so much potential here.” The future of Texas A&M Engineering is in good hands.

<https://today.tamu.edu/2024/02/26/bishop-named-engineering-dean>



News Release

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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College Station, Texas 77840-7896 • 979.458.6023 • www.tamusc.edu

**REGENTS APPROVE \$258 MILLION FOR
NEW CONSTRUCTION AT GALVESTON,
LAREDO, SAN ANTONIO, AND CORPUS
CHRISTI CAMPUSES**

February 8, 2024

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Regents today approved a \$258 million in campus investments, is just the latest in a building boom that’s occurring across the state. The Texas A&M University System has more than \$4.1 billion worth of construction projects in planning and design, construction, or development across Texas.

“This unprecedented investment in public education will reap benefits for Texans for generations to come,” said John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. “We are thankful for both the wisdom of the Texas legislature and the leadership of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents for making these projects possible.”

Campus projects approved include:

- An \$81 million Arts & Media Building at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Construction is scheduled to start in April with substantial completion by March of 2026.
- A \$51 million Engineering Classroom & Research Building at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Construction is set to start in March with substantial completion scheduled for November 2025.
- A \$71 million Health Sciences Education & Research Center & Western Hemispheric Trade Center Expansion at Texas A&M International University in Laredo. Construction on both is set to begin in March and should be completed by December 2025.

- And a \$55 million Public Health and Education Building Project at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Construction is scheduled to start in March with substantial completion scheduled for January 2026.
Regents Approve \$258 million for new construction at Galveston, Laredo, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi campuses – TAMUS System News



Figure 2 - Marine 1 to Bush Library

MARINE ONE HELICOPTER LANDS AT PERMANENT HOME IN BUSH LIBRARY PAVILLION

By Caitlin Clark, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications FEBRUARY 28, 2024

A retired Marine One helicopter frequently used during George H.W. Bush's presidency completed the trip to its final destination Tuesday, when it was delivered to College Station to be put on display at Bush's

presidential library and museum. The massive aircraft — it weighs 4.65 tons and is 72 feet long — was trucked to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum grounds on Texas A&M University's west campus.

Andrew Card, the foundation's CEO, and a former Secretary of Transportation under Bush, said the president had a "particular affinity" for Marine One. "It usually meant he was going someplace where he wanted to go," Card said, adding that it sometimes allowed Bush to briefly escape the burden of the presidency, whether it be for a quick trip out of Washington, D.C., or a respite at Camp David. "Marine One helicopters actually give definition to the role of the president," Card said. "There are so many pictures of the president getting on the helicopter on the South Lawn and flying off to make a big decision or to meet with important people, or landing on the South Lawn and getting off the helicopter and making dramatic statements to the American people about something that's going on in the world."

Previously an artifact at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Virginia, the Sikorsky VH-3D Sea King will be displayed within the pavilion next to Union Pacific 4141. The locomotive led the funeral train from Houston to College Station in December 2018 when Bush was laid to rest on the museum grounds alongside First Lady Barbara Bush.

The Marine One / 4141 Locomotive Pavilion is scheduled to open to the public June 13. The project is funded through the George & Barbara Bush Foundation's \$50 million Centennial Campaign. Marine One Helicopter Lands At Permanent Home In Bush Library Pavilion - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



Figure 3 - Panhandle Fires

TAMUS AGENCIES FIGHTING PANHANDLE FIRES

March 5, 2024 - I traveled to the Panhandle today to check in with the brave men and women from the agencies of The Texas A&M University System who are fighting the biggest blaze in the history of our great state. I heard firsthand about the fire and the response from officials with the Texas A&M Forest Service, **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service**, AgriLife Extension agents, members of Texas

A&M Task Force 1, veterinary students with the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team and emergency personnel from the Texas Division of Emergency Management. These folks wholeheartedly understand our mission of service. They exemplify the values of the Texas A&M System.

I would like to add that Extension agents and other Texas A&M System employees were on the ground here before this disaster, and they will be here long after the TV crews and fire trucks have left. I also want to assure Texans living in the Panhandle that we are here for you. We won't let you down.

Please join me in supporting these responders, support personnel and volunteers in the Panhandle. I hope you also join me in praying for their safety as well as for the people of the Panhandle and everyone else in areas of crisis.

Chancellor John Sharp chancellor@tamus.edu

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Sharp".



Figure 4 – STEM Education Center

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON TEXAS A&M SYSTEM'S STEM EDUCATION CENTER TEXAS A&M-RELLIS

February 26, 2024 Tim Eaton, Associate Vice Chancellor of Marketing and Communications teaton@tamus.edu

At 50,000 square feet, the STEM Education Center project will be ready for students and professors in fall 2025. A&M System Regents, who approved the project in August, had identified a need for education and high-quality

educational facilities to support STEM-related education disciplines.

“We recognize that American companies need more workers with strong STEM backgrounds,” John Sharp, chancellor of the Texas A&M System, said. “And we want to do whatever we can to make sure A&M System institutions are filling the technical roles that will advance American industry.”

The STEM Education Center building is designed to encourage students to take a hands-on approach to learning and experimentation. It will have a machine shop, a wood shop, makerspaces, 3D printing and prototyping capabilities, an augmented reality simulation area and offices.

