



DIVISION OF
Student Affairs
EAST TEXAS A&M



IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024

Division of Student Affairs



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Letter from Judy Sackfield

Division of Student Affairs

Dear friends and colleagues,

As the Vice President of Student of Affairs and Dean of Students at East Texas A&M University, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2023-2024 Division of Student Affairs Impact Report. This report highlights the significant achievements and progress we have made over the past year in enhancing the student experience.

Our division remains committed to supporting the holistic development of our students. This year, we have introduced several new initiatives and I encourage you to explore them in this report. These efforts are a testament to our unwavering dedication to creating a supportive environment where every student can thrive.

I am incredibly proud of the collaborative spirit that defines our Division. The accomplishments detailed in this report would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our talented staff and students. Together, we have navigated challenges and celebrated successes, always striving to make East Texas A&M University a place where everyone feels valued and empowered.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on our mission to transform lives and enhance the student experience. We are excited about the future and the continued growth and success of our university community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our shared goals. I invite you to explore the 2023-2024 Division Impact Report and join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our students and staff.

Warm regards,
Judy Sackfield
Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students
East Texas A&M University

We Transform Lives!

OUR LATEST STEPS IN TRANSFORMING LIVES!

Highlights of 2023-2024

This year had many exciting changes in the Division of Student Affairs.

For the first time, Lion Camp was run by the Division of Student Affairs, coming to us from Enrollment Management. Open to all incoming students to ETAMU, Lion Camp was completely revamped by the Office of Student Engagement. 305 students attended this transformative experience where they built connections and learned about our traditions.

Student Advocacy & Support moved into a larger, renovated space. This space is 4 times larger than the previous space and includes 6 offices, a conference room, a 1,300 sq ft Lion Food Pantry, and a 525 sq ft Lion Wardrobe. This beautiful and more prominent space will transform the lives of many students in need.

We are also thrilled that the Office of International Programs joined the Division of Student Affairs this year, coming to us from Academic Affairs. This transition also coincided with the hiring of a new Director and Associate Director for this department. We are eager to see improved efficiency, and new programs and initiatives that will transform the lives of our international students.



Organizational Chart

We Transform Lives!



STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Jayson Douglas
Executive Director



WELLBEING AND ASSESSMENT

Autumn Johnson
Executive Director



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Judy Sackfield
Vice President & Dean
of Student



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Amanda Horne
Executive Director



ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

Michael Stark
Assistant Dean



STUDENT ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

Nikki Barnett
Director



STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Carrie Williams
Director



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Tracy Nakajima
Director



COUNSELING CENTER

Adam Metts
Director

CAMPUS RECREATION

Autumn Johnson
Director



STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Maxine Mendoza-Welch
Director



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Taron Green
Director



RAYBURN STUDENT CENTER

Noah Kramer
Director

RESIDENTIAL LIVING & LEARNING

Michael Stark
Director



STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Vacant
Director



FIRST GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS

Vacant
Director

CAMPUS RECREATION



Morris Recreation Center

 **118,227** Visits

By the Numbers

 **3,680** Students Engaged

Scholarships & Professional Development

 **121** Students Supported

- 7 Student Scholarships with \$6,000 Awarded
- 15 Students Funded to Conferences
- 99 Students Received Certifications

New Nutrition Program

Student wellbeing marked a milestone with the launch of a new nutrition program. This program features personalized nutrition counseling, interactive workshops, and cooking classes. Over the academic year, 905 students participated, gaining insights into healthy eating, meal planning, and informed food choices. Feedback showed increased self-efficacy in nutrition and a desire for dietary changes. Popular classes included Microwave Magic, Cooking with Fall Vegetables, Meal Planning on a College Budget, and seasonal food celebrations. As the program enters its second year, plans are in place to expand offerings and further promote sustainable nutrition practices among students.

 *I personally love coming to the MRC and playing a number of sports. It's nice to have different things that are offered on each day of the week, so that everyone gets a chance to do something they enjoy.* 
—Student in Spring 2024 Survey

COUNSELING CENTER



Client Appointments

 **4,610** Visits

By the Numbers

 **590** Served Students

Outreach

 **131** Events

3,985 Attendees

Transforming Mental Health: Empowering Lives and Communities

The Counseling Center fosters a campus culture of shared mental wellness. This comprehensive approach includes programming, initiatives, and trained counselors that ensure no one is left behind. Programming includes suicide awareness that teaches individuals to recognize and support those in crisis. The substance use services utilize the SMART Recovery approach that empowers individuals to overcome addiction. Workshops challenge the status quo, pushing the limits of mental health education and support for students. The rural mental health initiatives focus on improving the availability, accessibility, and acceptability of mental health services. Another critical component of the Counseling Center is training future counselors with innovative approaches and real-world experiences. These efforts build a resilient community where mental health is a priority, support is accessible, and no one faces their challenges alone.

“ This counseling experience has provided me with the help I needed to be successful. I became more skilled at managing myself during times of mental duress, a necessary skill I need moving forward. ”

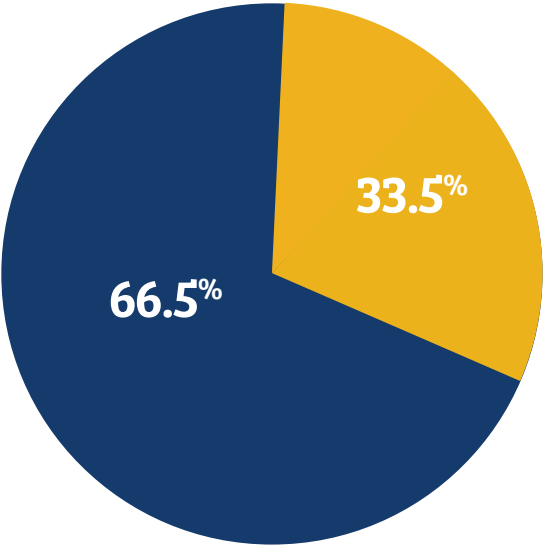
—Student Response in Annual Evaluation

FIRST GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS



Enrolled Students

 **66.5%** First Generation



Championing First-Generation Success at ETAMU

In 2024, East Texas A&M University became a NASPA First-Gen Forward institution, providing multiple opportunities to engage with peer institutions and creating environments that improve the experiences and outcomes of First-Generation students. Many students who are the first in their families to attend college face unique challenges and barriers that can impact their success in higher education. The purpose of this initiative is to create First-Generation student champions across the university and establish a community of practice to provide support and resources tailored specifically to the needs to first generation students, to increase their retention and graduation rates by 1% annually.

“When I am needing help with something, I have my support system which is my family, friends, and also the TRIO SSS program. They all help me overcome the challenges I face as a first generation college student. Asking them for advice and guidance has been crucial in navigating these challenges.”
—Student Utilizing First Gen Services, Shannon Pel

RAYBURN STUDENT CENTER



By the Numbers

 **7,400** Daily Visits

Meetings/ Events Hosted

 **25** Per Week

Rayburn Student Center: A Hub of Engagement and Growth

With more than 3,400 scheduled campus events in the Rayburn Student Center, it is considered the heart of campus. Student employees organized 19 passive programming events that fostered campus community. The most memorable for students was the “Create Your Ornament” event, where students designed and personalized holiday ornaments to spread creativity and festive cheer. Additionally, under new department leadership, student-friendly changes were made to the RSC Welcome Desk, entertainment upgrades to the 2nd floor student lounge and an expansion of available bulletin boards space. A reorganized student staff structure has created exciting new employment pathways to advance their professional skills, address challenges as a team, and take on new responsibilities.

“ We like having the student center between our dorm and classes, so we have a place to chill and grab some food. ”
—Student Utilizing RSC Services

RESIDENTIAL LIVING AND LEARNING



Residents

 **2,228** Fall 2023

 **2,074** Spring 2024

Outreach

 **375** Programs

Revamped Committee Structure

Residential Living & Learning revamped the committee structure to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Residence Education functional area. New ways were introduced to recognize student staff achievements, updated processes and forms, and revamped the RA reapplication process. Additionally, a new fire safety and prevention program was created called After the Fire, featuring survivors of a college fire. The Guest Registration Form was also improved for better tracking of visitors to the residential communities.

“ *Living on campus gave me the opportunity to connect with my peers and stay engaged with the TAMUC community. I formed lifelong connections with my roommates and the other students who lived on campus. My favorite event that Residential Living and Learning hosts is their annual Block Party, which is a great way to get involved and get to know RLL staff and other students.* ”
—Student Living On-Campus

STUDENT ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT



CARE Reports

 **452** Reports

By the Numbers

 **3,836** Lion Food Pantry Visits

Student Advocacy & Support Grand Re-Opening

In February 2023, Student Advocacy & Support relocated to a larger, more accessible space on campus, enabling significant expansion of services. This move allowed the Lion Food Pantry to secure a partnership with the North Texas Food Bank, through which we have provided students with over 28,641 pounds of food, including fresh fruits and vegetables.

Outreach

 **53** Events/Training

1,479 Attendees

“ *This is more than just a food pantry, it is a lifeline.* **”**
—Student Utilizing Lion Food Pantry

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES



By the Numbers

 **1,097** Students Served

Accommodation Requests

 **2,961** Processed

De-Stress Event

 **170** Attendees

World Autism Month: Promoting Awareness and Understanding

In April 2024, Student Disability Services hosted activities, events, and a panel discussion for World Autism Month. This month-long celebration included over 100 student attendees who gained knowledge of the intricacies of Autism and neurodiversity. Students and faculty who are neurodiverse cultivated awareness and initiated dialogue enhancing student understanding of invisible disabilities and their impact.

“ Student Disability Services creates a meaningful impact on navigable ways to excel with institutional coursework. I have personally benefited from the student accommodations to succeed in my classes despite adversity. ”
—Student Utilizing Student Disability Services

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



By the Numbers

 **108** Student Organizations

With 1,608 Members

Lion Camp

 **305** Attendees

Outreach

 **83** Events/Programs

Learning through a Conference Competition




Student Engagement supported Nikki Taylor (Class of 2024) and Justin Hill (Class of 2025) in attending the Central Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. They competed in the Order of Omega Case Study Competition, earning 2nd place among 80 participants. This experience provided both students with an invaluable learning experience. In reflecting on the experience, Nikki stated that she was able to overcome her fears and “critically analyze problems and solutions while also planning for the success of the long and short term future of a prospective university.” Justin reflected that the experience significantly impacted his perspective on fraternity and sorority life and that the connections he made “led to the formation of lasting relationships and a deeper understanding of the shared values within our community.”

“ *The Lion Walk was so fun! I got my bell and am so excited to customize it and show my pride at all the games and on campus.* ”
—Student Attending Student Engagement Events, Kayla F., Class of 2027

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES



By the Numbers

-  **5,862** Patient Visits
-  **623** Student Athletes Served
-  **439** New Patient Visits

Texas Health Department Partnership

This past year Student Health Services was able to provide free STD services by working jointly with the Texas Health Department. This included free medication and treatment. A total of 112 students received free STD testing. This partnership is one example of how the Student Health Center is committed to providing quality, accessible and compassionate care for the student population.

“ Student Health Services has provided me with exceptional quality care. Everyone is always kind and helpful. Not only am I always well taken care of, but I have been provided with so much support and have found a role model in PA-C Maxine Mendoza-Welch. ”
—Student Utilizing Health Services, Jade Gonzales

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Reports Resolved



327 Administrative Hearings



64 University Hearing Boards

By the Numbers



325 Cases Resolved

That Impacted 627 Individuals

Multi-Divisional Support

Student Rights & Responsibilities relies on volunteers across the university to conduct university hearing and appeal boards. These volunteers represent various divisions, with over 50% who are faculty from Academic Affairs. Other volunteers represent staff in the division of enrollment management and student affairs, or offices that support students such as tutoring, career preparedness, and dual-credit. This university-wide effort ensures a fair, balanced, and diverse perspective in the decision-making process, fostering a community-centered approach to upholding the integrity of the institution's policies. The commitment of these volunteers enhances the accountability and transparency of the hearing and appeals process, while also providing invaluable insight from different sectors of the university, ultimately supporting student success and institutional fairness.

“ Thank you so much for your time and help. I have completed all of my work and this was an eye opening experience for me. Thank you again for the resources and support. ”

—Student Participant in a Conduct Case, J. Webb

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



By the Numbers

1,385 International Students

From 59 Countries

Post Graduate Work Authorization

747 Students

Optional Practical Training

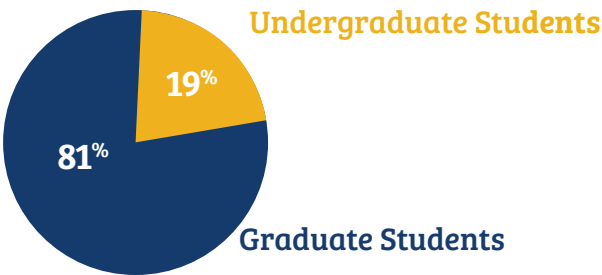
Bridging Cultures: ETAMU's Inaugural Study Abroad Program to Japan

In a first for the department, the Office of International Programs pioneered its own non-academic, May Mini study abroad program to Japan. 18 undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of departments gained international experience during the program by immersing themselves in Japan's rich history, modern society, and contemporary art scene. The highlight of the program was reached when students presented their own art piece, representing Hope and Peace, to the Hiroshima Children's Peace Memorial Museum.

Top Countries



International Students



“ My recent trip to Japan was an unforgettable experience, filled with enriching moments as we explored Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Osaka, and our group was honored to create a vibrant paper crane collage as a heartfelt tribute from our school to the Hiroshima memorial. ”
-Student Study Abroad Attendee, Stephen Beacham

