

Further, race specific or language that could be construed as exclusionary can be found in several places in the institutional mission statement.

To make Prairie View A&M an educational asset accessible by all Texans, the plan requires removing language from the Texas Education Code and Institutional Mission Statement which might give the impression of excluding any Texan from attending Prairie View. Specific changes are detailed in Appendix 6.

Part of Prairie View's mission is to help small and medium-sized communities grow and develop and to assist agricultural, business and industrial enterprises, both of which are implemented through various programs. That part of its mission is the basis for Prairie View's current focus on research and action to support the crucial problems that America's cities face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: An infrastructure in increasing disrepair, lack of accessible health care, problems with young people who disregard education and become involved too often in crime and, in an increasingly global community, the inability to distribute food in many cities throughout the world. Prairie View A&M has a number of programs currently in place or in development to support these efforts.

These efforts are considered to be appropriate and valuable expressions of Prairie View's mission. Not only will Texas cities benefit from such efforts, but cities all across the nation and the world. Moreover, the ubiquity and pressing nature of the problems faced by cities will require ever more scholars and practitioners equipped with the skills and research to address them effectively expanding both the contributions and enrollment of Prairie View.

One other aspect of Prairie View A&M University's mission that is important to sustain and develop relates to its role as a historically Black institution providing educational opportunities to those who might not have the academic background to find success in higher education. This role has led Prairie View to develop and implement very successful programs that help students succeed. The development of those programs under a mission to enable "students with latent aptitudes, talents, and abilities and of diverse economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to realize their full potential" does not negate their usefulness to all Texans who could benefit from them. Thus, while the mission must not be race specific, and while this language will be removed, the lessons learned under that part of its mission can and should be applied to any and all Texans who might benefit.

### **Texas Southern University**

Texas Southern University, like most other public institutions of higher education in Texas, is not specifically referenced in the Texas constitution. It is defined in the Texas Education Code (Section 106.02) as follows: