

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Eight (108)



March 1, 2026

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.

Howdy Ags,

Here is the Sul Ross Group's Bulletin 108. The SRG Board hopes you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative. We encourage you to distribute it to your classmates, Aggie buddies, and friends. Thank you.

Gig 'Em!

Sul Ross Group Board

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MONTHLY UPDATE - Feb. 2026 February

4, 2026 By Tommy Williams, Interim President

Aggie Community,

I hope you all are settling back into the new semester as we begin a significant chapter in our history – the 150th year of Texas A&M University.

Last night, Marsha and I attended Silver Taps, where we remembered five students who recently passed away. Silver Taps is a tradition that embodies what it means to be an Aggie. Coming together in silence to honor students we've lost is a powerful reminder of the respect and care Aggies show for one another. I'm grateful to the students and staff who continue to uphold this sacred tradition with the reverence it deserves.

As the semester gets underway, I also want to thank our faculty and administrators for their hard work implementing recent Texas A&M University System policy updates. Because of your diligence and professionalism, the vast majority of needed adjustments

were resolved at the department level through collaboration among faculty, department heads and deans.

In the end, we canceled six courses due to noncompliance and determined the Women's and Gender Studies program will wind down due to low student interest over the years and the difficulty of aligning the program with updated System policies. Current students in that program will be able to complete their degrees and credentials without interruption. Throughout this process, our guiding principle was student success — ensuring that no student was asked to change their degree path or delay graduation as a result of this review. Thank you to the faculty, advisors, staff, department heads and deans who ensured this concept remained central.

This review has elicited a range of responses from you, our former students, the media and others outside the university. The core of Texas A&M remains exactly what it has been for 150 years: a place grounded in strong values, academic excellence and an unwavering commitment to our students.

That reality plays out every day across our university — students learning from dedicated professors, being supported by staff who know them by name and growing into leaders of character who go on to make a difference in their communities. There is so much good happening across Aggieland:

- We continue to educate the next generation. At a time when many universities face flat or declining enrollment, demand for an Aggie education remains strong. Freshman applications for fall 2026 are up nearly 10%. At the same time, we are holding the incoming freshman class steady at 11,750, ensuring we can continue delivering the high-quality student experience families expect.
- We are advancing research that matters. A powerful example is the Texas A&M Health Dementia & Alzheimer's Research Initiative, which is accelerating research to prevent, detect and treat neurodegenerative diseases. Last week, the first 11 multidisciplinary projects, totaling \$1.325 million, were awarded — supporting researchers who are working toward breakthroughs that will benefit patients, families and communities for generations to come.
- We are also leading where thoughtful engagement is needed. Later this spring, we will host our inaugural Civil Discourse Symposium, where student leaders will facilitate fireside chats with recognized public figures. These conversations will showcase how the Aggie Core Values provide a strong foundation for respectful dialogue on complex and challenging issues.

All of you — our faculty, staff and student workers across multiple locations statewide — are the ones who deserve the thanks for all this great work. You are a force for good, and on March 6, 2026, we will celebrate you as part of Employee Appreciation Day. The day gives us a moment to pause, but our gratitude extends far beyond a single day.

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Thank you for all you do each day to put our students first — and to help ensure the very best of Texas A&M always shines through for the world to see. I encourage you to read on for important university updates, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me, my staff or a member of the President's Cabinet with your questions.

Gig 'em!

Tommy

Tommy Williams '78, Interim President

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://president.tamu.edu/messages/office-of-the-president-monthly-update-feb-2026.html>

PARTNERSHIP FUELS A&M's NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

March 7, 2026 By Stephen Whitaker

Texas A&M University continues to look for new ways to get involved in the nuclear industry. The system's latest move has been for the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) to enter into an agreement with ZettaJoule to explore building a research reactor in College Station.

If the project goes through with construction, it would make A&M the only university in the United States with more than two nuclear research reactors. The proposed location for the ZettaJoule reactor is just south of the Texas A&M nuclear reactor on the west side of town near Easterwood Airport.

"We have long been a national leader in nuclear engineering, and this partnership positions us to help drive the next era of high temperature reactor innovation," Robert Bishop, vice chancellor and dean of Texas A&M Engineering, said in a statement. "This partnership strengthens our ability to support researchers and industry collaborators working at the forefront of next generation energy systems."

ZettaJoule is an advanced small modular nuclear reactor company that operates in both the United States and Japan. They develop small modular nuclear reactors that operate at temperatures up to 950 degrees Celsius and provide heat and power solutions for industrial and commercial customers around the world. The project with Texas A&M would include the building of a ZettaJoule ZJ0 Reactor. It is expected to bring \$1 billion in research collaborations, industrial partnerships and federal funding.

Texas A&M also manages several nuclear sites, including the Los Alamos site in New Mexico, which it co-manages with the University of California System, and the PanTex site in Amarillo. The partnership with ZettaJoule is the latest in the

system's efforts to grow its presence in the nuclear industry. No date has been set as to when work on the project with Zetta Joule will begin.