STAFF RECOGNITION



Service to the Profession

- Adam Metts served as a founding member of the Rural Mental Health Initiative of Northeast Texas and served as an advisory council member for the Suicide Prevention Advisory Council (SPAC) of Northeast Texas
- Carrie Williams was a guest lecturer on A Step Forward podcast.
- Juan Olivo was a NACA Leadership Fellow; and served as the Membership Chair of the NACA Central Regional Leadership Team.
- Lauren Cole served as the Chair of FSL Professionals Affinity Group for the TAMU System; Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values (AFLV) conference program reviewer; Delta Zeta National Volunteer; and Delta Zeta National conference facilitator
- Marcy Louis served as a program reviewer for the Association of Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA); presented at the ASCA Annual Conference; and co-led the revamp of the ASCA Student Conduct 101/201.
- Mark Spellmire served on the NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation Region IV Conference Planning Committee.
- Nicholas Brown served as the Program Committee co-chair for Southwestern Association of College and University Housing Officers (SWACUHO); and the Graduate Case Study Competition co-chair for Southern Association of College Student Affairs (SACSA).
- Taron Green was a NACA Leadership Fellow; and served as the Development Chair of the NACA Central Regional Leadership Team.
- Tyler Mattson served ACUHO-I/APPA Housing Facilities Conference Programming Committee.



Awards & Recognition

- Cathy Giles received the ETAMU President's Meritorious Service Award
- Elvis Dang received the ETAMU President's Meritorious Service Award
- Jonathan Johnston received the NIRSA Annual Service Award
- Juan Olivo received the Student Organization Advisor of the Year

GRANTS RECEIVED

IMPACT IN ACTION



Grant Funding Received

Student Affairs Staff apply to grant funding to enhance programs and services that may otherwise not be provided. These` grants were utilized in 2023-24.

\$ 10,000

Accessibility First Grant program through Echo Labs

Providing transcription and audio services to create universal accessibility.
Award Period: 2023-2024

\$ 105,000

Victims of Crime Act Grant through the Department of Justice Grant

Providing financial support to organizations that service victims of crimes.
Award Period: 2023-2024

\$ 165,288

College Campus Initiative through the Texas Office of the Governor

Criminal Justice Division Providing support to student advocacy.
Award period: 2023-2024

\$ 231,000

Fernandes Fellowship in Clinical Case Management

Providing a 3 year full-time counseling clinical case manager.
Award Period: 2023-2026

Thanks to the Generosity of Donors

Student Affairs was able to provide financial assistance to 54 students.

Greatest Need Fund:

\$ 8,981.03

Total Funding Awarded

3

Number of Students Impacted

Lift A Lion Endowment:

\$ 13,385.49

Total Funding Awarded

7

Number of Students Impacted

Dean of Student's Retention Account:

\$ 79,834.93

Total Funding Awarded

44

Number of Students Impacted

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Student Testimonials

"This funding will take a huge load off my shoulders. The Lift A Lion Endowment allows me to finally graduate stress free, after 6 years of ups and downs and unimaginable growth, I will be the first in my direct family to have a Bachelor's degree." —**Andrew M., Lift A Lion recipient**

"Thank you for awarding me this scholarship, words cannot capture how truly grateful I am. Your scholarship is a tremendous gift, not only financially but also in terms of motivation and encouragement. It has significantly eased the burden of my educational expenses, allowing me to focus on my studies and achieve my academic goals." —**Sarah U., Dean of Student's Retention Fund recipient**

"I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the financial aid assistance provided to me. I am supporting my daughter as a single parent while my husband works in my country, Bangladesh. Receiving this assistance has not only eased the financial burden on me and my family but has also reaffirmed my commitment to my education and my determination to succeed." —**Nishat N., Dean of Student's Retention Fund recipient**

"Along with being a member of the honors college, I also am in many student organizations, work two jobs, and serve as a caretaker for my mother. All of these things are both very demanding and fulfilling, and your contributions have allowed for my load to be lightened. Once again, I express my deepest gratitude for your support. Your investment in my education is not just a financial contribution but a belief in my potential." —**MacKenzie V., Lift A Lion recipient**

Give to One of These Accounts at www.tamuc.edu/give-student-affairs

Lift A Lion Endowment

Lift a Lion provides financial assistance to students who face financial hardships. Every semester, several students face the possibility of leaving college and going home if they can't pay tuition or past-due balances. Your support can give students the financial boost they need to continue pursuing their education.

Lion Food Pantry

Contributions enable The Lion Food Pantry to continuously serve as a temporary, judgment-free respite for students who are facing difficult financial circumstances and need help obtaining necessities, like food and personal supplies.

Lion Traditions Fund

The Lions Traditions Fund is raising money for Lion Camp, an initiative designed to welcome and integrate our newest Lions into the heart of our community. Your generous contribution will help cover registration costs, ensuring that Lion Camp remains accessible to every new Lion.

Enhancing Student Experience Fund

This year, the Enhancing Student Experience Fund is raising money to improve safety, storage and charging for motorized micromobility devices. Many students use motorized scooters, bikes, and other devices that cannot be stored. This project will allow the university to provide outside storage and charging.





**GO
LIONS!**

Thank You!



<https://www.tamuc.edu/division-of-student-affairs/>