



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\$160,000 grant will allow Texas A&M to provide college advisers at Rudder and Bryan High Schools**

**BRYAN, TEXAS** – With a \$160,000 grant from Greater Texas Foundation (GTF), Texas A&M University (TAMU) will continue its partnership with the National College Advising Corps (CAC) in providing counselors to Bryan ISD for the next two years. These “near peer” counselors, who are recent TAMU graduates, will increase the number of students, particularly those who are underrepresented and underserved in post-secondary education, who apply to, enter, and complete college.

The CAC model, known in Texas as AdviseTX, recruits recently graduated students from partner universities and places them in schools with low college enrollment to help students navigate the college application process. These advisers make a one-to-two-year commitment to supplement the work of traditional guidance counselors. The advisers help students complete FAFSA and other scholarship applications, register for the SAT/ACT and receive waivers for the tests, research colleges and understand their options, and ultimately apply to college.

By focusing on low-income, first in their family to attend college, and other underserved students, CAC counselors have seen demonstrable success in increasing rates of college attendance. National data show that students who meet with CAC counselors are 18% more likely to take the ACT, 23% more likely to submit a FAFSA and 23% more likely to apply to college. Additionally, many of the schools with CAC counselors have experienced a double-digit increase in college enrollment with a persistence rate of 74%, two percentage points higher than the national average.

For the past four years, TAMU has provided Bryan ISD schools with counselors with support from GTF. The new GTF grant will allow TAMU to employ one counselor each at Rudder High School and Bryan High School for the next two years.

“Ensuring students have the opportunity to achieve success in high school and college is at the forefront of everything we do,” Dr. Christie Whitbeck, Bryan ISD Superintendent, said. “We are developing students to be ‘life-ready,’ and our continued

partnership with Greater Texas Foundation and AdviseTX is helping us accomplish that goal.”

“Every AdviseTX counselor who has served in Bryan ISD has gone above and beyond, and their hard work has helped hundreds of students make solid plans for their postsecondary education,” said Sue McMillin, GTF President and CEO. “We are excited to continue to support such an important and impactful initiative.”

Marcus Cooper, Senior Program Director of College Advising Corps at Texas A&M, said, “We are very excited that through the generous support of the Greater Texas Foundation, Advise TX College Advisers will be able to assist students in Bryan ISD reach their higher education goals.”

New counselors will be placed at Rudder and Bryan in August 2019. They will serve more than 2,000 students over the next two years.

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**About Greater Texas Foundation:** GTF supports efforts to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete a postsecondary education. As a result of its work, GTF will help create greater connections among regional systems that support the ability of all students to succeed. By focusing on issues of statewide importance, GTF will also highlight innovative solutions to postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and success across Texas. Since its 2001 inception, GTF has approved more than \$77 million in grants to support Texas students. For more about the Greater Texas Foundation, visit [www.greatertexasfoundation.org](http://www.greatertexasfoundation.org).

**About Texas A&M University:** TAMU is a coeducational public research university in College Station, Texas. It is a state flagship university and since 1948 is the founding member of the Texas A&M University System. For more about Texas A&M University, visit [www.tamu.edu/](http://www.tamu.edu/).

**About College Advising Corps:** CAC works to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college, and underrepresented high school students who enter and complete higher education. We do this through two innovative program models. Our in-school model places well-trained, recent college graduates from our 26 partner universities as full-time college advisers in high schools across the nation. Our virtual model leverages technology to connect well-trained, recent college graduates with students everywhere in the nation that technology can reach. For more about College Advising Corps, visit [advisingcorps.org/](http://advisingcorps.org/).

**About Bryan ISD:** Established in 1880, Bryan ISD has a rich legacy of providing quality education to its students. Offering an advanced level of instruction, the District’s renowned International Baccalaureate and AP Capstone diploma programs and Blinn College dual credit courses provide college credit opportunities in a rigorous academic setting. Bryan Collegiate High School, an early college high school, offers students the opportunity to earn up to 60 credits tuition-free by the time they graduate from high school. Starting in the fall of 2019, the district’s 119-acre, 50,000-square foot Career and Technical Education Complex will provide state-of-the-art workforce training in a variety of fields. These developments and programs are elevated through Bryan ISD’s district and community-wide “[Essential Eight](#)” character education partnership that educates the heart and the mind. For more about Bryan ISD, visit [bryanisd.org](http://bryanisd.org).