The facility also will offer a shared space for students to collaborate directly with people from various industries and scientists from the A&M System's eight state agencies, including Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service.

<https://news.tamus.edu/construction-begins-on-texas-am-systems-stem-education-center-at-texas-am-rellis/>



Chancellor's Century Council
COUNCIL NEWS

SELECTS TEXAS A&M FOR FIRST EXPLORATION PARK FACILITY

Marketing and Communications teaton@tamus.edu - Feb. 15, 2024

Today NASA and the Texas A&M University System signed an agreement that will allow Texas A&M to develop a human spaceflight research and development facility at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The goal is ambitious — to enable the U.S. commercial space economy.

“Exploration Park will be the next spoke in the larger wheel of a robust and durable space economy that will benefit not only exploration of the Moon, Mars and the

asteroids, but all of humanity as the benefits of space exploration research roll home to Earth,” said Vanessa Wyche, NASA’s Johnson Director, who joined A&M President Mark Welsh III and me for the announcement.

Texas NASA Johnson has been the home for US spaceflight for more than 60 years. Texas A&M is a space-grant university since 1989 and already has a history of conducting basic and applied research and workforce development in space exploration.

Academic researchers, aerospace companies and entrepreneurs will collaborate at Exploration Park on tackling space exploration’s greatest challenges. Exploration Park will play a key role in helping the U.S. achieve critical goals for the commercialization and development of a robust space economy.

I am very proud to report to you that this new agreement and planned facility will allow us to build on our space tradition and help Texas A&M to be a major part of the commercial space economy.

Chancellor John Sharp chancellor@tamus.edu

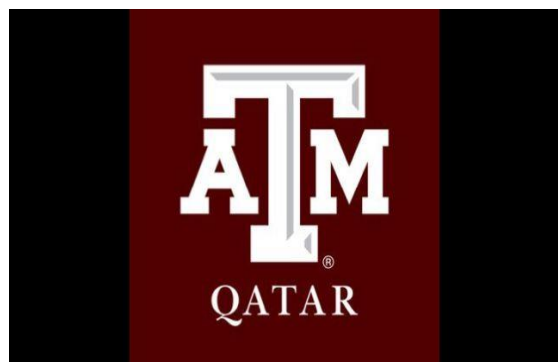


Figure 5 - A&M Qatar Flag

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS VOTE TO SHUT DOWN A&M’s QATAR CAMPUS

WTAW - Bill Oliver - February 8, 2024

The Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System voted February 6th to begin a multi-year process to shut down the flagship’s campus in the Middle East nation of Qatar. Texas A&M at Qatar (TAMUQ) opened in 2003 to advance education and research in

chemical, mechanical, and petroleum engineering. TAMUQ is one of six U.S. universities in Qatar’s Education City. Enrollment in the fall 2023 semester was 732.

Under terms of the contract with the Qatar Foundation, the termination will take four years. In the coming days, the university administration will assemble a team to ensure several imperatives: Students complete their education, faculty and staff are supported, and research obligations are appropriately fulfilled.

A news release from the A&M system said the regents began discussing the closure in the fall of 2023 due to “heightened instability” in the Middle East.

“The Board has decided that the core mission of Texas A&M should be advanced primarily within Texas and the United States,” Board Chairman Bill Mahomes said. “By the middle of the 21st century, the university will not necessarily need a campus infrastructure 8,000 miles away to support education and research collaborations.” Mahomes said the board decided that Texas A&M can best advance its core mission —

educating and serving Texans while advancing knowledge and innovation through world-class research — by concentrating its focus in Texas. “The work in Qatar is great work,” Mahomes said. “But it is a fraction of what Texas A&M accomplishes year after year.”

“Over the last two decades, the Qatar campus has advanced ideals, graduated exceptional Aggie engineers, and is cemented as an important legacy of Texas A&M,” said General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M University. “As we look to the future of our land-, sea- and space-grant university, the global exchange of research and education will continue to be integral to our world-class campuses here in the U.S.”

Texas A&M System Board Of Regents Vote To Shut Down A&M's Qatar Campus - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM



Figure 6 - Trev Alberts - A&M Athletic Director

TEXAS A&M TO HIRE NEBRASKA DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS TREV ALBERTS

TexAgs – Richard Zane - March 13, 2024.

Texas A&M University is set to hire Trev Alberts as its next Director of Athletics.

Alberts, 53, is currently the Director of Athletics at the University of Nebraska, a position he has held since July of 2021. An All-American linebacker for the Cornhuskers, Alberts won the 1993 Dick Butkus Award and has his No. 34

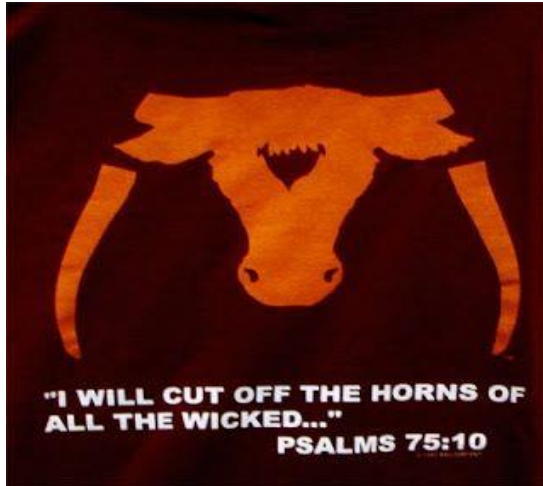
jersey retired by his alma mater. After a brief NFL career with the Indianapolis Colts and a foray into broadcasting, Alberts became the athletic director at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2009 before returning to Lincoln in 2021 following Bill Moos' retirement.

During his three-year stint in Lincoln, Alberts is credited with a handful of accomplishments, including hiring football coach Matt Rhule and helping land a 15-year, \$300 million multimedia rights agreement with Play Fly Sports. Additionally, "Volleyball Day in Nebraska" drew 92,000 fans to Memorial Stadium — the largest attendance for a women's sporting event in history.

With the hire, Alberts is set to become A&M's fourth athletic director since Bill Byrne's retirement in May of 2012. His addition comes after Ross Bjork was named Ohio State's AD in-waiting in January.

The seven-person committee was chaired by David Dunlap and included Slocum along with Joni Taylor, Jim Schlossnagle, Joe Fields, Chris Cooper, Paul Batista, and Susan Ballabina.

TexAgs - Texas A&M Football, Recruiting, News & Forums



A&M'S MIKE ELKO'S USE OF A THREE-LETTER WORD SPARKS RIVALRY WITH LONGHORNS

By Brent Zverneman, Houston Chronicle Staff writer Feb 11, 2024

COLLEGE STATION — Mike Elko pushed the right buttons in keeping five-star playmaker Terry Bussey of Timpson on board in Texas A&M's class of 2024. Then Elko, the Aggies' new coach who's also new to the state's grandest rivalry, pushed one more button for fun Wednesday.

Figure 7 - ...Horns of the Wicked

Figure 7 - ...Horns of the Wicked

“We’re the flagship program in this state, right?” Elko said during the traditional signing day. In unexpectedly opining on an oh-so-serious subject in Texas, Elko used the most common word in English to fuel the hype of this state’s collegiate version of the Super Bowl. To wit: Though minuscule via vocabulary, the difference between “THE” and “A” in Elko’s sentiment is wider than Big Bend National Park.

“Texas A&M is the state’s oldest public institution of higher learning, the only land, sea, and space-grant university in Texas, and educates more people every day than any other school in the Lone Star State,” A&M boasted via social media not long after Elko’s signing day press conference, but there is no mistaking his “the” instead of “a.” Elko was speaking at the time about the importance of building relationships with Texas high school coaches.

“If we’re one of those (flagship) programs, there’s a certain relationship we need to have with the high schools in this state, right?” It’s part of our obligation to pay it forward.”

Elko chose a more singular route by ignoring the other “flagship” altogether, along the way helping add a little offseason spice to the overdue return of a rousing rivalry — one that includes the dissecting of two words totaling four letters.

To read the entire article, go to: [Texas A&M football: New coach Mike Elko sparks UT rivalry \(houstonchronicle.com\)](http://houstonchronicle.com)



NEW SRG BOARD ELECTED AT MARCH 2024 REUNION

The new SRG Board of Directors are:

President – Jerome Rektorik '65
1st VP – Henry Goodwin '66
2nd VP – Neal Patton '67
Sec./Treas. – Hale Burr '65
Director – Tom Harrison '65
Director – Kevin Andrews '66
Director – Rick Graham '66
Director – Doug Ferrata '67
Immediate Past President – George Nelson '64



Figure 8 - Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett - Texas A&M Marketing & Communications

Mark your calendar - Sul Ross '25 Reunion will be March 3 – 7, 2025 in College Station

Hilton Hotel - 801 University Dr E, College Station, TX 77840

Phone (979) 693-7500

WHO, WHY, AND HOW TO RECEIVE THE SRG BULLETINS?

To provide our thoughts and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to communicate directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents who will then share with those in their Classes. Anyone is free to pass these bulletins to any Aggie, friends of Aggies, or just friends. The Board plans to maintain our policy of complete transparency and that is the reason we have inserted the disclaimer on the front page of this bulletin. **You can contact us at:**

SRGbulletin@gmail.com

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are solely responsible for producing the SRG Bulletins. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, which is to ensure our represented SRG Membership is kept informed on pertinent topics in a timely manner.

To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG's history and what we are about, please refer to our new "**SRG Tab**" (Under "**Programs**") on The Association's website, at: **aggienetwork.com**.

If you wish to comment to those who decide:

Chancellor John Sharp: **chancellor@tamus.edu**

The Board of Regents: **vickie@tamus.edu** or **jbell@tamus.edu**

President Mark Welsh: **markwelsh@tamu.com**

Provost Alan Sams: **asams@tamu.edu**

Athletic Director R.C. Slocum: **rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu**

VPSA Joe Ramirez: **jramirez@vpsa.tamu.edu**

Commandant Patrick Michaelis: **pmichaelis@corps.tamu.edu**
