

Kamal Ariss
General Chairman
Chancellor's Century Council



Kamal Ariss serves as chair of the Chancellor's Century Council and the board of trustees for the A&M PAC. He earned two degrees from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in land development in 1987 and a bachelor's degree in engineering technology in 1983. Ariss is a member of the 12th Man Champions Council and the Houston A&M Club. In addition to his gifts to renovate the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center, he is a Century Club donor at the Endowed level.

Mr. Ariss is a past member of the Board of Directors of The Association of Former Students and served as a representative-at-large prior to his election to the Board. During his return to College Station for the master's program, he helped found the first chapter of the Texas A&M University Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

Mr. Ariss, now president and owner of Woodway Enterprises, a consulting and construction management services company in Houston, previously held the position of Vice President of Business Development and Marketing for JE Dunn South Central, with offices located in Houston, Dallas, Austin and Oklahoma City. JE Dunn Construction is a national third generation, family-owned company and leader in the construction industry, with a volume of \$3.2 billion in 2014.

Mr. Ariss is a member of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and Construction Owners Association of America. He serves on the board of directors for the Fort Bend County Chamber of Commerce, is actively involved in his community, and currently resides in Houston with his two children, Conner and Maya.

John Sharp
Chancellor
The Texas A&M University System



John Sharp was appointed chancellor of The Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents on Sept. 6, 2011. As chancellor, Sharp leads a System composed of 11 universities and seven state agencies, with an annual budget of \$4.2 billion. Enrollment at the A&M System's 11 universities has grown to more than 140,000.

The System's flagship, Texas A&M University, stands among the nation's top research universities for total research expenditures and is the only Texas institution of higher education listed in the National Science Foundation's top 20. System-wide externally funded research expenditures are in excess of \$932 million.

Sharp brings with him more than three decades of public service. He came to the A&M System from Ryan & Company, where he was a principal with the largest state and local tax consulting firm of its kind in Texas.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in political science from Texas A&M University in 1972, where he was a member of the Corps staff of the Corps of Cadets, a member of the 1972 rugby team, and was elected student body president. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves. He belongs to The American Legion.

In 1976, Sharp received a master's degree in public administration from Southwest Texas State University while working full-time with the Legislative Budget Board in Austin. In 1978 he opened a one-man real estate firm in Victoria and became a successful small business owner.

That same year he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and was named "Outstanding Freshman" by *Texas Monthly*. He won a seat in the Texas Senate in 1982, where he served on the powerful Senate Finance Committee, and was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission in 1986.

Sharp was elected state comptroller in 1990 and re-elected in 1994. When he took office, he quickly began working to fulfill his pledge to "make government work more like our most successful businesses." During his tenure as comptroller, he reinvented Texas state government and turned it into a high-quality, low-cost customer service operation that has saved taxpayers billions, helped avert a state income tax and served as a model around the world.

Sharp has been married to Charlotte Han of Austin since 1978. They have a son, Spencer, and a daughter, Victoria. The Sharps are active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station and are involved in many community and humanitarian efforts.

Elaine Mendoza
Vice Chairman, Board of Regents
The Texas A&M University System



Elaine Mendoza is founder, President, and CEO of Conceptual MindWorks, Inc. (CMI). Established in 1990, CMI is a biotechnology and medical informatics company located in San Antonio, Texas. Within the biotechnology industry, CMI's strengths lie in building scientific and technical teams to develop and deliver unique solutions to address issues in areas such as chemical/biological defense, trauma medicine, and population health. CMI's core competency in medical informatics revolves around CMI's Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, branded as Sevocity®. Sevocity empowers physician practices and health centers to embrace EHRs by delivering an easy-to-use, cloud-based system.

Ms. Mendoza received the Women's Legacy Award from the Aggie Women's Association in October 2014, and in April 2013 received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University. In December 2012, the San Antonio Mayor and City Council appointed her Chair of the Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors which is responsible and accountable for the Pre-K 4 SA program implementation. (Ms. Mendoza was a member of Mayor Castro's Brainpower Committee, the precursor to Pre-K 4 SA program.). She is also a member of the P16Plus Council of Greater Bexar County. She serves as Chair of the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for Health Care Service Corporation and The Bank of San Antonio.

Ms. Mendoza has been involved in community initiatives revolving around the expansion of educational opportunities, health care, and economic growth both locally and nationally. She was a member of Mayor Castro's SA2020 Charting the Course for the Next Decade Steering Committee. Mayor Hardberger appointed her as Co-Chair for P16 Council Formation Committee and as a member of the Task Force on Corporate Recruitment and Retention. In January 2006, Governor Rick Perry appointed her to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on which she served as Secretary of the Board, Chair of the Committee on Closing the Gaps and, in 2010, as Vice Chairman. Governor Perry also appointed her to the Commission for a College Ready Texas in April 2007.

Ms. Mendoza served as a member of the "Code Red" task force, a blue-ribbon, 17-member task force assembled by the Academic Health Science Centers of Texas to study Texans' access to health care. She also served as the 2004 and 2005 Chair of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and served as the 2001 - 2003 Chairperson of the Board of the Alamo Workforce Development, now Workforce Solutions Alamo. In 2000-2001, Ms. Mendoza served on Texas Governor Rick Perry's Special Commission on 21st Century Colleges and Universities and, nationally, she was appointed by Senator Trent Lott to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology (CAWMSET) in 1999-2000, later being selected as Chairperson.

Ms. Mendoza was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Rick Perry in 2011. She was elected Vice Chairman of the Board on April 29, 2015. She is serving her third term as Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. She is a member of the Committee on Audit. Ms. Mendoza also serves as a liaison to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Her term expires February 1, 2017.

Elaine Mendoza received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Michael K. Young
President
Texas A&M University

Michael K. Young became the 25th president of Texas A&M University on May 1, 2015, bringing a proven track record of academic leadership.

As president and tenured Professor of Law at the University of Washington from 2011 to 2015, he led the nation's top public university in competing for federal research funding, as well as its ambitious plan to double the number of new companies based on University of Washington research. The university also more than doubled its fundraising during his tenure.

Prior to that, he served as president and distinguished professor of Law at the University of Utah. Under President Young's leadership, the University of Utah raised its stature nationally and internationally, including becoming the nation's top university in the number of new companies generated from university research. The university also built over a million square feet of academic and research space under President Young's leadership.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, President Young has broad experience across legal, public service, and diplomatic arenas. He served as a law clerk to the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist of the U.S. Supreme Court. He has held a number of government positions, including Deputy Under Secretary for Economic and Agricultural Affairs and Ambassador for Trade and Environmental Affairs in the Department of State during the administration of President George H.W. Bush.

James Hallmark
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The Texas A&M University System

Dr. James Hallmark currently serves as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for The Texas A&M University System. In this position, Dr. Hallmark oversees all matters involving faculty, curriculum, student affairs, student success, enrollment management/admissions, and special projects for the 11 universities and over 140,000 students in the A&M System. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Hallmark served as provost/vice president for Academic Affairs at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) as well as a lengthy term as Dean of the Graduate School and Research at that institution.

Dr. Hallmark is the founding director of the William H. and Joyce Attebury Honors Program at WTAMU and served two terms as president of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Hallmark has received awards/recognition both for teaching and for leadership in graduate school affairs. In addition, he previously served as president of the Texas Council of Chief Academic Officers.

Dr. Hallmark received his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Oklahoma in Communication with a focus on organizational socialization, and his Bachelor of Arts from Oklahoma Christian College with a double major in History and Communication.

Steven H. Tallant
President
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Dr. Steven H. Tallant became the 19th president of Texas A&M University-Kingsville in October 2008. He immediately focused on building a leadership team, increasing enrollment, enhancing facilities and increasing the visibility of the campus.

Under his leadership, the campus experienced a 66 percent increase in enrollment over a seven-year period and a 44 percent increase in research expenditures. He also led the development of a campus master plan to guide growth and construction over the next 50 years.

He has been recognized for his commitment to higher education and the community many times throughout his career. He received the 2013 “Citizen of the Year Award” from the Kingsville Noon Rotary Club and the 2013 “Community Leader Award” from LULAC Council #1. He also is a recipient of the President’s Award from the Corpus Christi chapter of the NAACP and the “Humanitarian of the Year” from LULAC Council #1. In 2011, he was named “Citizen of the Year” by the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce.

He is a member of the Executive Committee for the Texas Council of Public Universities Presidents and Chancellors and a past chair of the Lone Star Council of Presidents. Dr. Tallant also has been a member of the Off-site Review Committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College, Cluster 10. In addition, he is a board member for the Board of Directors for KEDT/South Texas Public Broadcasting System, Inc.

