

# Presidential Leadership Statement



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN  
STATE UNIVERSITY  

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NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# OUR MISSION.

Stephen F. Austin State University is a comprehensive institution dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative work and service. Through the personal attention of our faculty and staff, we engage our students in a learner-centered environment and offer opportunities to prepare for the challenges of living in the global community.

Through an appropriate mix of relevant programs, delivery methods and locations, we will attract an increasing number of students seeking to prepare themselves for the future. Enrollment growth will be evidence of our productive participation in achieving the state's strategic goal for developing a more educated population. In addition, growth provides the foundation for our ongoing fiscal sustainability.

The foundational goal is supported by four key operational goals.

- I. Attract and support a high-quality faculty and staff
- II. Foster academic and co-curricular innovation
- III. Redefine university culture
- IV. Increase connections

SFA will have a distinct and stellar reputation based on the transformational learning experiences we provide for all our students in an exceptional setting. We do not use the term "transformational" lightly.

We will be deeply committed to providing high impact, experiential learning for all SFA students.

Our students will be engaged and empowered. They will know that we care about them and that we have high expectations for their performance and success.

Our students will graduate with the marketable skills and qualities necessary to be leaders in their respective fields. Employers will seek out our students because of a demonstrated reputation of a solid work ethic. Their moral compass will be strong and true.

At SFA, we will transform lives — one Lumberjack at a time!

Visit [sfasu.edu/strategicplan](https://sfasu.edu/strategicplan) for additional information.

## Our Overarching Goal:

Transformative Experiences for SFA Students

We will engage our students in experiences that prepare them for the challenges of living in a global community.

## Our Foundational Goal:

Meaningful and Sustained Enrollment Growth







The university is currently in the silent phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, the largest in SFA's history. The campaign is scheduled to conclude in conjunction with the celebration of the university's centennial anniversary in 2023.



## Quick Facts

**Location:** Nacogdoches, Texas

**Nacogdoches population:**

32,996 city

65,580 county

**Enrollment 2018-19  
academic year:**

Total: 13,144

Undergraduate: 11,398

Graduate: 1,746

**Under-represented minority  
students:** 33%

**From Texas: 97%**

From East Texas: 32%

From Houston: 30%

From Dallas: 22%

**First-time undergraduates, 2018**

Average ACT score: 21.7

Average SAT score: 1,087

Female: 67%

Male: 33%

**Retention rate:** 70.5%

**Six-year graduation rate:** 48.6%

**Faculty and staff:**

Full-time faculty: 575

Faculty with terminal  
degrees: 513

Student/faculty ratio: 18.1

Full-time staff: 928

**Athletics:**

Southland Conference (SLC)

Seven men's Division I-AA  
sports and 11 women's sports

Student-athlete GSR

SFA: 81.4    SLC: 78.7

Student-athlete GPA: 3.02

**Residence Life Department:**

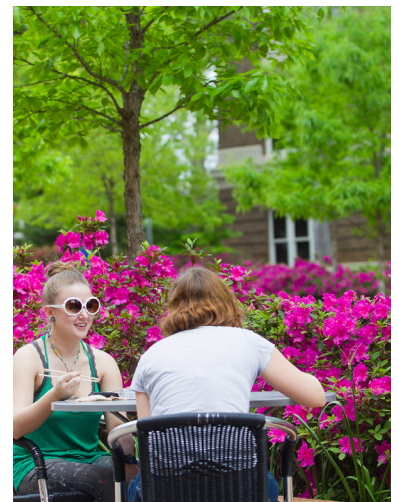
Students living  
on-campus: 5,000

Residence halls: 14

## OUR CAMPUS.

SFA is inarguably one of the most beautiful campuses in the state of Texas. But it is more than beauty that captures the hearts of students and faculty here. It is a sense of belonging, community and a welcoming spirit that make our campus feel like home.

SFA has 31 academic buildings, combining traditional buildings, such as the Austin Building, with modern, active-learning facilities, like the new 86,736-square-foot Cole STEM Building, which opened in fall 2018. During the past decade, SFA has completed \$425 million in campus construction projects, including a Student Recreation Center, three residential halls, three parking garages, impressive new gateway signage, and a student success center, as well as new academic buildings: the DeWitt School of Nursing complex, the Cole STEM Building and the Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center. The Board of Regents recently approved four construction projects for up to \$125 million. SFA's bond rating is AA- by Fitch Ratings and A1 by Moody's Investors Service.





# OUR COMMUNITY.

Nacogdoches County is filled with natural beauty and offers opportunities in education, recreation, nature, history and culture.

Nacogdoches, a friendly community in the heart of Texas Forest Country, is the oldest town in Texas. Located between Houston and Dallas, the city sits conveniently close to the major metropolitan areas and is less than five hours from the state capital. From antiquing and shopping to cultural events and festivals, the city has something for everyone.

In 2013, the Texas Legislature named Nacogdoches the Garden Capital of Texas. In addition to more than a dozen public gardens, the city is home to the seven-mile-long LaNana Creek Trail that meanders through oak forests, past a historic spring, and alongside the SFA Arboretum. Residents have access to 20 city parks, encompassing more than 389 acres. The Davy Crockett National Forest and SFA Experimental Forest, in addition to nearby Lake Nacogdoches and Lake Naconiche, provide visitors with even more opportunities for exploration.

SFA enjoys a positive town-and-gown relationship with the community. Hosting events and art shows throughout the year, The Cole Art Center @ The Old Opera House in downtown Nacogdoches and the Griffith Gallery at SFA invite community members to take part in the rich culture of the area. Visitors can learn more about Nacogdoches' history at museums and historical sites throughout the city, including Millard's Crossing Historic Village, the Sterne-Hoya House Museum and Library, and the Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens.

Nacogdoches is also home to the Lamp-Lite Theatre, the Judy B. McDonald Public Library and the C.L. Simon Recreation Center.





# OUR HIGHLIGHTS.

Stephen F. Austin State University has provided instruction, research and outreach to benefit the state of Texas and the nation for almost 100 years.

Consistently ranked a top institution by U.S. News and World Report, SFA creates approximately \$335 million of additional economic activity per year in the Nacogdoches area. With more than 100,000 living alumni, SFA offers approximately 80 majors and 120 areas of study.

The **Nelson Rusche College of Business** utilizes advisory council members from throughout Texas and across the country and fosters relationships with local business people by engaging in curriculum renewal and re-energized community outreach.

The **James I. Perkins College of Education** creates global college-to-career opportunities through expanded on-campus and online degree programs. College faculty leaders assist the East Texas area by promoting a college-going culture through multiple federal and state initiatives. Educator preparation programs further strengthen collaboration with area independent school districts through field experiences and clinical practice interactions.

The **College of Fine Arts** continually expands its tradition of excellence in the arts and offers

international initiatives in Australia, China, England, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Scotland, Spain and Sweden.

The **Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture** is a leader in discovering solutions to our regional, national and international resource challenges. Students are engaged in the classroom and in the field through hands-on experiences that enhance learning and prepare them for successful careers.

The **College of Liberal and Applied Arts** prepares students for life-long careers, with employer-desired skills and opportunities for internships and field experiences. On-campus resources include professionally equipped radio and TV stations, research centers and laboratories.

The **College of Sciences and Mathematics** opened a new STEM facility that serves as home to the Department of Physics, Engineering and Astronomy, and the Department of Computer Science. The building includes makerspaces, multipurpose labs, computer labs, collaborative classrooms, research labs, a machine shop and a planetarium with a 52-foot dome.

The **Purple Promise Guarantee Program** helps qualifying Lumberjacks pursue an undergraduate degree by covering the remaining balance of tuition and regular fees not already paid by other grants, scholarships, exemptions or waivers.

The **Lumberjack Grant and Scholarship Program** serves Lumberjacks who demonstrate need but are underserved by other federal and state grant or scholarship programs.

The **Academic Excellence Scholarship, Community College Transfer Scholarship** and the **University Regents Scholarship** reward high-achievers and assist academic departments in recruiting quality students.

**Residential learning communities** feature a relaxed atmosphere that promotes exploration of shared academic, social or cultural interests.

The **Steen Library** allows students to search electronic and print resources with ease using SteenFind, the library resources discovery tool, and is home to the award-winning **Academic Assistance and Resource Center**, which provides free tutoring to SFA students in a peer-led tutoring environment.

SFA is consistently on the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, which recognizes institutions nationwide for achieving measurable outcomes in the communities they serve. During the 2017-18 academic year, the SFA community completed 87,750 hours of service.

The **Office of Multicultural Affairs** sponsors student organizations including the Veterans Resource Center, the Lumberjack Cultural Association, the NAACP, the Asian Culture Club and the Organization of Latin Americans.



# THE OPPORTUNITY.



Stephen F. Austin State University, one of four independent public universities in the state of Texas, announces a nationwide search for its next president. Located in the heart of the East Texas Piney Woods, the university has a proud tradition and offers a compelling leadership opportunity.

Founded in 1923, Stephen F. Austin State University's breathtaking campus is located in Nacogdoches, Texas' first town. The university enrolls more than 13,000 students, employs approximately 703 FTE faculty members and has an annual budget of more than \$265 million.

The university enjoyed an impressive continuity and excellence of leadership with its president, Dr. Baker Pattillo, until his untimely death in December 2018. SFA's Board of Regents is looking for an outstanding leader to continue the positive and upward trajectory the institution has enjoyed for the past decade. The university is currently celebrating its 95th anniversary, and it is anticipated that the next president will be a central figure leading up to and during the school's centennial celebration.

The president is the chief executive officer of the university and is responsible for its strategic and successful operation. Reporting directly to the Board of Regents, the president should be a visionary and strategic planner and an outstanding communicator, actively engaged in the everyday life of the university and the Nacogdoches community. The selected individual will have unquestioned integrity, a record of exemplary leadership, and respect for the mission of the university. Above all, the next president will be student-centered, will have an appreciation for an outstanding faculty, will understand and readily adapt to the culture of East Texas, and will be a friend-maker and fund-raiser for SFA.

## PREFERRED QUALITIES:

- A transformative academic leader with an innovative mindset to bring new ideas to SFA
- An administrator at the vice president or president level with a terminal degree and experience as a tenured faculty member
- A visionary for change who can achieve that vision by communicating with integrity to all stakeholder groups
- Ability to represent SFA to legislators and to alumni and donors in East Texas and throughout the state
- Ability to secure funding to ensure financial viability and support each element of SFA's strategic plan

While applications and nominations will be accepted until a new president is selected, interested parties should send their materials to the address below by May 1 to assure optimal consideration. Application materials should include an updated résumé and letter of interest.

**SFA President Search / R. William Funk & Associates**  
**2911 Turtle Creek Boulevard, Suite 300 / Dallas, Texas 75219**  
**Email: [krisha.creal@rwilliamfunk.com](mailto:krisha.creal@rwilliamfunk.com) / Fax: 214.523.9067**

*Stephen F. Austin State University strives to provide an educational and work environment that affirms the rights and dignity of each individual. It is the policy of the university, in accordance with federal and state law, to prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship and veteran status. SFA prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.*





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