

# History of the University

Authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1899, Southwest Texas State Normal School opened its doors in 1903. Over the years, the Legislature broadened the institution's scope and changed its name, in succession, to Normal College, Teachers College, College, and in 1969, University. Each name change reflects the university's growth from a small teacher preparation institution to a major multipurpose university. In 2003, the Legislature renamed the school Texas State University-San Marcos.

Texas State's original mission was to prepare Texas public school teachers, especially those of the south central area. It became renowned for carrying out this mission, but today it does far more. Texas State currently offers programs in the College of Applied Arts, McCoy College of Business Administration, College of Education, College of Fine Arts and Communication, College of Health Professions, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science, and University College. The University College also oversees the undergraduate general education core curriculum and undergraduate advising as well as the freshman year experience. The Graduate College provides opportunities for continued intellectual growth through advanced and specialized education that develops leaders in the professions and in research.

As Texas State's student population has grown—from 303 in 1903 to more than 28,100 in 2010—the campus, too, has expanded and today Texas State is the sixth largest public university in the state. Overlooking the campus and serving as a landmark since 1903 is Old Main, a red-gabled Victorian building restored to its original grandeur.

In 1979, after adding a number of classroom buildings and residence halls, Texas State purchased the former San Marcos Baptist Academy adjacent to the original campus. In 1981, South Texas entrepreneur Harry M. Freeman donated a 3,500-acre ranch to Texas State to be held in perpetual trust as the Harold M. Freeman Educational Foundation. The working ranch is used as a laboratory for students in agriculture, animal science, biology and a variety of other academic disciplines. In 1990, the university opened the Albert B. Alkek Library. The building, conveniently located in the center of campus, is named for the noted Texas rancher, oil man and educational philanthropist who died in 1995.

Texas State acquired one of the most unique ecosystems in the world in 1994 when it purchased the former Aquarena Springs resort and theme park. The purchase allowed Texas State to serve as steward of the headwaters of the San Marcos River, preserving and protecting the area for future generations of Texans. Now called the Aquarena Center, the 90-acre property is home to the Office of Continuing Education and is the site of a wide variety of educational and research pursuits. Aquarena Center is home to several endangered species of plants and animals that exist nowhere else in the world.

In 1998, as the lead institution, Texas State joined forces with other area universities to establish the Round Rock Higher Education Center. The RRHEC combines the efforts of Texas State, Austin

Community College, and Temple College at Taylor to offer educational opportunities in Williamson County and North Austin.

Texas State is located in San Marcos, a Hill Country community about halfway between Austin and San Antonio. Its location on the banks of the San Marcos River provides recreational and leisure activities for students throughout the year.

Texas State became part of The Texas State University System in 1911. That System is governed by a nine-member Board of Regents. Other components in the System include Lamar University-Beaumont, Lamar University Institute of Technology, Lamar College-Orange, Lamar College-Port Arthur, Sam Houston State University and Sul Ross State University. The first president of Texas State was Mr. T.G. Harris, who served from 1903 to 1911. He was followed by Dr. C.E. Evans, 1911-1942; Dr. J.G. Flowers, 1942-1964; Dr. James H. McCrocklin, 1964-1969; Dr. Leland E. Derrick, 1969; Dr. Billy Mac Jones, 1969-1973; Mr. Jerome C. Cates, 1973-1974; Dr. Lee H. Smith, 1974-1981; Mr. Robert L. Hardesty, 1981-1988; Dr. Michael L. Abbott, 1988-1989; Dr. Jerome Supple, 1989-2002, and Dr. Denise M. Trauth, 2002-present.

## Mission Statement

"The noblest search is the search for excellence."

—Lyndon B. Johnson

Thirty-Sixth President of the United States, 1963-1969  
Texas State University Class of 1930

Texas State University-San Marcos is a public, student-centered, doctoral-granting institution dedicated to excellence in serving the educational needs of the diverse population of Texas and the world beyond.

## Shared Values Statement

In pursuing our mission as a premier institution, we, the faculty, staff, and students of Texas State University-San Marcos, are guided by a shared collection of values. Specifically, we value:

- An exceptional undergraduate experience as the heart of what we do;
- Graduate education as a means of intellectual growth and professional development;
- A diversity of people and ideas, a spirit of inclusiveness, a global perspective, and a sense of community as essential conditions for campus life;
- The cultivation of character and the modeling of honesty, integrity, compassion, fairness, respect, and ethical behavior, both in the classroom and beyond;
- Engaged teaching and learning based in dialogue, student involvement, and the free exchange of ideas;
- Research, scholarship, and creative activity as fundamental sources of new knowledge and as expressions of the human spirit;
- A commitment to public service as a resource for personal, educational, cultural and economic development;