

**Jim Russ**  
**General Chair**  
**Chancellor's Century Council**



Jim Russ is a man of tradition. A proud native Texan and second-generation Aggie, Jim is a fourth generation principal at one of Houston's longest standing, privately owned Engineering firms, EHRA Engineering.

Jim began his career in civil construction soon after earning his building construction degree in 1986 from Texas A&M University in College Station. He moved to civil engineering in 1998, focusing on land development, municipal engineering and public infrastructure.

Founded in 1936, EHRA Engineering has a legacy of commitment and service. As President and CEO, Jim leads an organization of some of the most well-respected and accomplished professionals in the industry. He strives to inspire a company culture that emphasizes the team, the client, innovation, integrity, quality of service and leadership. These are his guiding principles.

Jim is actively engaged in the growth and maintenance of the region through his volunteer work as an executive committee member, board member and committee chair for numerous civil construction and engineering industry professional organizations and associations; as well as for political action groups, chambers of commerce, infrastructure advocacy and economic development organizations throughout Southeast Texas.

Jim enjoys spending time with family and friends, networking and serving his community. An avid supporter of Texas A&M University and The Texas A&M University System, he takes pride in his involvement with The Association of Former Students, the Texas A&M Foundation, the 12th Man Foundation, School of Architecture, College of Engineering, School of Public Health, the Department of Construction Science and the Chancellor's Century Council. He also promotes Good Bull by attending as many Texas Aggie sporting events as he can. Gig 'Em!



**John Sharp**  
**Chancellor**  
**The Texas A&M University System**



John Sharp draws on a lifetime of public service experience as Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System.

Appointed by the Board of Regents on Sept. 6, 2011, he leads one of the nation's largest university systems with an annual budget of \$7.2 billion. Enrollment at the A&M System's 11 universities has grown to more than 152,000 and externally funded research expenditures exceed \$1 billion annually.

The System's flagship, Texas A&M University, stands among the nation's top 20 research universities for total research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation.

Sharp earned a bachelor's 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, Sharp was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve.

In 1976, Sharp received a master's degree in public administration from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State) 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.

In 1982, he won a seat in the Texas Senate. Four years later, he was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission. Sharp was elected state comptroller in 1990 and re-elected in 1994.

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.

Sharp, who was married 43 years to the late Charlotte Han of Austin, has a son, Spencer; a daughter-in-law, Brigitte; a daughter, Victoria; and granddaughters, Simone and Freya. Sharp is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station and is involved in many community and humanitarian efforts. He is engaged to Diana Atchison of Houston.



**Tim Leach**  
**Chairman, Board of Regents**  
**The Texas A&M University System**



Tim Leach of Midland holds a bachelor of science in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University (1982) and a master of business administration from The University of Texas Permian Basin (1985).

Mr. Leach is a member of ConocoPhillips executive leadership team, and on the ConocoPhillips Board of Directors. Previously, he was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Concho Resources since it was formed in 2004. Mr. Leach has led other Permian Basin focused energy companies, including privately held predecessors to Concho, and served in various positions with Parker & Parsley, including executive vice president.

Mr. Leach was appointed to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors on September 1, 2020, and was appointed to the Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle Advisory Board on January 1, 2021. He serves on the Board of Governors for Midland Memorial Foundation, the Board of Directors for The Scharbauer Foundation, the Advisory Board of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and has previously served on the Board of Directors of The Association of Former Students and the Board of Directors for Midland College Foundation. Mr. Leach is also an Emeritus Council Member of Texas A&M University's Engineering Advisory Council. He is the recipient of the 2017 TXOGA Distinguished Service Award, the 2011 "Top Hand Award" from the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and was inducted into the Petroleum Museum Hall of Fame in 2013.

Mr. Leach and his wife, Amy Leach '84, served as co-chairs for Texas A&M's comprehensive capital campaign, "Lead by Example."

Mr. Leach was appointed as a member of the Board of Regents by Governor Greg Abbott in 2017. He was elected Chairman of the Board on June 7, 2021, and served as Vice Chairman of the Board from 2019 to 2021. He served as Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant and served two terms as a member of the Committee on Finance. Mr. Leach has also served as a liaison to the Development Foundations of A&M System Members and the Panhandle Plains Museum. His term as regent expires Feb. 1, 2023.



**Billy Hamilton**  
**Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer**  
**The Texas A&M University System**

Billy Hamilton is Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer for The Texas A&M University System.

Prior to joining the A&M System, he was a consultant in state tax and fiscal issues and served as Interim Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration for the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority in Austin. Hamilton also served as the Chief Deputy Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas.

Additionally, Hamilton served on special assignment as co-executive director of the California Performance Review for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Prior to joining the comptroller, Hamilton was director of state and local services for the Policy Economics Group of KPMG Peat Marwick in Washington, D.C. He served in that position from 1987 through 1990. In 1986 and 1987, Hamilton was executive director of the Select Committee on Tax Equity, a panel created by the Texas Legislature to study the state's tax structure. Prior to his work with the Select Committee, Hamilton worked for the Texas Association of Taxpayers, a business group interested in tax policy and fiscal responsibility in Texas government. From 1982 to 1986, Hamilton was associate deputy comptroller for Fiscal Management and chief revenue estimator with the Comptroller of Public Accounts. He was also research director for the comptroller.

Hamilton is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. He is married and has three children.

**Joe Elabd**  
**Vice Chancellor for Research**  
**The Texas A&M University System**

Dr. Joe Elabd is the Vice Chancellor for Research at The Texas A&M University System; a system of 11 universities and eight state agencies with externally funded research expenditures exceeding \$1 billion annually. As the leader of the A&M System Office of Research, Dr. Elabd is responsible for providing leadership and services to support all 19 system members in areas including intellectual property and commercialization, research compliance, research development, research partnerships, research security, and research strategy.

Dr. Elabd is also a Professor and the Axalta Coating Systems Chair II in the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and served as a Senior Fellow at the Instituto di Studi Avanzati, Università di Bologna and a Scholar in Residence at the Food & Drug Administration. He has received numerous research awards including the NSF CAREER Award, DuPont Science and Engineering Award, and the ARO Young Investigator Award. His research focuses on electrochemical energy (batteries, capacitors, fuel cells) and materials and polymer science and he has authored more than 130 research journal publications. Dr. Elabd has taught college chemical engineering courses at all levels (freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate).

Dr. Elabd received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He was a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

**Jenny Jones**  
**Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations**  
**The Texas A&M University System**

Jenny Jones was named Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations of The Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents on December 5, 2018. The TAMUS Government Relations team has offices in Austin and Washington, D.C., and the team of 20-plus professionals provides a coordinated, strategic approach to support the System's 11 universities, health science center and eight state agencies at the state and federal levels.

Ms. Jones has been with the A&M System since 2006 and has worked for more than 20 years with the Texas Legislature and stakeholders to provide legislative strategy, grassroots development, policy analysis and coalition building to improve the lives of Texans. Prior to joining TAMUS, she led the legislative and political efforts for the Texas Dental Association as their chief lobbyist and worked for 10 years at the Texas Medical Association in public health policy and as the legislative director.

Ms. Jones earned a bachelor's degree from Morehead State University in eastern Kentucky and she received a master's degree from Texas Tech University in linguistics. She was a doctoral candidate in the English Department at Texas A&M University before taking a leave of absence to work with the Texas Legislature and Congress. She is married to Stephen Jones. Together they have three daughters and live in Austin, Texas.

**M. Katherine Banks**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M University**

M. Katherine Banks is the 26th president of Texas A&M University, which is one of the largest universities in the United States with more than 74,000 students and 10,000-plus faculty and staff members. She also serves as Vice Chancellor of National Laboratories and National Security Strategic Initiatives for the Texas A&M University System through her leadership and involvement with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex at the Texas A&M-RELLIS campus.

Prior to June 1, 2021, Banks served for nine years as vice chancellor of engineering and dean of Texas A&M's College of Engineering. Banks also served as director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), overseeing research administration, technology commercialization and technology workforce development. Between the engineering agencies, she had oversight of \$310 million in sponsored research. As dean, University Distinguished Professor and holder of the Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair in Engineering, Banks led one of the largest engineering schools in the country with 22,500 students and 725 faculty.

She established Texas A&M's Engineering Medicine program, EnMed, which is an engineering medical school program designed to educate physicians who will create transformational technology for health care.

Banks is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and an Elected Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She is a board member and principal executive engaged with Triad National Security, LLC for the management and operation of Los Alamos National Laboratory. Banks was the principal investigator for a \$65 million cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory. The 2019 agreement began the A&M System initiative with Army Futures Command and the Bush Combat Development Complex, along with a \$130 million investment by the A&M System and the State of Texas.

Banks received her BS in engineering from the University of Florida, MS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and PhD in civil and environmental engineering from Duke University.



**Mark Rudin**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

Dr. Mark J. Rudin became the 13th President of Texas A&M University-Commerce on August 16, 2018, and immediately began work on the following strategic initiatives: student preparedness, welfare of faculty and staff, expanding research, economic development, achieving distinction/branding, innovative and civil campus culture, and fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

Prior to assuming the presidency at A&M-Commerce, Dr. Rudin served as the Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Boise State University. Over 12 years there, he played a central role in expanding the research activity at the university. Previously, Dr. Rudin served at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) as the Associate Vice President and then as the Senior Vice President for Research prior to becoming the Interim Vice President for Research and Graduate Dean. Other prior positions include Technical/Administrative Assistant with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), senior Program Specialist/Project Engineer with EG&G Idaho, Inc., and instructor in the Department of Health Physics at Idaho State University.

He holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Purdue University, with a concentration in Health Physics.

**Marc A. Nigliazzo**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo was appointed as the Inaugural President of Texas A&M University-Central Texas in April 2010 by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. He began his appointment on July 1, bringing to the position a wide range of academic and administrative experience, as well as a Texas background.

Born in Dallas, he grew up in the Brazos Valley of Central Texas. He received a B.A. in English from the University of Texas in Austin, an M.A. in English from Texas A&M University in College Station, and a Ph.D. in Language & Literature from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

During his extensive teaching career, he held faculty appointments at both two and four-year institutions. He chaired the Department of English & Philosophy at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, and served as Vice President and Dean of Instruction at Galveston College. His first presidential appointment was also at Galveston College, with subsequent appointments as President of Temple College in Temple, Texas, and Arizona Western College in Yuma. In addition, he served as a senior vice president at the University of New Mexico, responsible for the university's four branch campuses and for the start-up of UNM-West.

Throughout his career he has been actively engaged with numerous state and community boards and organizations, as well as professional associations, and he has received a number of awards and honors for his advocacy of higher education.

**Linda Schott**  
**Interim President**  
**Texas A&M University-San Antonio**

Dr. Linda Schott began as interim president at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) Jan. 17. She worked closely with former president Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, to ensure a successful transition.

Her roots run deep in the San Antonio area: she grew up on her family ranch near Medina Lake and graduated from Bandera High School. She attended Baylor University, where she attained a bachelor's degree in history and German, and Stanford University, where she received a master's and Ph.D. in history and humanities.

Before joining A&M-SA, Dr. Schott served as president of Southern Oregon University from 2016 to 2021. She led the University of Maine at Presque Isle as president from 2012-2016. Dr. Schott has extensive experience in higher education teaching and administration as dean of the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado; associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, Michigan; and numerous faculty appointments. Dr. Schott began her teaching career in 1985 as an educator at Texas State University, Texas Lutheran University and The University of Texas at San Antonio.

**James Hurley**  
**President**  
**Tarleton State University**

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents unanimously appointed Dr. James Hurley the 16th President of Tarleton State University in 2019. Since then, Tarleton has become one of the country's fastest growing comprehensive public universities.

His signature initiatives include robust enrollment growth, innovative student funding models, accelerated degree completion, improved operational efficiency and collaborations with business and community stakeholders. He spearheads efforts to address growing workforce needs and serves on several governing boards pertaining to economic development and public policy.

He advanced Tarleton to NCAA Division I in the Western Athletic Conference, oversaw SACSCOC accreditation and the launch of a 10-year strategic plan, and was instrumental in elevating Tarleton to Carnegie R2 status and membership in the prestigious Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

President Hurley holds a doctorate in education from Morehead State University, a master's degree from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Pikeville. He completed the Institute for Presidential Leadership at Harvard University and received a certificate of higher education management from Vanderbilt University.

**Robert H. Vela, Jr.**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M University-Kingsville**

Dr. Robert H. Vela Jr. began serving as the 22nd president of Texas A&M University-Kingsville in June 2022. His career has been dedicated to promoting access and opportunity to higher education across the state.

