Mission
The Association of Former Students provides value to the Aggie Network through our mission: Listed below are several examples of how we accomplish our mission.

• **Strengthen The Association of Former Students**
  - Attract and retain a staff dedicated to a culture of service and excellence
  - Provide an inspiring and welcoming home for the Aggie Network in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center,
  - Career Resources for Former Students
  - AggieNetwork.com serves as central site to locate information on Texas A&M
  - Coordinate bi-annual Leadership Council meetings

• **Promote the Interests and Welfare of Texas A&M**
  - Raise the Annual Fund on behalf of Texas A&M University
  - Publication of *Texas Aggie* magazine
  - Distribution of AggieNews
  - Collaboration with Texas Exes on Orange and Maroon Legislative Day
  - Faculty and Staff awards presented annually

• **Perpetuate the Ties of Affection and Esteem Formed During University or College Days**
  - Operation of Aggie Ring Program
  - Coordination of annual Class Reunions
  - Coordination of Sul Ross Reunion
  - Publication of Class Newsletters
  - Travel Programs
  - Chartering of A&M Clubs across the state, nation and world
  - Chartering of constituent networks
  - Coordination of off-campus Musters
• **Serve the Student Body**
  o Direct impact of $12.6 million on student and university programs
  o Buck Weirus and Gathright Awards
  o Welcome events for freshmen
  o Graduation celebration (The Next Tradition) for graduating seniors
  o Outreach of Campus Programs Office
  o Support for student events and programs

### Quick Facts and Figures
- Association origins trace back to 1879 with the formation of the Ex-Cadets Association
- Total Number of Former Students – 477,624 (As of February 2018)
- Total Living Former Students – 433,999 (As of February 2018)
- Graduates from Texas A&M in 2017 – 16,000

### Impact on Texas A&M University
- Total projected impact on Texas A&M in 2018 – $12.6 million
  o Includes $5.7 million in cash support for academic programs and scholarships, student activities, and faculty, staff, and student recognition.
  o Includes $3.4 million in support provided through Aggie Ring Office, Campus Programs Office, facility usage, database, and production/mailroom services.
  o Includes $3.5 million in former student programs, including reunions and class newsletters, publications, AggieNetwork.com, programs and events and alumni recognition programs.

### Association Budget
- 2017 Operating Budget – $16,010,000

### Annual Fund
- Annual Fund Goal for 2018 – $10,250,000
- 2018 Year-to-Date Total (March 5, 2018) – $2,100,028
- Annual Fund Gifts in 2017 – $10,151,371
- Total donors in 2017 – 54,552
- Average gift in 2016 – $186
**A&M Clubs**
- Currently, 251 active A&M Clubs have been chartered by The Association.
- While chartered by The Association, A&M Clubs are independent of The Association in organizational and financial structure.
- A&M Clubs promote camaraderie among Aggies in their area and most raise scholarships for Texas A&M students from their area.

**Chartered Constituent Networks**
A constituent network is an affiliate network of The Association, representing a group of individuals, other than Classes and A&M Clubs, which are officially recognized by The Association through a defined chartering process. The Association currently recognizes the following groups as chartered constituent networks:

- Aggie Educator Network
- Black Former Student Network
- Bush School Former Student Network
- Federation of Texas A&M Mothers’ Clubs
- Greek Former Student Network
- Aggie Real Estate Network
- Sea Aggie Former Student Network
- Texas A&M Hispanic Network
- Texas Aggie Bar Association
- Women Former Students’ Network
- Texas A&M Student Government Former Student Network

**Former Student Demographics**
- 320,957 or 74% of all living Former Students make their home in the State of Texas
- Top 5 Aggie-populated states (excluding Texas):
  - California – 10,491
  - Florida – 5,021
  - Virginia – 4,564
  - Louisiana – 3,016

**Career Resources for Former Students**
From time to time, Aggies may find themselves in career transition. The Association of Former Students partners with the Texas A&M Career Center to provide career resources for former students. These resources include on-line assessment tools to align your strengths with career options; assistance with resume writing, interviewing skills, and networking; and job listings. In addition, The Association partners with Marsh Affinity Group Services to make short-term medical insurance available to former students. For a complete list of these services, please visit [www.AggieNetwork.com](http://www.AggieNetwork.com) and follow the Career Resources link.
Aggies in the Military

