

The Rudder Association Expresses Appreciation for Dr. Banks' Service to Texas A&M

Group Highlights Accountability and Stakeholder Engagement in University Leadership

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, July 22, 2023 - The Rudder Association (TRA), a group of dedicated Aggies committed to preserving and perpetuating the Core Values and unique spirit of Texas A&M, today expresses its appreciation for Dr. M. Kathryn Banks' nearly 12 years of dedicated service to Texas A&M, including her tenure as president of our esteemed university.

Dr. Banks, who served with distinction as Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering for a decade, served in the role of the 26th president of Texas A&M University, where she demonstrated her dedication and leadership throughout her tenure. As president, she spearheaded major organizational changes on campus, including leading the Texas A&M System to become the only university in Texas to help manage a national weapons lab, the Los Alamos National Laboratory. She was also instrumental in creating EnMed, an innovative program training engineers to become medical doctors, and presided over dramatic enrollment growth at the nation's largest engineering school. As an Aggie mom, her love for Texas A&M and its rich history and traditions was also evident, particularly through her strong support for our Corps of Cadets.

As Dr. Banks acknowledged in her resignation statement, she understands that the mantle of leadership comes with inherent accountability. The dissension stemming from the attempted appointment of a controversial candidate for the pivotal role of reviving the journalism department, is ultimately her responsibility.

The Rudder Association extends its best wishes to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents as they identify a suitable successor to Dr. Banks. We also underscore the importance of ensuring that the incoming president not only embodies the values of our Aggie family but also upholds a strong sense of accountability to all stakeholders.

"We are grateful for her service and wish her the best in her future endeavors. We are also grateful for the opportunity to have a voice, as do all stakeholders, in decisions of significance for our great university and state," added President Matt Poling '90. "We look forward to positively engaging with current and future leaders of Texas A&M as they carefully consider decisions that impact our students, our university, our communities, and our state."

About The Rudder Association

The Rudder Association, Inc. was established in the summer of 2020 by a group of dedicated Aggies with a mission to preserve, defend, and perpetuate the core values and unique culture of Texas A&M University. The Association aims to develop well-educated leaders of character who embody the values of Honor, Courage, Integrity,

Discipline, and Selfless Service. As an independent entity, The Rudder Association, Inc. maintains the objectivity to observe and document when the core values and culture of Texas A&M are recklessly ignored or modified. The Association is committed to steering a better course for education in Texas and ensuring that the traditions that make Texas A&M unique and special continue to produce patriotic leaders of character for our society.

To learn more, participate, and support the preservation, protection, and perpetuation of the Texas Aggie Culture in the spirit of Aggieland and its core values and traditions, visit TheRudderAssociation.org