

THE  
**INVESTITURE**  
OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA'S  
**FIFTH PRESIDENT**  
**DR. ROSS ALEXANDER**

MARCH 7, 2024

Thank you, Chancellor Sharp. I deeply appreciate all the guidance and support you have given me. Our entire campus community expresses its gratitude for all you have done for A&M-Texarkana.

Please also allow me to extend special thanks to Student Regent Annie Valicek and Regent Emerita Judy Morgan. Thank you, both. I also appreciate the attendance today of Dr. James Hallmark.

Next, I am pleased to recognize State Senator Bryan Hughes and State Representative Gary VanDeaver. Thank you, both for your enduring support of our campus and our entire region.

I deeply appreciate several of my dear friends who traveled from afar to be here today. Thank you.

Next, thanks to all our community members and supporters in attendance today. The degree to which the Texarkana community supports this university is both unique and commendable. On a personal note, my family and I remain overwhelmed by the warm hospitality and welcome we have received in this amazing community.

I am extremely honored and touched by the number of our fine faculty and staff members in attendance today—thank you, colleagues.

Finally, my most heartfelt thanks are reserved for my wonderful family. To my amazing, beautiful, and talented wife Lilia—any success I enjoy is due to you. Thank you. We are joined by our daughters Victoria and Madelaine, as well as my mother Carol. Our 9-month-old baby boy, Ross Jr., is at home taking his afternoon nap, which is probably where most of you wish you were right now.

Today, I stand here proudly at a university with incredible momentum. We are growing rapidly, and at a pace that will only accelerate. We are fulfilling workforce needs across East Texas and throughout the region. We are emphasizing and delivering an A&M degree for local students who will become local leaders. Simply, we THINK big; we DREAM big; and we DO big.

A&M-Texarkana is rapidly evolving into a first-choice university for learners across a career and throughout a lifetime. We have an aggressive growth strategy to fulfill that mission and achieve that goal.

This semester, we celebrated a record university enrollment for a Spring term, with a 5% enrollment increase. Indicators for Fall are robust, and we fully expect to achieve continued enrollment records.

---

SOAR EAGLES!



THE  
**INVESTITURE**  
OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA'S  
**FIFTH PRESIDENT**  
**DR. ROSS ALEXANDER**

Our local emphasis; new, first-in-class scholarships; and recent corporate and community partnerships supporting the adult learner have coalesced into a strategically diversified enrollment growth strategy. This university will grow, it will grow quickly, and it will grow smartly.

Our academic programs are workforce-aligned, workforce-focused, and lead directly to high-paying jobs in burgeoning sectors in our region. We are developing nearly 20 new degree programs in Healthcare, Technology, Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing, and Financial Services at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels.

All are crafted in direct collaboration with industry partners, ensuring that our graduates are workforce-ready on day one. This strategic workforce alignment positions A&M-Texarkana as an economic development leader, partner, and solution that benefits the entire region.

Furthermore, primarily through our workforce partnerships, our online degree programs and credentials empower learners to finish a degree or earn another while working full-time, effectively balancing work, career, and educational responsibilities.

We take great pride in serving as an education solutions provider for our corporate and community partners and their talented employees. In fact, some of you may be interested in a flexible, reputable, and attainable degree. We have attractive scholarships available, and we can get you enrolled TODAY!

A further marker of our academic ascendancy is the founding of two new academic colleges: the College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services; and the Honors College. Each reflects our shared commitment to academic excellence and workforce relevance.

Next, we renew our commitment to the student experience and student success. Existing and new students will enjoy a comprehensive education and set of experiences, both in and out of the classroom.

We recently announced the on-campus RRCU Athletics Complex that will host our Baseball, Softball, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, and Beach Volleyball teams. It will also feature pickleball courts, a hospitality and community engagement suite, a sports performance center, state-of-the-art locker rooms, and a host of other fine amenities.

It will serve as an anchor feature for the campus and the community. In addition, we will be adding nine new intercollegiate sports over the next two years, including: Competitive Dance, Competitive Cheer, eSports, Beach Volleyball, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Men's Lacrosse, Women's Lacrosse, and Bowling.

---

SOAR EAGLES!



THE  
**INVESTITURE**  
OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA'S  
**FIFTH PRESIDENT**  
**DR. ROSS ALEXANDER**

Like the RRCU Athletics Complex, we will also break ground this spring on our new Business, Engineering, and Technology Building, a \$46,000,000 facility that will accommodate our new and existing programs in these fast-growing programmatic areas. Thanks again to Chancellor Sharp, Senator Hughes, and Representative VanDeaver for securing the funding for that fine facility.

Additionally, before the beginning of Fall classes, we will expand our on-campus residential options for students, renovate Morgan Field to accommodate permanent seating, open an eSports arena, renovate the John F. Moss Library, and add a walk-up restaurant featuring a rotating menu of options that will appeal to campus and community stakeholders.

A&M-Texarkana will quickly evolve into the premier public regional university in the Ark-La-Tex, with an emphasis on East Texas. No one will have better academic programs, none will be more aligned with workforce needs, no one will have more attractive scholarships, none will be a better workplace or attracter of talent, no one will be as innovative, and none will have as much fun as Texas A&M University-Texarkana. I guarantee it. And it will all happen sooner than one might expect.

In closing, thank you all for attending today to celebrate this amazing campus and community. We invite you to be an active participant in the transformation of this special university. Remember, at A&M-Texarkana, we THINK big, we DREAM big, and we DO big! And we're just getting started. Thank you and Soar Eagles!!!