WELCOME REGENTS’ SCHOLARS!

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on being named a Regents’ Scholar. We are delighted and proud to welcome you to our campus.

You are here at a great time.

More young people—like you—want to attend Texas A&M than ever before, and they come from more diverse backgrounds. Our faculty have propelled our academic programs to among the best in the country and world. We are in the midst of a new era of construction and enhancements to our existing facilities. We continue to be recognized by major publications and our peer institutions for providing an excellent education at a reasonable cost. Employers continue to seek out our graduates.

In addition, I believe you’ll find that there is a great deal of truth to the saying that, “Once an Aggie, always an Aggie.” Our students—and their families—become part of a special network that reaches around the world and offers opportunities long after graduation.

Welcome to Aggieland. I hope you’ll make the most of your time with us.

Michael K. Young
President

GET INVOLVED!

Below is a list of organizations that Aggie parents can get involved in.

Texas A&M University Mother’s Clubs
aggiemoms.org

Aggie Families
aggiefamilies.tamu.edu

Aggie Family Newsletter
aggiefamilies.tamu.edu/newsletter

Family Weekend
familyweekend.tamu.edu

Aggie Parent Network
aggienetwork.com/giveback/apn.aspx

National Organization
collegeparents.org
WELCOME TO THE AGGIE FAMILY

Ann L. Kenimer, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies
Welcome to Aggieland!

As Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, I would like to welcome you and your new student to Texas A&M University. The applicant pool for admission into Texas A&M is incredibly competitive, so you and your student should feel very proud of this academic achievement.

As someone who cares deeply for a new Aggie, I expect you are hopeful, and perhaps a bit anxious, that your student will settle quickly into their new environment. Like you, we want your student to make steady progress—we hope your student will aim to complete 30 credit hours toward their degree each year—we also want your student to take advantage of the many high-impact educational opportunities available here at Texas A&M. Early planning is the key. Encourage your student to work with their academic advisor and use our new on-line degree planner to schedule their coursework well in advance so they can take advantage of all the great learning experiences Texas A&M has to offer.

Engage—Engaged college learning extends beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. Your student will have many opportunities to engage in high-impact learning experiences that will give them the opportunity to apply course concepts to real-world settings and situations. Not only do these high-impact learning experiences help your student deepen their classroom learning, they help your student develop professional skills and gain practical experience highly valued by employers and post-graduate schools. We hope you will encourage your student to seek out these high-impact experiences as appropriate to their major and long-term professional goals. Examples include undergraduate research, internships, and landing an entry-level job. We aim to provide your student with the skills and knowledge needed to continue learning and professional development throughout their professional career.

Commit—The Texas A&M initiative, Aggies Commit, spans all of our colleges and academic units and was developed to help your student take responsibility for their own learning, to provide varied and meaningful learning opportunities, and to help your student reach their highest academic potential. A Texas A&M education is more than just getting through college and community-based service learning, and capstone experiences.

Succeed—Even students who completed college-level coursework before entering Texas A&M often experience a period of transition when they first come to campus. Texas A&M offers an abundance of support services to help your student navigate this transition. Encourage your student to check out workshops, supplemental instruction, tutoring, and other services provided by our Academic Success Center, Peer Academic Services, the University Writing Center, and many other organizations across campus. Academic advisors are also a fantastic resource for your student and can help your student connect with the many campus support resources available. Finally, encourage your student to reach out to their instructors early each semester and to contact them if they experience difficulty understanding a difficult course concept.

Please know that we are here to help you and your new Aggie during this exciting time of transition. We are delighted to have your student join our campus, and we encourage and value the key role you will play in your student's success.
**SUPPORT FOR YOUR AGGIE**

The services provided by the Office of the Dean of Student Life are designed to allow Texas A&M students to succeed and also to help the families of our Aggies support their student’s success.

Student Life can provide class absence notifications, counseling referrals, and help with the family needs of students having personal or medical emergencies. The office can also answer student and parent questions about campus deadlines, tuition refund schedules, and many other Texas A&M University rules and regulations. In addition, the Student Life advises students on the Texas A&M official withdrawal process and can help the student and/or their family members coordinate this process. More information on the Office of the Dean of Student Life can be found here: [http://studentlife.tamu.edu/](http://studentlife.tamu.edu/).

Students and their families can access these and other services by contacting the Offices of the Dean of Student Life at 845-3111 or by visiting Bizzell Hall West room 113 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Office of the Dean of Student Life can also be reached via e-mail at studentlife@tamu.edu.

**DOES YOUR AGGIE HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?**

The University has endorsed an Academic Health Plan. This insurance is available to all students. You may want to review this policy and compare your current coverage when considering health insurance. This policy may be useful when:

- The student reaches the age of attainment on a parent’s policy, meaning they are no longer covered or
- The student gets married or
- The student becomes legally independent or
- The student is studying abroad.

Any Texas A&M University student can purchase the policy. The student can enroll in this plan online at [tamun.myahpcare.com/](http://tamun.myahpcare.com/).

Policy information is available on the Internet for undergraduate students at [tamu.myahpcare.com/](http://tamu.myahpcare.com/) or by calling (877) 624-7911.

**ADVISOR’S CORNER**

*Casey Gros, Regents’ Scholars Coordinator*

Scholarships & Financial Aid

As your Aggie begins adjusting to college life, there are a few very important resources with whom he/she should meet. An advisor, by Webster’s Online Dictionary definition, is “an expert who gives advice.” Your Aggie will want to be familiar with his/her Academic Advisor and Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisors.

An Academic Advisor, designated by the college or department, will help your Aggie select classes and guide your student through his/her academic career. Your Aggie can find his/her Academic Advisor’s contact information through their academic college or department.

Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisors offer advising and counseling on many different matters; from budgeting and personal finance to suggesting resources to remain academically successful. Your Aggie may set up an appointment with a Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisor by contacting Scholarships & Financial Aid at (979) 845-3236 or emailing financialaid@tamu.edu.
Daeja Pemberton (Student) and
Alecia and Rendell Pemberton
(Parents)

Student Questions

What is your name and major?
My name is Daeja Pemberton, and I'm majoring in meteorology.

What do you do for fun? Do you stay at school and get involved with the extracurricular activities available on campus or go home?
If I’m not studying, I’m brushing up on my Korean or listening to music. Although I’m a member of the Texas A&M Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (TAMSCAMS) and the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO), I typically like to either go home or stay at school and catch up on assignments over the weekend. I sometimes attend banquets or get-togethers with friends from my organizations, too.

What is your favorite tradition at Texas A&M?
My favorite tradition is the wildcat. It’s the one thing that draws all members of your graduating class together and creates a sense of community. I’m so grateful to be a loud and proud member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 2019! (A-A-A, whoop!)

What is the biggest difference between life in high school and life in college?
In terms of academics, I’d say the pace is the biggest difference. You have to really be on top of your readings and assignments to do well in your classes. In terms of college life in general, there’s a lot more responsibility. You have to turn in your own paperwork to offices, schedule your own appointments, etc.

As a student, What advice would you give to new Aggie parents/families?
Listen to your aggies. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve called my parents either to laugh about something silly that happened that day or cry about a bad grade I had received. In any case, just having a listening ear comforted me and let me know that I had a strong support system back at home. If your aggie wants to spend hours talking to you about their first day of classes or about having a stressful day, be that listening ear.

Parent Questions

What most excites you about Daeja going to A&M?
What excites us the most is the fact that she’s going to the college of her choice. We didn’t really care where she decided to attend – all that mattered was that she was happy with her decision.

What are some of the concerns/obstacles you had as a parent/guardian of a new Aggie?
A lack of diversity at A&M was a concern that we had. Another concern was how Daeja would handle coming from the top two percent of her graduating class to then becoming an aggie and being considered an “average” student, as most other aggies are also top students from their high schools. However, she’s doing just fine!

What are some of the benefits of being an Aggie parent/guardian?
We get to be a part of something much larger than ourselves – a part of the aggie parent network. Wearing aggie colors/gear has also been a benefit. So many people stop and talk to us about being alumni or fellow parents of aggies.

What piece of advice would you share with Aggie families?
To the parents, support your children. Being at a large school can be hard for your kids, so just support them in whatever they decide to do (deciding their major, joining an organization, etc.).
REMIND YOUR REGENTS’ SCHOLAR TO:

- Check their Texas A&M email daily. The Texas A&M email account is the official communication for the Regents’ Scholars Program and faculty.
- Read the Regents’ Review, the Regents’ Scholars newsletter. The newsletter is sent monthly via Texas A&M email and will contain important information regarding their scholarship, campus resources, required events, and helpful advice from Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors, staff, and faculty.
- Seek help and be open to suggestions and ideas made by Texas A&M faculty and staff. We are here to provide assistance to your student through their career at Texas A&M.
- Utilize free resources offered on campus. Texas A&M provides career guidance, tutoring, academic and personal counseling, and financial counseling. In addition, the Academic Success Programs which all first year Regents’ Scholars are required to participate in, offer a variety of mentoring programs, academic assistance, and out-of-classroom learning experiences.
- Get involved. Texas A&M offers over 1000 student organizations which students are able to join. This includes the Regents’ Scholars Organization, a community organization for Regents’ Scholars.
- Find a balance. Students may need assistance in balancing school, work, and involvement.
- Budget the refund. The financial aid refund is intended for educational purposes such as books, supplies, and related living expenses. The refund should last them the entire semester. If they need assistance with budgeting their refund, they should contact the Regents’ Scholars Program staff.