



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

P.O. Box 6078, SFA Station • Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-6078

Phone (936) 468-2201 • Fax (936) 468-2202

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Dear Lumberjacks,

Along with the rest of the country, the SFA community has been closely following the heartbreaking reports of damage, loss and incredible human suffering that continue to unfold around our state as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Many members of our Lumberjack family, including students, alumni and friends of SFA, live and work in regions of the state that have been severely impacted by this devastating storm. As we work to provide support to SFA students who have been affected, we also have been organizing our on-campus efforts to contribute in the most significant and efficient ways possible to the statewide relief effort that is well underway.

To date, we have been in contact with more than 200 currently enrolled SFA students who have been displaced or delayed by the storm or were otherwise unable to begin classes on schedule this week. We have encouraged students to put their safety first when making travel decisions. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing as much support and flexibility as possible for students impacted by the storm. Each of our colleges has appointed a specific contact person to serve as a resource to help their students. These contacts can be found at www.sfasu.edu/harvey. Students whose SFA attendance has been affected by the storm are encouraged to contact the office of the Dean of Student Affairs at dosa@sfasu.edu so that we may be apprised of their unique situations.

For those students who are here on campus—many deeply concerned about their families and friends back home—SFA Counseling Services is providing drop-in group counseling from 4 to 5 p.m. every day this week on the third floor of the Rusk Building. Free and confidential individual counseling services are available to students who may benefit from them. Appointments can be made by calling (936) 468-2401.

Many SFA departments and student organizations have already begun sponsoring events to collect donations and provide other support for relief efforts across the state. You may keep abreast of the ways SFA is helping at www.sfasu.edu/harvey. This web page will be updated regularly to provide the latest available information about upcoming opportunities to donate or volunteer. I urge all Lumberjacks to join our on-campus relief efforts, donate to the American Red Cross or other disaster relief and recovery organizations or do whatever you can to help our state recover from this catastrophe.

At SFA we are best known for the high quality, individualized educational experience we provide our students, but we also have a very strong record of community service. This is an area in which Lumberjacks truly shine, and as this storm recedes, we are redoubling our commitment to making a difference for our family, friends and neighbors in need. We continue to pray for the safety and well-being of all Lumberjacks—indeed, all Texans—and we look forward to helping them remain safe and healthy and resume their normal lives as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Baker Pattillo
President