Dan R. Jones
President
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Dr. Dan Jones assumed the presidency of Texas A&M University-Commerce in July 2008. Prior to coming to Commerce, Dr. Jones served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas; and as Dean of University College at the University of Houston-Downtown, where he was also a faculty member in the English Department.

He began his teaching career as an instructor of English at Casper College, Casper, Wyoming. Dr. Jones holds bachelor’s degrees in English and journalism from the University of Texas at Austin, a master’s in English from Rice University, and a master’s and Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Iowa.

Throughout his academic career, Dr. Jones has focused on broadening access to higher education and supporting the success of students. He continues to pursue scholarly interests in the field of non-fiction writing, and is a regular presenter at regional and national conferences. Dr. Jones believes in the power of education to transform lives and shape futures, and has dedicated his career to expanding opportunity for all students.

Cynthia Teniente-Matson
President
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson is the second president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Established as a stand-alone university in 2009, A&M-San Antonio is the first of The Texas A&M University System universities located in a major metropolitan city. Dr. Teniente-Matson is positioning A&M-San Antonio as a Pathway to Prosperity as the university prepares to admit lower division students and evolve into a comprehensive four-year university in fall 2016.

Dr. Teniente-Matson, born in San Antonio, has over 20 years of experience in higher education with a track record of accomplishments that support campus growth, including: faculty and student success, economic development, financial stewardship and broad-based entrepreneurial leadership. She attended public universities throughout her academic career, which provided her with insight into the dynamics of receiving a public education.

Dr. Teniente-Matson launched her career in Alaska — University of Alaska Fairbanks and University of Alaska Anchorage, where she held a number of positions, including Director of Purchasing, Director of Procurement and Business Services, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services. Immediately prior to her appointment at A&M-San Antonio, she served as Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer of California State University Fresno.

Dr. Teniente-Matson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Management in 1989 from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a Master of Business Administration in 1998 from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She received a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Fresno State in 2013.

Ray M. Keck
President
Texas A&M International University

Ray Marvin Keck III is president of Texas A&M International University in Laredo. Prior to becoming president in 2001, he was a member of the faculty in Laredo and had served as department chair and provost.

He holds an AB and PhD in Romance Languages and Literature from Princeton University and has studied at Harvard Divinity School, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Centro de Estudios Hispánicos en Madrid (Bryn Mawr College), and the Deutsche Somerschule am Atlantik.

As a president within The Texas A&M University System, he serves on various boards for higher education in Texas. He is also a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, he graduated in 1965 from Texas Military Institute. Dr. Keck began his teaching career at The Hotchkiss School in 1970. For 40 years he has taught, studied, and written about Spanish literature, with an emphasis on the Spanish Golden Age.

Since his undergraduate days, Dr. Keck has studied and played the organ, especially the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. He has performed often with orchestras and ensembles, and has held posts as director of church music for parishes in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Texas.

In Laredo, Dr. Keck has served as president of the Regional P-16 Council. He aggressively champions the need for a comprehensive, dual-language program for all children in Texas schools.

He is married to Patricia Cigarroa Keck, a nurse and Director of Student Health Services for TAMIU.

Russell Porter, Ph.D., Ed.D.
Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Dr. Porter leads the Research, Economic Development, and Office Campus Programs at Texas A&M University-Central Texas. His work includes big data research at the system level for predictors of students' success, in healthcare operations for cognitive care, and in solar research for predicting costs and global imprint.

He has over 25 years of experience in higher education, with successfully increasing positions in administration, with professor status in business, and a dozen research grants totaling over \$4 million.

Previously he served in the U.S. Air Force as a Medical Service Corps officer and in healthcare with a culminating position as a CEO for a 190 bed healthcare organization.

Flavius C. Killebrew
President/CEO
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Dr. Flavius C. Killebrew became the 10th president of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in January 2005. Under his leadership, the university was named in 2015 as the Texas OneGulf Center of Excellence under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE) and in December 2013 as one of six Federal Aviation Administration test sites for unmanned aircraft systems. Also, he has led the expansion of engineering programs, beginning with mechanical engineering, and in 2008 was successful in acquiring a gift of 140 acres from the City of Corpus Christi for expansion.

Prior to coming to A&M-Corpus Christi, Dr. Killebrew served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs as well as in several other administrative and academic posts at West Texas A&M University.