Dr. Vela previously served as President of San Antonio College—one of the largest community colleges in the nation— from 2014-June 2022. Under his collaborative leadership, Dr. Vela developed a strategic plan that advanced the Alamo Community College District goal of transforming San Antonio College into the best community college in the nation.

In 2021, the college earned the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence--the nation's premier recognition of achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

Dr. Vela serves on the Board of Directors of Excelencia in Education, an organization that accelerates Latino student success in higher education to address the U.S. economy's need for a highly educated workforce and civic leadership.

A first-generation college graduate and native of Alice, TX, Dr. Vela earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M-Kingsville. In 2015, he received the Javelina Distinguished Alumni Award.

**W. Nim Kidd**  
**Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services, The Texas A&M University System**  
**Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management**

W. Nim Kidd serves as the Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services for The Texas A&M University System and Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management. He is responsible for the state's emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

Prior to serving with TDEM, Chief Kidd was at the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD), where he was promoted through the ranks from firefighter to District Fire Chief, including Lieutenant in charge of the technical rescue team and Captain of the hazardous materials response team.

From 2004 to 2010, Chief Kidd served as emergency manager for the City of San Antonio, where he handled response to more than a dozen state and presidential disaster declarations. In 1997, Chief Kidd was one of the original members appointed to the Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. In 2001, He was the Plans Section Chief that responded to the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Chief Kidd served on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council (NAC) from 2013-2022, and was its chairman from 2018-2022.

Chief Kidd holds a masters of public administration from Texas State University, a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and two associates' degrees. In 2021, the Texas Legislature appointed him chairman of the Texas Energy Reliability Council. He is a certified emergency manager (CEM®), a Texas master firefighter, and holds hazardous materials and emergency medical technician certifications.

Chief Kidd and his wife, Dr. Emily Kidd, M.D., share three children and a beautiful granddaughter.

**David Coatney**  
**Agency Director**  
**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service**

David Coatney has more than 40 years of experience in public safety and serves as the Agency Director/CEO of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). His fire service career began with the San Antonio Fire Department, where he served for over 25 years, retiring as assistant fire chief. After leaving San Antonio, Coatney continued his career as a Fire Chief for the Round Rock Fire Department and then for the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department.

His experience includes serving as a firefighter, paramedic, fire company officer, department safety officer, special operations chief, fire operations chief and emergency management coordinator.

Coatney holds a master's in public service administration from Texas A&M University Bush School of Government and Public Service, a master's in organizational management and several professional certifications.

Coatney serves as a commissioner on the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, chairman of the Texas First Responder Advisory Council, and a committee member on the Texas Division of Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

**Al Davis**  
**Interim Agency Director**  
**Texas A&M Forest Service**

Al Davis is Interim Agency Director for Texas A&M Forest Service.

Prior to assuming his current duties on June 1, 2021, he was the Deputy Agency Director & Chief of Staff of Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) since April 1, 2014. Al Davis has been employed with TEEX since 2005 and has served in several leadership roles.

He is a 2019-2020 recipient of the TAMUS Board of Regents Fellows Service Award.

Davis is the immediate past chairman of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), co-founder and principal emeritus of the National Cyber Security Preparedness Consortium (NCPC), and a former advisory board member of the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4).

Prior to joining the Texas A&M University System, he served as a chief executive of the Public School District in New Orleans. He is a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring at the rank of colonel.

Davis earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; a master's degree of business administration from Averett University, Danville, Virginia, and a master's degree in national resource strategy from the National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

**Kelly M. Miller**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

Kelly M. Miller, Ph.D., became President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in August 2017, having been a member of the Islander faculty and leadership team since 1994. Under her leadership, the Island University has been recognized as a R2 high research activity institution by the Carnegie Commission, has tripled the number of academic scholars, and has boosted by 25 percent the number of degrees awarded to first generation Hispanic students. A focus on college affordability includes \$130 million in aid awarded annually, the highest Pell Grant threshold in the region, and national recognition for supporting transfer students.

During her tenure, key undergraduate programs in civil and industrial engineering and graduate programs in engineering and data science were added and the College of Engineering was launched.

In addition, she partnered with local and state elected officials to secure \$45 million from the Texas Legislature for a new Arts building, \$2.3 million for engineering programs, \$10 million for the Lone Star UAS Center for Excellence and Innovation's work with drone development and emergency management support, and an additional \$4 million from the City of Corpus Christi for drone use in economic development and emergency management. She has also fostered the expansion of the University's presence into downtown Corpus Christi.

**Pablo Arenaz**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M International University**

Dr. Pablo Arenaz is the sixth president of Texas A&M International University and was affirmed by the Board of Regents in November 2016. Prior to being president, he served as eight years as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

He holds his Ph.D. in Genetics and Cell Biology from Washington State University and an M.S. in Biology from the University of Nevada at Reno (UNR). His B.S. in Education was also earned at UNR. He conducted postdoctoral research at Temple University's School of Medicine, Fels Research Institute.

Since arriving at TAMIU, Dr. Arenaz has focused on enhancing academic quality, building research capacity and scholarship, and increasing both curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students, including internship and research opportunities.

Dr. Arenaz has been active in securing research grants in excess of \$35 million from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of America, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, among others.

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Dr. Arenaz' family traces their ancestry to the Basque Country of northern Spain. He has been married to Norma Arenaz for 33 years. The couple has four children: Jonathan, Cristina, Rebekah, and Pablo III.

**Walter V. Wendler**  
**President**  
**West Texas A&M University**

Walter V. Wendler was appointed the 11th President of West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) on September 1, 2016. He comes to WT from Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale, where he served as Chancellor from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2007. He returned to teaching architecture until December 31, 2015.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas; the professional Master of Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley; the Bachelor of Environmental Design from Texas A&M University; and the Associate in Applied Science from the State University of New York at Farmingdale.

Wendler was reared in Northport, New York. He graduated high school there in 1968. He married Mary L. Haney in 1973. They have two married sons, Walter III and Bradley, both graduates of Texas A&M University, and six grandchildren. They are active in their local church.

**James M. Palmer**  
**Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**Prairie View A&M University**

James M. Palmer serves as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and provides leadership and direction for academic priorities, oversees the quality of academic programs, and ensures the recruitment, retention and support for outstanding faculty. As Provost, he led PVAMU's SACSCOC decennial reaffirmation of accreditation efforts resulting in no recommendations or follow-up. Working strategically with others, he helped PVAMU in 2021 earn a R2 high research activity classification by the Carnegie Commission.

Prior to his current role, Palmer was responsible as Associate Provost for promoting and nurturing the University's wide-ranging academic goals with a focus on assessment, compliance, accreditation, planning, awards and the core curriculum. As Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of Land Grant Programs 'on loan' from the Office of Academic Affairs for two years, he supported PVAMU's 1890 land grant mission. While serving as a Department Head, Palmer oversaw the University Writing Center, which he founded and then directed for a decade.

Palmer is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he double majored, and he completed his M.A. and Ph.D. at Purdue University-West Lafayette. He and his wife Carrie, also a Purdue graduate, have five children.

**Emily Fourmy Cutrer**  
**President**  
**Texas A&M University-Texarkana**

Dr. Emily Fourmy Cutrer was appointed President of Texas A&M University-Texarkana in January 2013. Prior to the appointment, she served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at California State University San Marcos for more than six years, and a dean and professor at Arizona State University.

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. She has also written numerous articles and contributed chapters to several other books.

Dr. Cutrer and her husband Dr. Thomas W. Cutrer, also a cultural historian and Professor Emeritus at Arizona State University, have two grown children and four grandchildren.

**Greg Winfree**  
**Agency Director**  
**Texas A&M Transportation Institute**

Greg Winfree was appointed Agency Director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) in December 2016.

TTI is a state agency and the largest and most comprehensive higher education-affiliated transportation research institute in the United States, with \$74.7 million in research expenditures and about 700 employees.

He also is an adjunct professor at the Texas A&M School of Law.

Winfree served for almost seven years in the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, most recently as Assistant Secretary of Transportation overseeing the department's research and technology agencies. He is a member of the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Board sponsored by NASA, and the Texas Connected and Automated Vehicle Task Force established by Gov. Greg Abbott.

Winfree previously served as Corporate Counsel for three Fortune 500 corporations over 17 years. Early in his career, he served as an attorney in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He received a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University.

