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## **Public schools orchestrate** billion-dollar fundraising campaigns, too



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Texas A&M launches state's largest-ever fundraising bid

University hopes to raise \$4 billion for research, facilities and scholarships



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A&M seeks \$4 billion in massive capital campaign

THE CHRONICLE OF

PHILANTHROPY

**Major Campaigns Show Public Universities' Rising Ambitions** 

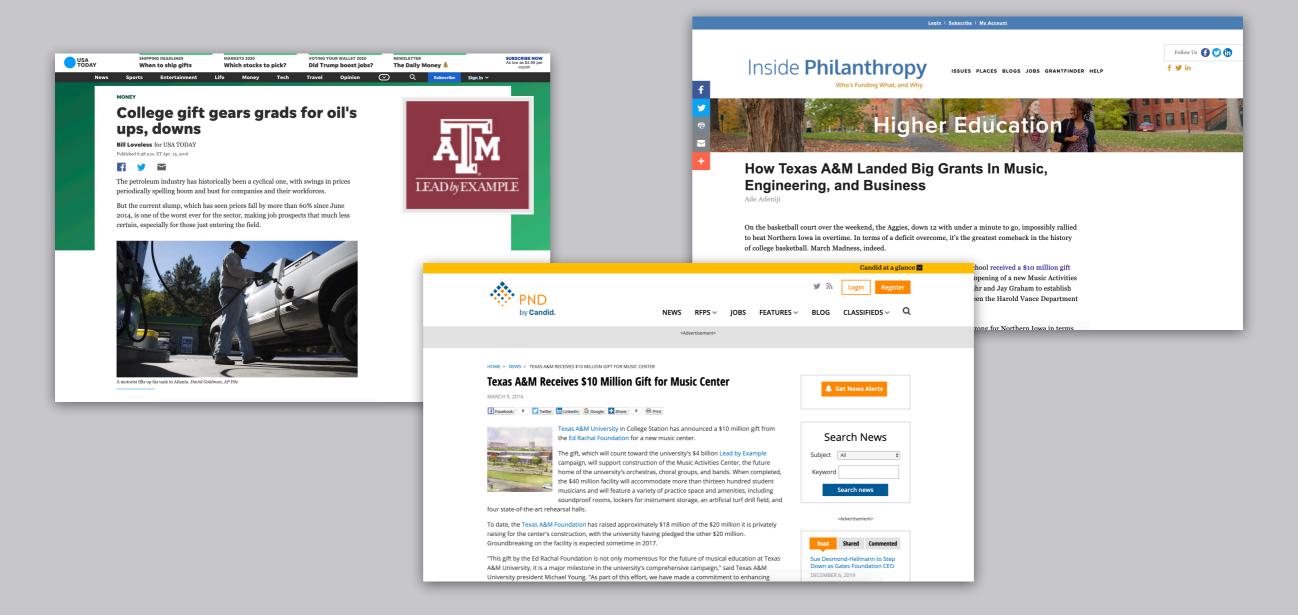
# FORT WORTH BUSINESS

Texas A&M's \$4 billion campaign signals public ambition



HOUSTON CHRONICLE

A&M's \$4B fundraising target is largest in Texas history







I WANT TO OFFER A HEARTFELT
THANK YOU TO THE ASSOCIATION
OF FORMER STUDENTS ON
BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY.
WE APPRECIATE THE MORE
THAN 423,000 LIVING FORMER
STUDENTS WHOSE LOVE FOR
TEXAS A&M MANIFESTS ITSELF
IN SO MANY WAYS IN SERVICE
TO OUR UNIVERSITY, OUR STATE,
NATION AND WORLD.

#### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Our nation has entered into a new era in higher education. Colleges and universities across the country have been questioned and challenged to define the higher education value proposition for the 21st century. Our state budget has many competing priorities. Your advocacy has been especially helpful this legislative season during which we have faced cuts across the university.

The Texas A&M Advocacy Network has worked tirelessly to advocate for our university regarding the budget and current formula funding rates to cover statewide enrollment growth. Orange & Maroon Legislative Day 2017 in February once again brought together a statewide, grassroots network of former students and friends of Texas A&M who worked to increase public and legislative support for our state's higher education system. Well beyond this event, many of you continue to play an integral part in advocating for key issues affecting Texas A&M and higher education in the state of Texas.

I see first-hand the difference that your advocacy makes for the tens of thousands of men and women who directly benefit from what you do. From transformational learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom, to opportunities for discovery and innovation and real impact on society.

### YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT Changes lives

College students today are more likely to work, have family commitments and come from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds than ever before. Your financial commitments help to reduce the burden that many of our students face and provide greater opportunities for these individuals.

We have the privilege of educating more than 66,000 students, making our campus home to one of the largest student bodies in the country. Texas A&M remains at the forefront of addressing complex challenges and unique needs through a combination of financial, academic and other support services. In a recent New York Times ranking, Texas A&M placed 25th among the top 170 colleges doing the most for the 'American Dream,' a designation defined by students' socioeconomic mobility tafter graduating.

Private donations are critical to scholarships, recruitment and investment in resources for students. These donations help us fulfill our long-standing Texas A&M mission to prepare students to assume roles in leadership, responsibility and service to society.

#### DRIVING INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIPS

Among the top-tier research universities in the state and nation, and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Texas A&M is itself a laboratory of research and discovery, extraordinary in both quantity and impact. In 2016, Texas A&M posted \$892 million in annual research expenditures, earning its seat within the top ten public research universities in the latest National Science Foundation survey - a nod to our capacity to make groundbreaking discoveries that change the course of people's lives and make for a better future.

At the same time, the Aggie Network has been a vocal proponent for fostering informed industry partnerships in direct response to statewide needs – including veterinary medicine partnerships, given a state shortage in the space.

Many of you who have risen through the ranks in your chosen fields have returned to campus to volunteer, advising students and assisting faculty and administrators in a constant pursuit of excellence.

#### A PROMISING FUTURE

It is always a joy to participate in graduation ceremonies. In May of this year, more than 10,000 students received their degrees – the most ever in our history.

The foundation is firm for these new graduates. They leave with the tools, critical thinking skills and that most special Aggie spirit to accomplish their goals in service to themselves and the world.

In the news this summer, we saw the amazing story of former U.S. Special Forces aid worker David Eubank ('83) who selflessly ran into gunfire in Mosul to save a young Iraqi girl. A thirdgeneration Aggie, David has previously credited Texas A&M and his time in the Corps of Cadets as providing both a comprehensive education and the skillset necessary to be both a good

follower and leader. While David's heroics are the extreme in the face of battle and we thank him for it, so many of you within the Aggie Network also rise with courage, service and impact when called to do so time and again in your daily lives. That is what being an Aggie is all about.

And so I end where I began – with a heartfelt thank you for what you do to stay connected to the university – in advocacy, donations and service, representing Texas A&M with character and great affinity.

I hope to see many of you on campus this fall. For those of you who are reading this in far off locations, know that the Aggie spirit touches every corner of the earth and we feel your presence back in College Station. Gig 'em!

Michaeladouf

MICHAEL K. YOUNG. TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY