

# LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

## *Exceptional Item #1* | **Tiger Success Unlimited "TSU" = Texas Educator Excellence**

As directed by Governor Greg Abbott to all higher education institutions, Texas Southern University is asking the Texas Legislature to partner with our University to create the Tiger Success Unlimited ["TSU"] = Texas Educator Excellence to expand the number of candidates with exhibited academic achievement and a passion for learning and compassion for our K-12 students. This aggressive initiative relies on student engagement that includes recruitment, mentoring, modeling. By identify high achieving freshmen and sophomore students with the goal of significantly boosting student progression and graduation rates and increase the number of highly qualified educators for our K-12 classrooms, TSU will ensure that there are no institutional impediments that discourage or distract exceptionally promising TSU male students from taking advantage of the profession opportunities in K-12 education. This program will prepare our teacher candidates for success on the state certification exams, the financial resources to take the exams, and robust salary compensation while satisfying their student-internship in a Texas public school classroom.

## *Exceptional Item #2* | **TSU Center for Nursing Education Research and Maternal-Infant Health**

This initiative is a direct response to the directive from Governor Greg Abbott for the Texas higher education community to remove barriers that exist to expand healthcare programs in Texas. TSU will address the critical need for highly qualified nurses, who are well-prepared to provide competent and compassionate medical care in underserved communities and regions throughout Texas with a special emphasis in maternal and infant health. This program will leverage TSU's online instructional capabilities to enhance student access and nursing credentialing.

## *Exceptional Item #3* | **PharmD Satellite Campuses**

Adhering to Governor Greg Abbott's directive to expand healthcare programs, this initiative features an innovative program by the Texas Southern University's College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences (COPHS) to address the acute need for competent pharmaceutical healthcare professionals in Texas, and particularly, in our state's underserved communities. This satellite campus concept seeks to bring high quality pharmacy education closer to these underserved regions: thus, providing opportunities for future pharmacists to serve their fellow Texans in these communities: South Texas College (STC) and the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston. The satellite campus at STC will mimic the four-year curriculum offered at the main campus in Houston while the UTMB campus will offer a three-year accelerated curriculum. This accelerated program will be among the first in Texas and leverages instruction by other health sciences (nursing and medicine) available at UTMB to offer a unique inter-professional disciplinary curricula. Healthcare residents tend to accept positions and stay in the communities where they complete their residency training.

## *Exceptional Item #4* | **Aerospace Engineering (Drone/Rocket)**

In response to a directive from Governor Greg Abbott for higher education institutions immediately to include aerospace engineering in their curriculum, TSU has designed this initiative to cultivate the next generation of aerospace professionals foster innovation in aerospace education and contribute to the advancement of Texas' aerospace industry. TSU aims to provide students with innovative training, hands-on experiences and industry partnerships to prepare them for successful careers in aerospace and related fields. This proposal includes establishing the TSU Aerospace Institute at the Houston Spaceport, which presents a unique opportunity to leverage the expertise and resources within Texas Southern University's (TSU) Aviation Program, the geographic location relative the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) in Houston, academic, commercial, and governmental partnerships, and previous stakeholder investments has positioned TSU to establish an Aerospace Institute at the Houston Spaceport.

## *Exceptional Item #5* | **Research Drone Netting Facility**

Within the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, the Department of Transportation Studies has offered a degree program in Aviation Science Management with UAS (Drone) Concentration since Fall of 2023. This netted UAS facility will provide our students and faculty the appropriate simulated safety-conscious environment to conduct their academic studies and groundbreaking research.

## *Exceptional Item #6* | **Tiger Online Learning Expansion**

This Tiger Online Expansion will allow more prospective students opportunities to gain credentials in an affordable and convenient manner. Moreover, these online offerings will provide more flexibility to our residential student segment and enhance the transition of our Military Veterans to civilian life from their Military Service. These online offerings will also provide opportunities for high school students to begin their college experience and significantly decrease student debt.

## *Exceptional Item #7* | **AI-Driven Excellence: Transforming Student Success from Recruitment to Graduation**

This strategic AI initiative enhances operational efficiencies in student recruitment, admissions, progression, and successful graduation. This initiative aligns with TSU's mission to support underserved student populations and ensure their academic success and career readiness.

# Capital Construction Assistance Projects

## **Aerospace Engineering Institute**

This 21st century state of the art complex will facilitate TSU in the delivery of highly effective instruction and research as directed by Governor Abbott for institutions of higher education to develop aerospace engineering into their curriculum immediately. This includes the construction of research labs, classrooms, launch complexes (small rockets and drones), and storage facilities. The infrastructure will provide a conducive environment for students and faculty to engage in cutting-edge aerospace research and development. This facility will have classrooms and lecture halls equipped with modern teaching aids for theoretical instruction in subjects like astrophysics, aeronautical engineering, and space technology and specialized labs for various branches of aerospace studies such as propulsion lab, aerodynamics lab, materials lab, and avionics lab.

## **Aerospace Engineering Complex Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment (FFE)**

This CCAP request provides for the initial furniture, furnishings, and equipment that facilitate the engineering instructional and research activities for the Aerospace Engineering academic offering.

## **Critical Electrical Systems: Health and Safety**

Critical Electrical Systems across campus require repairs and replacement, including two major circuits powering half of the campus buildings. In addition to new circuits to better balance and support building loads with more demand now compared to their original construction, back-up generators on priority buildings need repair and/or replacement to ensure safety and security in weather events.

## **Campus-Wide MEP Systems Upgrade Health & Safety**

Deferred maintenance of plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems in buildings across campus remains a top priority, and funding is requested to supplement other available funding sources, reducing the backlog created by aging facilities.

## **Active Learning Environments**

Classroom spaces in older buildings on campus are in worse condition compared to high schools where our students attended. So therefore, upgrades are critical to student success. Upgrades are primarily for technology and furniture in older classrooms and lecture spaces to better facilitate active and engaged learning. Cost also includes deferred finishes replacement (floors, ceiling, and painted walls).

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