**Kelly Templin**  
**Director**  
**The Texas A&M-RELLIS Campus**

Kelly Templin is the Director of the Texas A&M System's RELLIS Campus. Originally founded as an Army Air Corps Base during World War II, Texas A&M-RELLIS consists of almost of over 2,300 acres and is home to academic programs, training grounds and testing and evaluation facilities, including the headquarters of the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Center and several other state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind research facilities.

Templin specializes in capital project planning and delivery and economic development. He brings over 30 years of public management experience to the job. He previously served as the City Manager of the City of College Station, Texas and Seabrook, Texas. He has also worked for the cities of Auburn, Alabama and Oxford, Ohio. Templin has taught in an adjunct role at Miami University, Auburn University and Texas A&M.

He holds degrees in architecture and urban planning from Texas A&M University. He is a third generation Aggie who is married to Lisette ('88) and is father to three Aggies. He enjoys carpentry, hunting, bird dogs, history and cattle ranching.

**John Hurtado**  
**Interim Vice Chancellor & Dean for Engineering**  
**Interim Director, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station**

Dr. John E. Hurtado is interim vice chancellor and dean of the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University and interim agency director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station.

As interim vice chancellor and dean, he is focused on making Texas A&M the premier destination for outstanding engineering students, faculty, researchers and staff who are committed to making a remarkable impact in Texas and beyond.

His research expertise lies in theoretical dynamics and game theory in uncertain situations, and his patented miniature robots are part of the Smithsonian Institute's permanent collection at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. At Texas A&M, he was instrumental in helping establish the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex, a one-of-a-kind research and testing ecosystem.

Prior to his service at Texas A&M, Hurtado held engineering positions in experimental dynamics and robotics at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Hurtado has been awarded numerous teaching excellence awards, authored more than 120 journal and conference publications, helped design curriculum for new Texas A&M academic programs, and is an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, a member of the American Astronautical Society and co-owner of three U.S. patents.



**Cliff Lamb**  
**Agency Director**  
**Texas A&M AgriLife Research**

G. Cliff Lamb, Ph.D., is director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the state's premier research agency in agriculture, natural resources and the life sciences.

Lamb served as head of the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science from 2017 to 2022, when he transitioned to leading AgriLife Research. Lamb's impacts as AgriLife Research director include overseeing a record \$160 million in competitive grants and the largest competitive award in the agency's history — \$65 million for climate smart agriculture and natural resources development. He has helped modernize research infrastructure across Texas at 13 regional research and extension centers and at the agency headquarters in College Station.

He led the launches of the Texas A&M AgriLife precision phenotyping greenhouse and the on-campus cryogenic electron microscopy, Cryo-em, facility, as well as the establishment of the Texas A&M Institute for Equine Sciences. Lamb also has guided the procurement of the Thomas Ranch and Dolle Barker Farm to support regenerative agricultural research, extension and education initiatives. Lamb fosters graduate student opportunities for research across Texas to develop the next generation of research leaders.

He earned a bachelor's degree in animal science at Middle Tennessee State University, followed by a master's and a doctorate in reproductive physiology from Kansas State University.

**Jeff Savell**  
**Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences**  
**The Texas A&M University System**

In June 2022, Jeffrey W. Savell, Ph.D., was confirmed by the Board of Regents as the Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He is a University Distinguished Professor, Regents Professor and E.M. "Manny" Rosenthal Chairholder in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University.

Savell has taught an array of undergraduate and graduate courses for more than 12,000 students. He has also chaired or co-chaired over 150 graduate students who have become leaders in academia, industry and government. His teaching accomplishments have been recognized by the Texas A&M Association of Former Students and the American Meat Science Association.

Savell's research efforts have been recognized by numerous university, regional and national awards for individual and team efforts to solve key issues in the livestock and meat industries. He was among the top 2 percent of most-cited researchers in the world in 2021. Savell is a past president of the American Meat Science Association and a member of the Meat Industry Hall of Fame.

Savell earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M in 1975, 1976 and 1978, respectively.

**Rodney Bowersox**  
**Associate Dean for Research**  
**Ford I Professor of Aerospace Engineering**  
**University Regents Professor**  
**Texas A&M University**

Dr. R. Bowersox is an Associate Dean for Research, Ford I Professor of Aerospace Engineering, and University Regents Professor at Texas A&M University.

He received his BS, MS, and PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in 1988, 1990, and 1992, respectively.