- Aggies lost in all military conflicts – 1,110 (estimated, based on known records)
- Medal of Honor Recipients – Eight Aggies have been recognized with our nation’s highest award for valor. Seven were recognized for actions during World War II: Lt. Lloyd H. Hughes ’43, Lt. Thomas W. Fowler ’43, Sgt. George D. Keathley ’37, Lt. Turney W. Leonard ’42, Lt. Eli Whiteley ’41, Sgt. William G. Harrell ’43, Major Horace S. Carswell, Jr. ’38. Additionally, Clarence Sasser ’73 was recognized for his actions during the Vietnam Conflict. All eight of these medal of honor recipients are recognized in the Hall of Honor in the Memorial Student Center.

Texas A&M University Facts

- First public institution of higher learning in the State of Texas
  - Opened October 2, 1876
  - Dedicated October 4, 1876
- President – Michael Young
- Enrollment
  - Fall 2017 – 68,500 (includes Texas A&M campus at College Station, A&M School of Law, and Distance Education students)
  - Spring 2018 – 64,563 (includes Texas A&M campus at College Station and A&M School of Law)
- 19 Colleges, including Texas A&M Health Science Center and Texas A&M School of Law
- 130 undergraduate degree programs and 268 master’s and doctoral degree programs offered
- $892 million annually in research annually, ranking among the top 17 universities nationally
- Top Colleges by percent enrolled (based on preliminary Spring 2018 data)
  - Dwight Look College of Engineering – 26.03%
  - Liberal Arts – 12.5%
  - Agricultural and Life Sciences – 11.36%
  - Education and Human Development – 10.52%
  - Mays Business School – 9.32%
- Corps of Cadets Spring 2017 Enrollment – 2,340
- 23.7% of Texas A&M undergraduates are first generation college students

The Aggie Ring

For well over half a century, Texas A&M University has entrusted The Association of Former Students to protect and promote the cherished Aggie Ring tradition. The Association considers this a sacred responsibility and honor.

- The Aggie Ring has remained mostly unchanged since 1935. The only significant change occurred in 1963 when the lettering around the crest was changed from A&M College of Texas to Texas A&M University.
- In 2017, 15,174 Aggie Rings were ordered.
• The Association’s Ring Collection contains Aggie Rings dating back to 1890.
• The first known Aggie Ring was created in 1889.
• Students in good standing, who have completed 90 cumulative undergraduate hours, including 45 resident hours and have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPR, are eligible to order an Aggie Ring.
• Depending on their specific program, graduate students in good standing are eligible to order an Aggie Ring upon defending their thesis, upon the completion of 75% of coursework, or upon acceptance as a Ph.D. candidate.
• Specifics on the Ring Policy can be found at http://www.aggienetwork.com/ring/qualifications.aspx
• Symbolism of the Aggie Ring
  ○ The Ring’s shield symbolizes protection of the good reputation of the alma mater, while the 13 stripes in the shield refer to the 13 original states and signify the intense patriotism of Aggies. The five stars in the shield refer to phases of development of the student: mind or intellect, body, spiritual attainment, emotional poise, and integrity of character. The eagle represents agility and power, and the ability to reach great heights.

  ○ The right shank of the Ring includes the seal of the State of Texas authorized by the Constitution of 1845. The five-pointed star is encircled with a wreath of live oak leaves, symbolizing the strength to fight, and olive and laurel leaves signifying achievement and the desire for peace. The leaves are joined at the bottom by an encircling ribbon to show the necessity of joining these two traits to accomplish one’s ambition to serve.

  ○ The left shank, with its ancient cannon, saber and rifle, symbolizes the fight of Texans for their land and their determination to defend to their homeland. The saber itself represents valor and confidence, while the rifle and cannon symbolize preparedness and defense. The crossed flags of the United States and Texas recognize the dual allegiance to the nation and state.