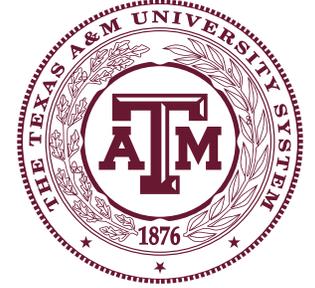




# SFA WOULD BE THE UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE FOR EAST TEXAS AND NEXUS FOR NEW PROGRAMS AS A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS A&M SYSTEM



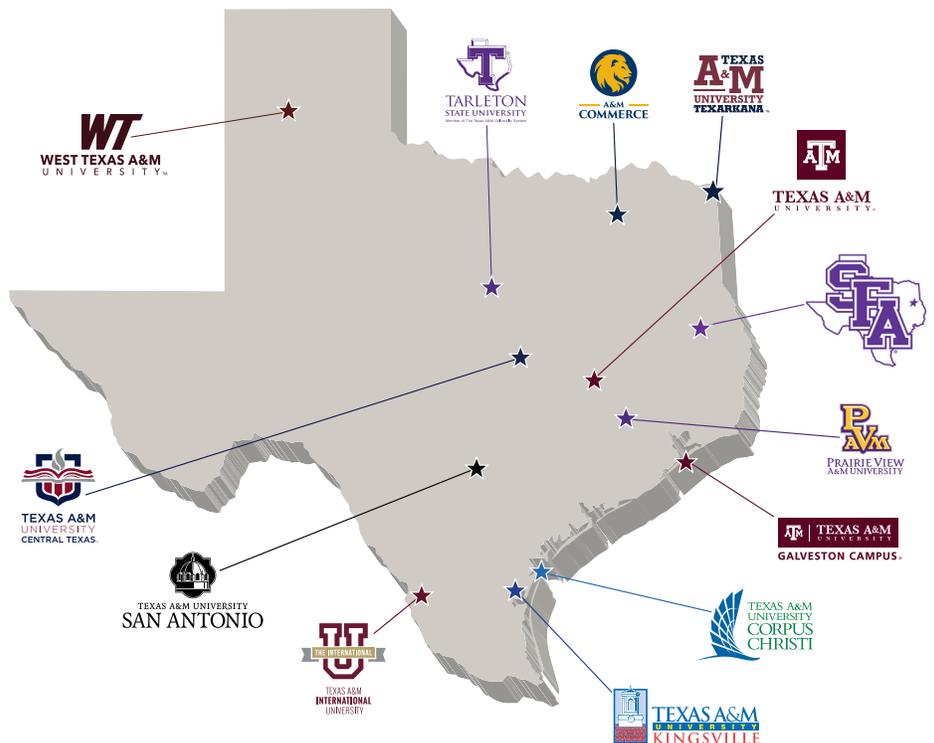
Stephen F. Austin State University would be a welcomed partner in The Texas A&M University System and both parties would greatly benefit with SFA as a System member. The Nacogdoches campus would be the System's third largest university and an important nexus for new programs in East Texas.

## CULTURE:

The Texas A&M System shares SFA's values and will honor its traditions. Our cultures are very similar.

## NAME:

Our goal is **not** to rename or revamp SFA, but to elevate its mission through collaboration, cooperation and investment. *For example, Tarleton State University does not have A&M in its name although it is a long-time member of the A&M System.*



## FINANCES:

The A&M System's strength is in its unique structure – 11 universities, 8 state agencies, a comprehensive health science center and specialty campuses in Houston, Fort Worth, McAllen and Bryan (Texas A&M-RELLIS).

That diversity allows for a statewide mission, tailored to regional needs and financed with access to the Permanent University Fund.

The A&M System is focused on promoting the success of regional universities. *For example, this past legislative session, the A&M System led the effort to create special student success funding for **all** regional universities. SFA is a recipient of those funds (\$948,650) and the A&M System hopes to double the program's total funding to \$80 million in the 2023 session.*

The A&M System already manages SFA's investments, but SFA would be in a stronger financial position as a member of the A&M System. *For example, SFA would enjoy lower borrowing costs, cheaper group insurance and worker's compensation, streamlined procurement, and other economies of scale.*

## PROGRAMS/CONSTRUCTION:

We would work with you to construct the Piney Woods Center for Forestry and Environmental Science Research to be home to the best forestry program in the world by augmenting Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture with services provided by Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research.

The state-of-the-art facility could be one of the first multi-story buildings using mass timber from Southern yellow pine. By demonstrating the successful construction of commercial buildings with mass timber, SFA could be a leader in the adoption and implementation of mass timber building techniques, which could expand the \$41.6 billion timber market in Texas and add to the industry's 172,000 jobs.



The Piney Woods Center, built primarily with PUF proceeds, also could house other A&M System services such as emergency management, engineering research and workforce training. *For example, the Texas A&M Extension Service is training 10,000 workers in advanced manufacturing at the Port of Brownsville, thanks to funding by the Legislature. That program could be duplicated for East Texas.*



Texas A&M Health includes schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and public health. They have pipeline programs that could be extended to SFA students who want to be better prepared to pursue professional degrees.

## PROGRAMS/CONSTRUCTION: *(cont.)*

Healthy East Texas, modeled after the A&M System's Healthy South Texas program, would address chronic health problems and would be headquartered at SFA. Healthy South Texas and Healthy Houston use the A&M System's county extension agents and public health experts to teach Texans healthy habits that can help prevent chronic illnesses such as diabetes and lower medical costs.

The School of Medicine also has rural community outreach programs, including Telebehavioral Care which could benefit East Texas.

The A&M System is committed to building on SFA's DeWitt School of Nursing by collaborating to establish new academic programs, and work with our longstanding hospital partners to facilitate the procurement of new clinical placements to support the SFA Bachelor of Science Nursing program.

Collaboration with Texas A&M School of Nursing would provide the infrastructure for SFA program expansion, continued education paths for faculty and immediate rural community health initiatives in the East Texas region.

Master's degrees with specialties in forensic nursing or acute care, or specialized certificates in psychiatric mental health could be added to SFA—easily expanding their academic scope—while enabling current SFA nursing faculty to obtain a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with eventual plans for SFA to have its own doctorate degree.

Like most of Texas, our East Texas communities face tough rural health disparities. Immediate collaboration with the Texas A&M School of Nursing could provide cancer screening initiatives, prevention-based health care delivery, along with training of more than 100 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in surrounding counties.

*With legislative support, and currently funded initiatives, the A&M System has a strong track record of building programs for the health professions, most recently at A&M-Texarkana and Tarleton State University.*

A&M System's commitment is to add more Ph.D. programs and tenure-track faculty. Immediate opportunities include doctoral degrees in Environmental Science, Cyber Security and Business Management. *Investing in more doctoral programs will help SFA to aspire to join four A&M System universities as R2 Research Universities.*



The A&M System has enjoyed a building boom over the past decade. Construction services for the A&M System is currently managing 91 projects statewide, and the Board of Regents are committed to a robust facility maintenance program that would benefit SFA.

SFA is already participating as a partner at the RELLIS Academic Alliance by offering the EC-6 teaching certificate with the intention to offer more.

SFA—as one of the largest producers of teachers in Texas—would fit right in with our Community of Practice in Education where our teacher preparation programs have worked together to leverage resources and partnerships with a wide range of regulatory and philanthropic entities (e.g., Charles Butt Foundation, Raise your Hand Texas, TPI-US, US-Prep, Branch Alliance, etc.).

## ENROLLMENT/FINANCIAL AID:

As a member of the A&M system, SFA would participate in the “Program for System Admission” (PSA) where outstanding students, who are denied admission to Texas A&M due to capacity constraints in College Station, can be offered admission at SFA with a promise to transfer to A&M after completing selected requirements in Nacogdoches. Close to a thousand students find their way to our universities through PSA, but most of them choose not to transfer to A&M after finding outstanding academic programs, enjoying a vibrant student life and developing friends at our other universities. SFA could increase its enrollment by tapping this pipeline of applicants.



SFA would participate in the A&M System’s \$100 million scholarship fund with the goals of making the System’s universities better reflect the state’s demographics. SFA’s African American enrollment has declined more than 1,000 students since 2014. We share in that passion to do better and these resources will make it happen. Six universities in the A&M are already Hispanic Serving, with more to come. The A&M System will use these resources to move SFA from 20% Hispanic enrollment to over 25% Hispanic enrollment, thus qualifying as a Hispanic Serving Institution and the opportunities for additional revenue it provides.

A&M System also has a \$30 million Regents Grant program to help students facing unexpected expenses.

The A&M System is committed to creating more pathway and early high school programs to recruit and retain more students at SFA. *For example, replicating A&M System’s Distinguished High School Program would help SFA to become the university of choice for East Texas students as A&M System’s only university in Deep East Texas.*

## OTHER A&M SYSTEM SERVICES:



The A&M System’s Government Relations team can provide strategy and support at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Legislature and the nation’s capital.

Extensive academic data and analysis are available to all members through an online source, Empower U.

Central audit support is built on a philosophy of improving management practices through a collaborative approach.

## CONCLUSION:

My view—and I hope yours as well—is that Stephen F. Austin State University fits the Texas A&M University System like a glove. For us, SFA represents an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to add a System member in Deep East Texas, which would allow us *together* to create a hub for educational programs and a world-class forestry center.

I hope you will join us. I believe we will both benefit, and East Texans will benefit. I can see only great things in our future.

John Sharp  
Chancellor  
The Texas A&M University System