He served as Department Head of Aerospace Engineering from 2012 – 2020. He founded (in 2004) and directs the Texas A&M University National Aerothermochemistry and Hypersonics Laboratory.

He is the TEES Executive Director for the OUSD Joint Hypersonics Transition Office (JHTO) University Consortium for Applied Hypersonics.

He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Society of Mechanical Engineering. He is a 2017-2022 DoD Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellow. He was awarded the AIAA Dryden Lectureship in Research in 2023.

**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, public-private partnerships (P3), 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, human resources, historically underutilized business program and aircraft operations.

Ray earned a B.S. from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1987 and an MBA from Southern Methodist University in 1991. He studied 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.

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. 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. 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 now serves as Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs.

As Vice Chancellor, Ray has overseen approximately \$7.3 billion in construction, negotiated \$2.3 billion in P3 projects and generated in excess of \$1.5 billion via new revenue streams, operational efficiencies, and cost avoidance initiatives on behalf of the A&M System.

Ray was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus at A&M-Commerce.

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

James Hallmark serves as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for The Texas A&M University System. He oversees matters involving faculty, curriculum, student affairs, student success, enrollment management/admissions, and special projects for the 11 universities in the A&M System. As vice chancellor, Hallmark has also served as interim president at two A&M System universities: West Texas A&M in 2016 and Texas A&M Kingsville in 2022.

Prior to coming to the System offices, 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. 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.

**Patrick J. Stover**  
**Director**  
**Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture**

Patrick Stover, Ph.D., is the director of the Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture (IHA) at Texas A&M AgriLife. The IHA is the world's first research institute to bring together precision nutrition, responsive agriculture, and behavioral research to reduce diet-related chronic disease in a way that considers environmental and economic effects. Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) and the state of Texas, the IHA has an annual budget of more than \$30 million and includes an embedded USDA-ARS unit.

As an international leader in biochemistry, agriculture and nutrition, Stover's research focuses on the biochemical, genetic and epigenetic mechanisms that underlie the relationships among nutrition, food fortification and human pathologies such as developmental anomalies, neuropathies and cancer. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is former president of the American Society for Nutrition and has served two terms on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board. He received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from President Clinton, the government's highest honor bestowed on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers.

He has over 23 years of academic leadership experience, serving as vice chancellor and dean for agriculture and life sciences at Texas A&M AgriLife, director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Saint Joseph's University, a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from the Medical College of Virginia and completed his postdoctoral studies in nutritional sciences at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Regan Bailey**  
**Associate Director for Precision Nutrition**  
**Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture**

Regan Bailey is associate director of precision nutrition for the Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture and professor of nutrition at Texas A&M University. She previously served as a professor of nutrition science at Purdue University, and as a nutritional epidemiologist and director of career development at the National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements.

She is a registered dietitian who completed a dietetic internship and has a master's degree in food and nutrition from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She received her doctorate in nutrition science from Pennsylvania State University. She completed a master's of public health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

Her research focuses on improving the methods of measuring nutritional status to optimize health. She utilizes nationally representative survey data to characterize the American dietary landscape, to identify the optimal methods for assessment of biomarkers of nutritional status to understand how dietary intakes relate to health outcomes. She developed the first models combining nutrients from foods and dietary supplements to estimate total usual intake. Her work was used to inform the calcium and vitamin D Dietary Reference Intakes, and the National Academy reference values. She has used these models to identify differences in nutritional exposures by gender, race, ethnicity, life stage, and income, suggesting the need for population-specific, interventions and public health policy. She is the author of more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

She served on the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and as chair of the Data Analysis and Food Pattern Modeling Subcommittee. She was a member of the 2021 Committee on Scanning for New Evidence on Riboflavin to Support a Dietary Reference Intake Review for the National Academy of Medicine. She recently was appointed to serve on the American Heart Association's Council on Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health Nutrition Committee.

**Justin Scheiner**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University**  
**Viticulture Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**

Justin Scheiner is an Associate Professor and Extension Viticulture Specialist at Texas A&M in College Station.

His extension responsibilities include educational programming and technical support for grape producers in the Texas Gulf Coast and North Texas.

His research program focuses on best management practices for vineyards including sustainable water management, soil health and cover cropping, and optimizing fruit quality.

He is a member of the graduate faculty and teaches courses in the Department of Horticultural Sciences.