Dr. Killebrew holds undergraduate and master's degrees in biology from WTAMU and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Arkansas. His research focused on the systematic ecology of vertebrates, and he is an expert on Cagle's map turtle.

Dr. Killebrew, a native of Canadian, Texas grew up working the family ranch with his father and three brothers. He is married to the former Kathy Bartley and has one daughter and one granddaughter.

J. Patrick O'Brien
President
West Texas A&M University

Dr. J. Patrick O'Brien was named the 10th president of West Texas A&M University by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on February 21, 2006.

Dr. O'Brien came to WTAMU from Loyola University New Orleans, where he served as dean of the College of Business Administration and professor of economics beginning in 1995. A native of Tennessee, Dr. O'Brien earned baccalaureate (economics) and master's (agricultural economics) degrees from Auburn University in 1967 and 1969, respectively. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Oklahoma State University (OSU) in 1977.

Dr. O'Brien started his career in academia as an instructor at OSU before accepting positions as an assistant professor of economics at Bowling Green State University (1974-1977) and then at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). He remained at UAF until 1991, leaving his position as professor and head of the Department of Economics to accept a dean's appointment with the College of Commerce and Business Administration at Jacksonville State University (1991-1995). Dr. O'Brien received outstanding faculty awards at UAF and Loyola University New Orleans and is active in civic and professional organizations.

Locally, he currently serves on the boards of the Texas International Education Consortium and the TEXAS Panhandle Heritage Foundation, and is a member of the Texas Panhandle P-16 Council. He also serves as treasurer of the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors.

In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, gardening, amateur astronomy and reading. Dr. O'Brien is married to Karen Stapp O'Brien and they have two adult sons and three grandchildren.

F. Dominic Dottavio
President
Tarleton State University

Originally from Massillon, Ohio, Dr. Dottavio earned his bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management from The Ohio State University, his master's degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University, and his doctorate from Purdue University's College of Agriculture.

Dr. Dottavio was the director of the Center for Natural Areas in Washington, D.C. and director of the Clemson University Cooperative Study Unit for the U.S. Department of Interior. Dr. Dottavio also served as the regional chief scientist for the National Park Service, where he led research programs in coastal zone management, ecosystem restoration and conservation biology.

Dr. Dottavio returned to higher education to serve as the chief executive officer of The Ohio State University at Marion and as a professor in Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Dottavio then was selected as the 13th president of Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, where he served for five years before being named Tarleton's 15th president in 2008.

Dr. Dottavio has served on National Academy of Sciences Committees on the restoration of the Everglades and has received a number of recognitions, including The Ohio State University Alumni Association Citizenship Award and Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Award from Purdue University.

President Dottavio and his wife Dr. C. Lisette Dottavio, CPA and senior tax accountant, have two grown children: son Aaron and his wife, Lyndsey, and their two children Dominic and Abigail live in Phoenix, Arizona; and daughter Adrea, who lives in College Station, Texas.

George C. Wright
President
Prairie View A&M University

Dr. George C. Wright, noted African-American scholar, is the president of Prairie View A&M University, the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Dr. Wright received his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Kentucky and his doctorate in history from Duke University. In 2004, Dr. Wright was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Wright's teaching experience began in 1977 as an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. In 1980, he began teaching at the University of Texas at Austin where he would eventually become a full professor and the holder of the Mastin Gentry White Professorship of Southern History. After his first year at The University of Texas, he was voted one of the 10 best faculty every year on the annual list of the *10 Best and 10 Worst* of 5,000 faculty.

Dr. Wright received the top teaching award in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence, and the top teaching award for the entire university, the Lillian and Tom B. Rhodes Centennial Teaching Fellow, which garnered a \$10,000 prize.

In 1993, he joined the faculty at Duke University as vice provost for undergraduate programs, director of the Afro-American studies program and held the William R. Kenan, Jr., Chair in American history. Dr. Wright has authored three books on race relations.

Emily Fourmy Cutrer
President
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Dr. Emily Fourmy Cutrer was appointed president of Texas A&M University-Texarkana by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in January 2013. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Cutrer served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University San Marcos for more than six years. From 1990-2006, she was associate professor and then professor of American Studies at Arizona State University West, where she served as dean of the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences from 2002 through 2006.

Dr. Cutrer is a native Texan, born in San Antonio and raised there and in Houston. She attended Hollins College in Roanoke Virginia and later The University of Texas at Austin where she earned her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American Studies and began her academic career as a faculty member in American Studies and Art History. Her book *The Art of the Woman: The Life and Work of Elisabet Ney* (Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press, Women in the West series, 1988) was awarded the Texas Institute of Letters Award for Best Book by a Texas Author in 1988 and is being republished this spring by the Texas A&M Press in the Ellen Temple Classics in Texas Women's History series.

In 2002, she was named the National First-Year Advocate, awarded by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, and in 2010 she received the San Diego YWCA Twin Award.

Jon Mogford
Vice Chancellor for Research
The Texas A&M University System

As Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Jon Mogford works in close collaboration with The Texas A&M University System's universities, state agencies, and health science center to facilitate the growth of research. He is responsible for providing services and support in areas of research development and research compliance. Previously, he served as Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Strategic Initiatives for the A&M System, having joined that office from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, where he was acting director of the Defense Sciences Office. Dr. Mogford also served as deputy director and program manager within DSO.

Dr. Mogford has an extensive background in biology research and its applications in the field of defense medicine. His expertise encompasses wound healing/regeneration, cellular therapies, tissue engineering and vascular physiology, with focus on therapeutics for wounded soldiers, protein design processes and drug delivery. Dr. Mogford's DARPA programs included scar-free regeneration of wounds, metabolic control strategies for survival of blood loss, biomarker-responsive biomaterials for drug delivery, stem cell-based bioreactor production of universal donor red blood cells, computational design of novel proteins, and active hemostatic biomaterials for internal and external wounds. He has authored or co-authored 29 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Mogford obtained his bachelor's degree in zoology from Texas A&M University and doctorate in medical physiology from the Texas A&M University Health Science Center. His research in vascular physiology continued at the University of Chicago as a postdoctoral fellow, 1997-98. His research focus transitioned to wound healing at Northwestern University, 1998-2003. He and his wife Tammy have twin sons, Christian and Zachary.

M. Katherine Banks
Vice Chancellor and Dean of Texas A&M Engineering
Director, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair Professor

Dr. M. Katherine Banks is the Vice Chancellor for Engineering for The Texas A&M University System, dean of the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University, and director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES). As Vice Chancellor, Dr. Banks oversees coordination and collaboration among the engineering, academic and research programs at nine universities throughout the A&M System, as well as three state agencies: TEES, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). As TEES director, Dr. Banks oversees research administration of more than 4,800 projects and \$208 million in sponsored research awards. As dean of the College of Engineering and holder of the Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair in Engineering, Dr. Banks leads one of the largest engineering schools in the country, with more than 16,700 students and over 500 faculty.

Banks was previously the Bowen Engineering Head for the School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University and holder of the Jack and Kay Hockema Professorship. She received her B.S.E. from the University of Florida, M.S.E. from the University of North Carolina, and Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from Duke University. Dr. Banks is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She has received numerous awards including the ASCE Petersen Outstanding Woman of the Year Award, ASCE Rudolph Hering Medal, Kate Gleason Medal, Sloan Foundation Mentoring Fellowship and the American Association of University Women Fellowship.

Mark A. Hussey
Vice Chancellor & Dean
Agriculture and Life Sciences

Dr. Mark Hussey's career at Texas A&M University has been marked by continued success and increasing responsibilities. After earning his Ph.D. in plant breeding in 1983, he served as a faculty member and later head of the department of soil and crop sciences. He was subsequently named director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research. In 2008, he was appointed vice chancellor and dean for agriculture and life sciences, and in 2014, he accepted a request to lead Texas A&M University as interim president.

In May 2015, Dr. Hussey returned to his position as vice chancellor and dean. The 16-month endeavor as interim president gave him the opportunity to make great strides for the university. He supervised a comprehensive administrative review; engaged students in decisions such as changes to campus dining and selecting Reveille IX; managed a campus-wide Compliance Task Force; established a Search Advisory Committee to select the vice president for student affairs; and oversaw the return of the Office of the President to the historic Jack K. Williams Administration Building.

Resuming his position as vice chancellor and dean, he helps prepare future leaders in agriculture and life sciences and oversees the broad-based teaching, research, extension and service for which Texas A&M is renowned. These vital pursuits are carried out by The Texas A&M University System's agricultural agencies: Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, as well as the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Larry J. Suva
Professor & Department Head
Department of Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

Dr. Larry J. Suva is a tenured professor and head in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University. He obtained his PhD in Medicine from the University of Melbourne in Australia in 1988 after completing undergraduate studies in biochemistry and chemistry.

Dr. Suva moved to Texas A&M University from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2015. His career-long, federally-funded research efforts have focused on the skeletal outcomes of diseases, ranging from breast cancer and multiple myeloma to osteoporosis, diabetes and infection. He is currently the author of more than 140 peer-reviewed publications and eight issued patents. During his time in Arkansas, Dr. Suva was awarded two prestigious lectureships in recognition of his contributions to musculoskeletal science. He gave the 7th Annual Howard Florey Lecture, University of Adelaide, Australia, September 2012 and the 13th Annual John G. Haddad, Jr. Memorial Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, October 2010. He was among the first investigators to utilize non-invasive imaging of the skeleton in conjunction with bone pathology and has recently discovered novel biomarkers that predict breast cancer progression in bone.

Dennis L. Christiansen
Agency Director
Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Dr. Dennis L. Christiansen is the agency director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), a state agency and the largest higher education-affiliated transportation research center in the United States. TTI was formed by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in 1950 to conduct research for the Texas Highway Department—now the Texas Department of Transportation. Today, TTI research projects total about \$60 million annually for about 200 sponsors at all levels of government and the private sector. The technologies and strategies developed at TTI have saved the state and nation thousands of lives and billions of dollars.

With extensive research experience in traffic operations, transportation planning, and transit planning, Dr. Christiansen is an international expert in high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. He was one of the pioneers of the HOV lane concept in Houston and had significant involvement in its development and implementation. His research in HOV lanes has been utilized throughout the country and has made a significant impact on the effectiveness of the transportation system in Texas and elsewhere.

A member of the TTI staff for more than 40 years, he has received numerous awards in the field of transportation, most recently honorary membership in the Institute of Transportation Engineers. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Intelligent Transportation Society of America. He was selected as a Regents Fellow by the A&M System Board of Regents in 2004. Dr. Christiansen received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University, and master's and Ph.D. degrees, also in civil engineering, from Texas A&M University.

Tommy Williams
Vice Chancellor for Federal & State Relations
The Texas A&M University System

Tommy Williams serves as Vice Chancellor for Federal and State Relations for The Texas A&M University System. He is responsible for building and maintaining relationships between all of the members of the Texas A&M System and congressional and legislative members. Mr. Williams brings a strong record of business achievements, community involvement and public service to the A&M System.

Before coming to the A&M System, Mr. Williams served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1997-2003, and in the Texas Senate from 2003-2013. While in the Senate, Mr. Williams served as chairman of three different committees: the Administration Committee, the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, and finally, the Finance Committee. During his legislative career, Mr. Williams was a respected leader on budget, education, transportation and tax issues.

Mr. Williams is a life-long Texan. He was born in Marshall, Texas, and attended schools in the Marshall Independent School District. After graduating from Texas A&M University with a BBA in Accounting, he began a career in industry and public accounting prior to entering the insurance and financial services field in 1983. He served as president of Woodforest Financial Services, an affiliate of Woodforest National Bank from 2000-2013. Tommy and his wife, Marsha, are most proud of their two sons and two grandsons.

Phillip Ray
Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs
The Texas A&M University System

As Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, Phillip Ray is responsible for all real estate development projects involving a public-private partnership, negotiation of operational efficiencies opportunities, facilities planning and construction, financial accounting and reporting oversight, direction of tax and fiscal activities, financial functions related to the legislative appropriations process, annual operating budget process, Historically Underutilized Business initiatives, and aircraft operations.

Mr. Ray earned a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1987 and an MBA from Southern Methodist University in 1991. He went on to study at the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard University in 2004, the Executive Leadership and Management Institute at Stanford University in 2006, and the Governor's Executive Development Program through the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in 2008.

Mr. Ray started his career as a Financial Analyst in Program Management at E-Systems-Raytheon from 1982-1993. From 1993-1999, he served as Director of Procurement & Contracts at A&M-Commerce before moving to Katy Independent School District to take the same position. Mr. Ray served Texas Tech University as assistant vice president for business affairs and contracts before moving to Texas A&M University to fill a position as Assistant Athletic Director in 2006. Mr. Ray continued his work with Texas A&M by moving to associate vice president for Finance & University Contracts Officer in 2008. In 2012, he became the Chief Business Development Officer at the A&M System and currently serves as Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs.