



Angelo State University is pursuing additional academic and student success funds to implement new programs and enhance current programs targeting undergraduate students with emphasis on first-year freshmen, and first-generation, low-socioeconomic and at-risk students from underrepresented populations.

## Texas Legislature Request: \$5 million in new non-formula appropriations

### Excellence at Angelo State

ASU is a comprehensive regional institution with a dynamic learning environment located in the heart of West Texas. Ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's "Best Colleges" every year since 2010, and newly added to the Colleges of Distinction list, ASU offers over 100 majors and concentrations through its six colleges.

A university dedicated to inclusivity and opportunity for all students, ASU has been designated a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education since 2010. Resulting federal HSI grants have totaled more than \$8 million for ASU. Additionally, approximately one in every three ASU students receives a scholarship from the Carr Academic Scholarship Program, one of the largest endowments at a U.S. regional university.

### Growing the Ram Family

In December 2018, ASU ranked No. 15 in the top 20 fastest growing master's-level public universities in the U.S.; it is one of five Texas universities included by The Chronicle of Higher Education. ASU's enrollment grew nearly 53 percent from 2006-2016. The university surpassed 10,000 students for the first time in school history in Fall 2017 and once again topped 10,000 students in the Fall of 2018.

As it furthers its unprecedented growth, ASU wants to ensure it continues to provide the resources, mentorship and support for its students to complete their degree. ASU is pursuing student enhancement funding during the 86th legislative session in order to elevate retention rates and the overall student experience through engagement



and interaction to help first-generation and at-risk students achieve their higher education goals to become responsible citizens with productive careers.

## Proven Success

In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature added \$2.2 million in special item support for institutional enhancement at ASU which allowed it to establish the Freshman College. This program assists new students with a successful transition to ASU and enhances their first-year experience through academic support, peer mentoring, learning communities and signature courses.

Since the establishment of the Freshman College, first-year retention has grown by over four percent, second-year retention has climbed by three percent and ASU has achieved its highest four-year graduation rate in university history.



## Building on the Foundation

ASU's Freshman College has propelled the university to new levels of academic achievement among its students. ASU maintains increasing enrollment and promoting student success as Priority No. 1 in its updated strategic plan.

State investment is essential to providing ASU's quality educational opportunity to Texas students while maintaining the university's signature affordability. New, additional academic and student success funds will allow ASU to build upon the strong foundation and programs made possible by the investment of the 83rd Texas Legislature and advance its goals concerning completion, marketable skills and student debt – all in line with the priorities laid out by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in its 60x30TX plan.

This exceptional item request will fund the continued development of ASU's highly-coordinated academic support network, with a focus on first-time students at risk of dropping out and first-generation students.

## New First-time Student Retention

