In the Texas A&M College of Science, we are committed to providing access to affordable, high-quality education for all. To ensuring that our college and campus reflect the rich diversity of the Lone Star State. To extending unbridled opportunity to anyone willing to rise to the challenge.

We are committed to driving the change we seek by helping a critical pilot group of determined, academically solid, yet otherwise at-risk students beat the odds that suggest collegiate success may not be in their future, particularly at a university as large as Texas A&M and in such rigorous disciplines as science and mathematics.

By Fall 2016, Texas A&M Science plans to select 30 incoming students (25 freshmen, 5 transfers) as inaugural participants in an elite learning community, the Science Leadership Scholars Program, intended to improve student retention through early intervention — the moment they first set foot on campus.

**LEARN FROM THE BEST**

It’s a fact students who start with us end up going places. More quickly than they do in any other Texas A&M college, too. Students who start out majoring in our degree programs are the most successful university-wide at graduating in four years, regardless of whether they stay in the Science or transfer to another college. Therefore, we are keenly interested in doing everything we can to encourage them not only to choose Science but also to remain in Science.

**DUAL DISTRIBUTION FACTOR**

State and national research shows that classroom performance among today’s college students follows predictable patterns. In addition to the traditional bell curve, there is a second grade distribution among students who, regardless of ACT/SAT scores and high school performance, typically share common risk factors: first-generation, low-income, historically underrepresented minorities, and, particularly in the physical sciences, female.

Our goal to help at-risk students by applying a proven solution — getting involved — long before there is a problem. We hope to dramatically increase their odds for success beyond what demographics suggest would be a significantly decreased chance of receiving a degree in four years or perhaps at all.

**SEEDS OF STUDENT SUCCESS**

Once we identify and select our inaugural class, the real opportunity begins. In addition to offering annual scholarships, we plan to supplement their traditional classroom and laboratory education with weekly one-on-one and group meetings featuring top faculty, administrators and advisors and focused on leadership and academic skills, individual and group accountability, and the value and variety of STEM careers. We will partner with College of Education & Human Development researchers to assess what works and top into current education research and development.

**REACHING VIA RESEARCH**

Science Leadership Scholars will be exposed to research as freshmen and have the opportunity to work in Texas A&M research groups or even at national laboratories, starting in the spring after their freshman year. They also will gain valuable life experience as part of mentorship networks involving former students and industry representatives.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Partner with us to provide invaluable student incentives, including four-year stipends ($3,000 per year per student), clustered classes, immersive research experiences and exclusive mentoring opportunities. Contributions can take many forms, from one-time or pass-through gifts to endowments.
LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Barbara ’82 and John Calhoun ’79 believe so strongly in our students’ futures and their untapped leadership potential that they pledged to commit the first gift in Science Leadership Scholars Program history, which will be counted in Texas A&M’s Lead by Example campaign.

ROI: RETURN ON INDIVIDUALS

By starting out small, we can easily adapt and adjust this novel pilot program as necessary. The students themselves will show us what works through their successes, ideally pointing the way to a scaled-up version that would in time address many more students, perhaps even all in the College of Science.

In due time, we believe the little things will pay off big, reducing the amount of time and money spent toward achieving undergraduate degrees and helping to ensure brighter futures for our students and STEM fields. Year by year, we hope to incrementally improve our world, one Texas A&M Science graduate at a time.

TELL ME MORE!

Interested in sponsoring your own Science Leadership Scholars? For additional information about the program or how you can get involved, contact:

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The College of Science at Texas A&M University takes great pride in providing the highest quality science education, scholarly research, and technical expertise to the people and industries of Texas and the nation. Through five departments and many interdisciplinary centers and institutes, we advance discovery and solve real-world problems while producing the next generation of scientific leaders and technologies and playing a key role in helping Texas A&M succeed in its mission to become one of the nation’s top 10 public institutions by the year 2020.

QUICK FACTS

- Five departments (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, Statistics)
- 27 degree programs — 16 bachelor’s, 4 master’s, 7 doctorates
- 2,893 undergraduate majors
- 261 tenured/tenure-track faculty (14% of total)
- $41.5 million/year in research
- “44% of A&M distinguished professors
- U.S. leader in minority & female Ph.D.s
- Teach 20% of total A&M semester credit hours

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Key Points for Science Leadership Scholars Program

- Students who start in Science are more likely to graduate from A&M vs. any other Texas A&M college (not always in Science)

- Our nation need more STEM graduates so we hope to retain more in Science

- Science courses are critical to all technology disciplines at Texas A&M

- This program targets bright students who have one or more identified risk factors of success (first generation, financial need, minority or female)

- Science graduates land great jobs and are major contributors to society

- Funding for the first year has been obtained, but endowment funding will help ensure future of the program