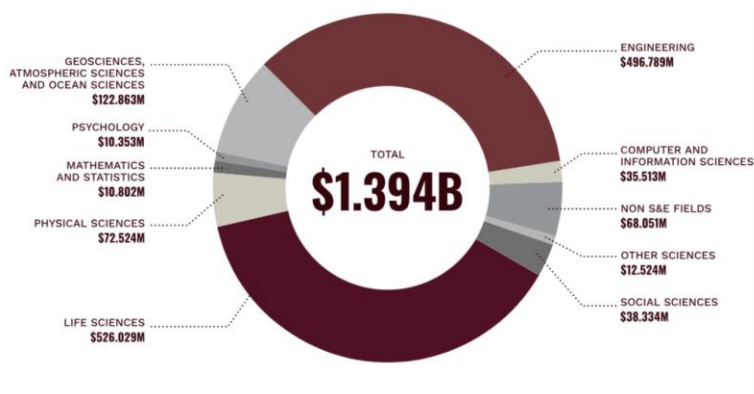
To read the complete article, visit the link below.

https://theeagle.com/article_f73c07dc-9a79-5776-9957-a2ba0fcbce24.html

TEXAS A&M IS THE NO. 1 RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS, TOP 25 NATIONALLY

February 6, 2026 By Zaid Elayann, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

A new report from the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey ranks Texas A&M University's \$1.39 billion in research and development (R&D) expenditure for fiscal year 2024 as the No. 1 research institution in Texas and the SEC, and among the top 25 universities in the nation.



Texas A&M ranks 13th among public universities and 22nd overall among the 681 research universities ranked.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

[https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/02/06/texas-am-is-the-no-1-research-university-in-texas-top-25 - nationally/](https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/02/06/texas-am-is-the-no-1-research-university-in-texas-top-25-nationally/)

FIVE QUICK ARGUMENTS FOR CAPITALISM

January 31, 2026 By Parker Gregory (mathematics junior, class of 2027) for the Aggie Standard

During a casual debate with my friends not long ago, I was confidently presenting my case for freer markets, as I always do, until one asked me to define “capitalism” in a single line. My dad has always instructed me that when talking to skeptics, it suffices to substitute the term with “innovation,” and while that works surprisingly well, I felt the

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concept ran much deeper. Over the past year, I realized that true capitalism is not an invented system but the default economic system of human nature.

What follows are the core elements I distilled after much thought, not as a defense of the regulation-ridden, quasi-socialist hybrid we currently mistake for capitalism, but an effort to articulate the timeless, universal principles of the real thing.

1. The only system consistent with individual rights
2. Capitalism is built on the “economic means” instead of the “political means.”
3. The famous “double thank-you-moment” and scale
4. Capitalism does not need to be enforced
5. It allows for voluntary alternatives to coexist

To read the complete article, visit the link https://www.aggiestandard.com/p/five-quick-arguments-for-capitalism?utm_source=substack&publication_id=7241736&post_id=186380348&utm_medium=email&utm_content=share&utm_campaign=email-share&isFreemail=true&r=2tzz68&triedRedirect=true

TEXAS A&M REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE EDUCATION WITH EXPANDED AID

February 20, 2026 By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Texas A&M University has extended its undergraduate tuition freeze and expanded the Aggie Assurance program, strengthening its commitment to affordability and access.

As college costs climb across the country, Texas A&M University is taking two major steps to keep an Aggie education within reach: the university has extended its freeze of undergraduate tuition and required fees through the 2026–27 academic year, and it will expand the Aggie Assurance program on the College Station campus beginning in fall 2026 so more families — including those with up to \$100,000 in income and assets — can qualify for free tuition.

Since 2022, Texas A&M has held undergraduate tuition and required fees at 2021 rates, helping Texas A&M families save as much as \$61 million over the past four years.

Approximately 80,000 undergraduate students have enrolled since 2021 without experiencing a tuition increase. May 2025 marked the first graduating class to complete its Texas A&M degree with no tuition or fee increase during the students’ time on campus, and the extension through 2026–27 means at least two additional graduating classes will share in those savings.

Students and families would be paying approximately \$4,225 more over four years in tuition and fees alone had the university increased tuition and fees at the rate of inflation (4.5%).

The Aggie Assurance program is Texas A&M's free tuition program for eligible low- and middle-income Texas families. Beginning in fall 2026, the university will expand the program so that incoming undergraduates who are Texas residents and whose family income and assets are less than \$100,000, and who meet the state priority deadline, can qualify for free tuition. First launched in 2008, Aggie Assurance was among the first programs of its kind in the nation and has expanded over time as Texas A&M deepened its commitment to access and affordability.

Texas A&M's value shows up not only in affordability and earnings, but in the impact of Aggies across the economy and public life. No public university in Texas has produced more current Fortune 500 CEOs, and Texas A&M is tied for No. 1 nationally among public universities with former students leading Fortune 500 companies and national brands across energy, aviation, health care, consumer goods and beyond.

Quick Facts

- Tuition and required fee freeze extended through 2026–27 (undergraduate rates held at 2021 levels)
- More than \$61 million saved by Texas A&M families since 2022
- Free tuition expansion (fall 2026): tuition coverage eligibility for incoming Texas-resident undergraduates with income/assets below \$100,000 who meet the priority deadline
- 63% debt-free vs. 45% nationally: 2024–25 graduates completing without student debt (university data)
- WSJ/College Pulse 2026: #1 Texas public, #1 SEC, #12 public nationally (Texas A&M Stories)
- Graduate earnings benchmark: \$51,963 average one year after graduation vs. \$47,340 Texas average (Texas A&M Stories)

To read the complete article, visit the link below. <https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/02/20/texas-am-university-reinforces-commitment-to-affordable-education-with-expanded-aid/>

NATIONWIDE MEDIA DEMAND FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

February 6, 2026 By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Friends,

I wanted to take a moment to share some good news and to say thank you. U.S. News & World Report has just released its latest rankings of the nation's best online programs, and once again, The Texas A&M University System showed up in a big way. Across multiple disciplines and across our universities, our programs ranked among the very best in Texas. What matters most to me is not the numbers themselves, but what they reflect.

These results are a direct outcome of a student-first mindset and a kind of persistence that is part of the Texas A&M culture. Our faculty and staff keep pushing to meet students where they are, including working adults, parents, first-generation students, and military-connected students, while maintaining high expectations. That combination of access, rigor, and care is hard to replicate, and it is getting noticed.

Here is a snapshot of how our System performed in Texas rankings for online programs:

Bachelor's Programs - #1 Texas A&M University - #3 West Texas A&M University - #5 East Texas A&M University	MBA Programs - #7 West Texas A&M University - #9 East Texas A&M University
Graduate Business Programs - #1 Texas A&M University - #6 West Texas A&M University - #8 East Texas A&M University	Graduate Criminal Justice Programs - #4 East Texas A&M University - #5 West Texas A&M University - #8 Texas A&M International University - #10 Prairie View A&M University
Graduate Education Programs - #1 Texas A&M University - #9 East Texas A&M University - #10 West Texas A&M University	Graduate Engineering Programs - #1 Texas A&M University - #2 West Texas A&M University - #6 Texas A&M University–Kingsville
Graduate Information Technology Programs - #2 Texas A&M University	Graduate Nursing Programs - #2 Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi

- #3 West Texas A&M University - #8 Tarleton State University	- #3 Texas A&M Health Science Center - #5 West Texas A&M University
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I am especially proud that this recognition spans the A&M System. From engineering and business to education, criminal justice, information technology, and nursing, our universities are delivering high-quality online education that opens doors for Texans in every region of the state.

You have played a role in this success. Your belief in our mission, your generosity, and your willingness to invest in people help make this kind of progress possible. When we say that students are our mission, you help turn that belief into action.

Thank you for standing with us and for caring about the long, steady work of building something that lasts. These results are a reminder that persistence, done the right way, pays off.

With gratitude,

Glenn Hegar

Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System



Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett – Texas A&M Marketing & Communication

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.

Note: All the Bulletins from Bulletin #1 to the current Bulletin are available to be viewed on the SRG Website at www.ferrata.net/srg/portal.aspx. Click on 'Uploaded Files.'

Suggest you use “Google Chrome”, “Firefox”, or “Microsoft Edge” as a browser.

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 Glen Hegar: **chancellor@tamus.edu**

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

Interim President Tommy Williams: **president@tamu.edu**

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

Athletic Director Trev Alberts: **rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu**

VPSA Dr. Bill Kibler: **vpsa@tamu.edu**

Commandant LTG J.W. Bierman: **commandant@corps.tamu.edu**

SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions for: 2024 – 2026

- To keep the Sul Ross Group (SRG) membership informed of pertinent topics and activities on campus through periodic SRG Bulletins.
- As investors of A&M, to continue to meet with and to offer our support and assistance to the leadership of TAMUS, TAMU, the Association of Former Students, A&M Foundation, the Commandant, the Corps Commander, and student government leaders.
- To support A&M's Core Values and traditions and share these with all we meet, especially students, stressing unity of purpose and effort within the A&M community.
- To continue the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU, working with and assisting the V.P. of Student Affairs, if invited, by periodically observing new student orientation – avoiding “not too much nor too little” oversight of student run organizations.
- Be it resolved that the SRG support their strategic goal of preserving what sets TAMU apart as distinctive and transcendent, as elder statesmen, and in accordance with the SRG's four established Constitutional objectives while serving TAMU, the Association, and our membership.