



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

### **Greetings:**

As Governor of Texas, I am proud to congratulate West Texas A&M University (WT) and The Texas A&M University System on their storied 30-year partnership.

Texas is home to some of our great nation's premier institutions of higher education, which prepare our next generation of leaders for excellence and success. The relationship between The Texas A&M University System and West Texas A&M University serves and benefits Texans in all corners of the Lone Star State, and this partnership demonstrates how a state university system, and institution of higher education, can make a positive impact.

West Texas A&M University serves as a regional research university with pioneering programs featuring a wide array of specialties. For example, the Rural Nursing Education Collaborative (RNEC) will address health care and workforce issues in the Panhandle and other rural areas of the state through local clinics and hospitals, the innovative "Grow Your Own" program, and collaborative work between WT, Amarillo College, Frank Phillips College, and five rural hospitals. Likewise, WT is home to one of the premier family nurse practitioner programs in the country, focusing on diverse and rural populations, whose students' skills are much needed during the difficulties associated with the ongoing pandemic. Additionally, ensuring quality care of healthy livestock and food security are benefits of the Veterinary Education Research and Outreach (VERO) 2+2 program, which allows students to study for two years at WT, focusing on the large food animal needs of the beef and dairy capital of Texas.

These forward-thinking and unique programs are precisely the services that a premier university and university system provide, and exemplify why Texas remains the envy of the nation and the world for our first-rate research institutions. Unsurprisingly, WT has been recognized by the Colleges of Distinction and included in their list of the best colleges of distinction for the 2020-21 academic year, based on the university's commitments to student engagement, teaching excellence, community collaboration, and successful outcomes. It is my pleasure to recognize and celebrate West Texas A&M University's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being part of The Texas A&M University System.

I join my fellow Texans in wishing the best for the future of your great partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor