

The Hog Call



OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Meet Our Team!



Derek Gonzalez - Associate Director of Employment Support

How long have you been with Texas A&M University-Kingsville?

I have been at Texas A&M University-Kingsville for almost 10 years. Prior to joining the Human Resources office in November of 2019, I was a student employee.

Where did you graduate from?

I graduated from Texas A&M University-Kingsville with a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a concentration in Human Resources Management, and a Master of Business Administration.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I enjoy collaborating with all employees guiding them through the employment and onboarding processes.

What is your fondest memory at TAMUK?

One of my favorite moments at TAMUK comes each fall, when the campus stirs back to life. As students return and walk to class, there is a renewed sense of purpose in the air. It's a reminder of why we're here and who we're here for.

If you could switch roles with another employee for a day, which role would you choose and why?

I would switch roles with someone on the football offensive coaching staff. I'd love to see what it's like calling plays and managing the chaos with a headset on.



Benefits Season Is Here Let's Get You Covered!

Open Enrollment Starts July 10!

Deadline: July 31

It's time to make your benefits work for you! Open Enrollment is your once-a-year chance to review your coverage, update your beneficiaries, and make any needed changes. Whether you're planning ahead or just making sure everything's in order, now's the time to log in and take action.

Need a Hand? We've Got You.

We're hosting in-person Open Enrollment Clinics to guide you through the process step by step. Bring your questions and we'll help you get it done—quickly and confidentially.

Where:

Innovation Lab – Jernigan Library Room 253 (2nd Floor)

When:

- Thursday, July 10 | 10 AM – Noon
- Friday, July 11 | 9 AM – 11 AM
- Tuesday, July 29 | 10AM – Noon
- Wednesday, July 30 | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Bonus Alert: Swing by a clinic and walk away with some surprise goodies—just our way of saying thanks for being on top of it.

Don't wait until the last minute. Get enrolled, get organized, and get rewarded!



Soak Up the Sun, Not the Risk: Summer Safety Starts Now

Summer Safety Tips You'll Actually Use

July is heating up—and so is our commitment to keeping you safe and informed. This month, we're spotlighting simple but important summer safety tips, from water awareness to heat protection.

Whether you're by the pool or firing up the grill, a little preparation goes a long way.

Quick Safety Tips:

- **Stay Cool:** Dress in lightweight, breathable clothes and avoid long periods in direct sun.
- **Hydrate Often:** Drink water regularly, especially when active—skip the soda and cocktails if you're feeling the heat.
- **Protect Your Skin:** Apply SPF 30+ sunscreen before heading out, and don't forget the hat and shades.
- **Know the Signs:** Learn the difference between heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Knowing when to rest could save a life.
- **Be Water Wise:** Always stay alert near water and brush up on basic CPR—it could make all the difference.

Want More? Check These Out:

- [*Water Safety & CPR Tips*](#)
- [*Beat the Heat: Heart-Healthy Tips*](#)
- [*Grill Like a Pro \(the Healthy Way\)*](#)

Let's make this summer a safe, smart, and well-prepared one—for you and your family.

Got questions about your benefits or summer wellness? The Benefits Team is here to help!

Hip Pain Slowing You Down? Let's Fix That

Whether you're an active runner, a weekend gardener, or someone who just wants to get through the day without discomfort, hip pain can be a real hurdle. This July, take a step toward relief with Airrosti's free interactive hip pain workshop.

These virtual sessions are designed to help you better understand the common causes of hip pain, along with practical tips and simple exercises you can start using right away to prevent or reduce discomfort.

Multiple dates and times are available, so you can choose the session that fits your schedule best.

In addition to the workshop, participants can also schedule a free, 15-minute video consultation with an Airrosti provider to discuss personal concerns and possible treatment options.

Ready to take the first step toward feeling better?

[*Register Here*](#)



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Set Your Sights High: Goal Setting Made Easy in Workday

Setting goals isn't just something you do at the start of a new year—or when someone asks, “where do you see yourself in five years?” It's an active part of your growth journey, and Workday makes it easier than ever to track your progress, reflect on your wins, and stay aligned with your team's big-picture goals.

Think of Workday as your digital co-pilot—it won't set your goals for you, but it's right there to help you track your flight path, make adjustments, and land some major career wins.

Why Set Goals in the First Place?

Here's the truth: people who set goals are more focused, motivated, and successful. And when you write them down and track them? Even better. Goal setting in Workday lets you:

- Stay aligned with team and organizational priorities
- Celebrate your achievements along the way
- Make performance reviews easier and more meaningful
- Take ownership of your career development

Plus, it helps your manager support you better when they can actually see what you're aiming for.

How to Set Goals in Workday (It's Easier Than You Think)

Ready to get started? Here's a quick how-to:

- 1. Log into Workday:** Use the Workday homepage and head to your Career or Performance section.
- 2. Find the Goal-setting area:** Search for "Create Goal" or navigate through Your Profile > Performance and Development > My Goals.
- 3. Create a Goal Title:** Keep it clear and specific **Description:** Add some detail—why this goal matters, and how you plan to achieve it. **Timeline:** Set a realistic timeframe (quarterly, annually,

etc.). **Category:** Choose something that aligns with your role (like leadership, collaboration, or technical growth).

- 4. Submit for Manager Review:** Your manager will review and approve. Bonus: this gives them insight into how they can support you!
- 5. Track & Update:** Update your progress along the way, and don't forget to mark it complete when you hit your target!

Pro Tips for Better Goals

- Use the **SMART** method: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.
- Keep a balance: Include goals that push you, but also ones that help you maintain quality and wellbeing.
- Don't wait for review season—goals are living, breathing tools. Revisit and revise as needed!

Goal setting in Workday isn't just for leadership—it's for everyone. Whether you're leading projects, developing skills, or improving processes, your goals tell the story of where you're headed.

Need help crafting the perfect goal? Reach out to the Employee Relations Team or drop by. We're here to help you build a goal game plan that works.

Ready to take charge of your growth?

Log in to Workday and start setting your goals today!

Let's grow—one goal at a time.



EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

Taking Time Off? Don't Leave Your Tasks Hanging!

Planning some well-earned time away from the office? Before you pack your bags and unplug, make sure your Workday tasks don't get left behind! Setting up a **delegate** in Workday ensures things like **timesheet approvals** or other action items are taken care of while you're out.

It's quick, easy, and a total stress-saver.

Check out the step-by-step guide here:

[Managing Delegations](#)

Student Employment: Set Them Up for Success

When hiring a student, it may be helpful to provide them with an outline of the hiring process. The Office of Employee Services will request required employment work authorization documentation. Students who do not have their documents with them will be informed that the hiring process cannot proceed and will be asked to return when they can provide the required documents. Some examples of [acceptable documents](#) include:

List A (Documents that establish both identity and employment authorization)

- U.S. Passport
- Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551)
- Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766)

List B (Documents that establish identity)

- Driver's License
- State ID Card

List C (Documents that establish employment authorization)

- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate

International Student Hires For an international student authorized to work for a specific employer because his or her status: Documents that Establish both Identity and Employment Authorization

- Unexpired Foreign Passport,
- Form I-20, and Form I-94 indicating F-1 nonimmigrant status. For additional information related to Student Employment, please email employment@tamuk.edu.

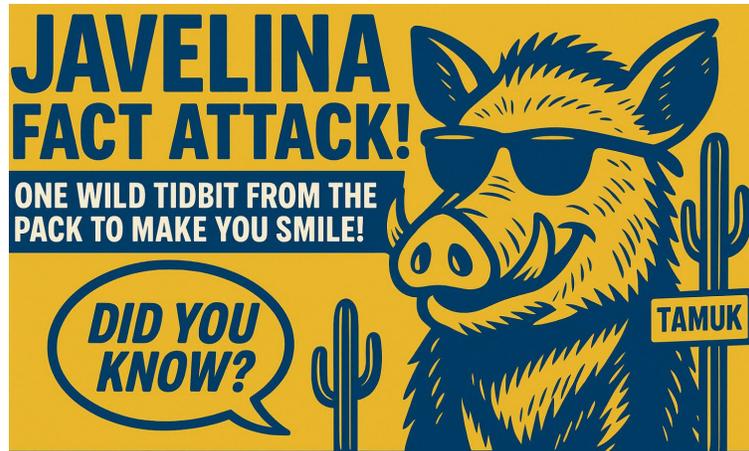


One of the easiest ways to boost your mood and lower stress is to have a meaningful interaction that isn't tied to a deadline or meeting agenda. This month, make it a point to check in with a coworker just to say hello, share a laugh, or ask how they're doing—no work talk required.

Taking a few moments to connect can:

- Strengthen relationships
- Increase feelings of support and belonging
- Remind you that you are part of a team, not just a to-do list

Whether it's a quick chat in the break room or a “how’s your week going?”, small conversations can have a big impact on your day—and theirs.
Human connection is self-care, too.



Texas A&M University–Kingsville is the only university in the United States with the **Javelina** as its official mascot. Adopted by students in 1925, the javelina represents strength, determination, and fierce school spirit—perfectly capturing the bold energy of Javelina Nation. Our beloved mascot, **Porky the Javelina**, proudly carries that tradition, inspiring students and alumni alike with every appearance.

