

# The Hog Call – October Edition



OFFICE OF  
EMPLOYEE SERVICES

***Meet Our Team!***



***Sydney Halbrooks - Human Resources Specialist II***

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

I have been at Texas A&M Kingsville for about 9 months.

**Where did you graduate from?**

I graduated from The University of Houston with a BBA in Business Management focused in Human Resources.

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

One of my favorite experiences at TAMUK was attending the Faculty and Staff General Meeting last February. It was the first time I stepped outside my usual office routine and connected with employees from across campus. I met so many new people from different departments and got my first real glimpse into the university's culture and history. It was inspiring to see the passion and pride that everyone brings to their work here — it made me feel truly part of something special.

**What is your fondest memory at TAMUK?**

What I love most about my role is the opportunity to make a meaningful impact from the very beginning of someone's journey at TAMUK. Our team is often one of the first to welcome new employees during their onboarding process, and I take pride in helping set a positive tone for their experience here. I've always had a heart for helping others, and this role allows me to live that out every day. I also appreciate the variety and unpredictability — no two days are the same, and that keeps things fresh, challenging, and fun.

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

If I had the chance to trade roles with someone for a day, I'd choose a position in Event Planning. I've always enjoyed organizing and coordinating events, and I think it would be exciting to contribute to the university in that way. Being involved in creating memorable experiences for others is something I've always found rewarding.

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### ***Employee Benefits Spotlight!***

#### **Rx Savings Solutions (RxSS) – Webinar Week, October 13–17, 2025**

Stop stressing and start saving. Join us for a live preview of Rx Savings Solutions (RxSS), a prescription savings service personalized to you and your health plan.

The webinar will cover:

- How to find lower-cost prescriptions and pharmacies
- How to always know if you're paying too much
- How to change or transfer prescriptions with zero hassle
- How to activate your free RxSS account
- How to use the RxSS web portal and mobile app
- Personal assistance and support available from RxSS pharmacy experts

A live Q&A session will follow each webinar. Times vary by day, and registration is required. Access your account anytime at [myrxss.com](https://myrxss.com) or call 1-800-268-4476 for more information



Webinar Week, Oct. 13-17:

## The Smart & Simple Way to Save on Prescriptions

Get to know Rx Savings Solutions (RxSS), the only prescription savings service personalized to you and your health plan.



Personalized savings opportunities



Notifications when you can save



Consultations with real pharmacy experts



**Register today!**

Scan the QR code to register for the webinar.

Access your account today at [myrxss.com](http://myrxss.com) to get started or call 1-800-268-4476

### ***Wellness Release Time Program***

The Texas A&M University-Kingsville Wellness Release Time program is designed to enhance employee well-being by supporting physical fitness and wellness education during the workday.

Key details include:

- Available to full-time, benefits-eligible employees
- Provides 30 minutes during normal work hours, up to three times per week
- Activities may include exercise at the Student Recreation Center (with membership), swimming, racquetball, tennis, bowling, walking, or other supervisor-approved fitness activities
- Participation requires an annual wellness exam and supervisor approval
- Wellness Release Time is paid time and does not need to be made up or reported on timesheets
- Time must be taken at the start or end of the workday, or combined with lunch break
- Abuse of the privilege can result in revocation and disciplinary action

Supervisors are expected to make reasonable efforts to accommodate requests. Employees must submit the Wellness Release Time Request Form each academic year before participating.

Click Here to Access the Form: [Wellness Release Time Request Form](#)

### ***WebMD ONE***

The Texas A&M University System partners with WebMD ONE to provide tools and resources that support every aspect of well-being, including exercise, rest, and personal health goals. Learn more and access your personalized account at [webmdhealth.com/tamus](http://webmdhealth.com/tamus).

### ***TIAA Essentials: Upcoming Educational Opportunities***

We're excited to share TIAA's new digital hub, [Essentials by TIAA!](#)

This easy-to-navigate site was designed to support everyone—from money novices to seasoned financial DIY-ers—by centralizing access to educational content. New materials are added automatically, and users can sort and filter by topic of interest.

### **Featured Engagement – October**

#### **Assessing Your Goals (October 16 Email)**

This month's focus reminds participants to check in on year-end goals and adjust as needed. It also encourages building the habit of quarterly financial check-ins to stay on track for a secure future.

#### **Upcoming Webinars**

All sessions are recorded and available for 90 days after the live event.

- **October 15 | 11 AM CT / 10 AM MT** *Don't Get Hacked: Steps to Protect Yourself Online* Discover practical ways to safeguard your financial information and avoid scams. [Register Here!](#)
- **October 30 | 2 PM CT / 1 PM MT** *Myth-Busting: Planning and Managing Healthcare Expenses* Get the facts on healthcare costs in retirement and strategies to prepare. [Register Here!](#)

For questions or support with employee education initiatives, please reach out—we're here to help!



# EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

### ***Our WIG (Wildly Important Goal)***

We've set a BIG goal for ourselves — and we're excited to share it with you!

**By December 19, 2025, we will create a Professional Development Matrix that maps out five key competencies, complete with course themes, learning tracks, delivery methods, and assessment tools.**

Think of it as a GPS for professional growth — no more guessing where to go next!

### ***How We're Making It Happen***

- **Designing a Roadmap:** We're building a clear framework for training at TAMUK. Each competency will have themes, learning tracks, and milestones.
- **Exploring Training Styles:** Not everyone learns the same way! That's why we want to know: Do you prefer hands-on workshops, virtual sessions, hybrid options, or self-paced online courses?
- **Leveling Up with Assessments:** Fun, meaningful tools will help us (and you) celebrate progress as we grow together.

### ***How You Can Join In***

We've created a quick survey to hear from YOU.

Your input = better training for everyone.

Take the Survey Here: [Training Delivery Survey](#)

So, tell us: *What delivery methods do you love? What works best for you?*

Because this program isn't just about professional development — it's about building something together that's useful, flexible, and exciting.

*Help us shape the future of learning at TAMUK. Your feedback makes all the difference!*



# EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

## ***Your Compensation: More Than Just a Paycheck***

When most people hear “compensation,” the first thought is usually *paycheck*. But at The Texas A&M University System, your compensation is so much more than that. We call it your **Total Rewards** — and it’s packed with benefits and perks that support you not only at work, but in your everyday life.

Your Total Rewards package includes:

- **Base Pay & Allowance Plans** – Your regular salary or hourly wage.
- **Longevity & Hazard Duty Pay** – Extra pay for years of service or qualifying duties.
- **Health & Wellness** – Medical, dental, vision, mental health resources, and wellness programs.
- **Retirement Support** – Contributions and planning tools to set you up for the future.
- **Time Away** – Paid vacation, holidays, and personal time to recharge.

We’re proud to offer a package that reflects our commitment to you — not just as an employee, but as a person.

### ***How to Find Your Total Rewards Statement in Workday:***

1. **Log in to Workday.**
  - a. Use your SSO to sign in to the Workday homepage.
2. **Go to your Profile.**
  - a. Click on your picture (or the gray silhouette) in the upper-right corner.
3. **Navigate to “Compensation.”**
  - a. You’ll see this option in the left-hand menu.
4. **Click “Total Rewards.”**
  - a. Here you’ll find your personalized statement showing the full value of your pay, benefits, retirement contributions, and more!

**Pro tip:** Take a few minutes to explore this section — you may be surprised at just how much your Total Rewards adds up beyond your paycheck.

### ***Student Employment: Set Them Up for Success***

When hiring student employees, it’s helpful to provide them with an outline of the hiring process. The Office of Employee Services will request the required employment authorization documentation. Students who do not have their documents will be informed that the process cannot move forward and asked to return when they can provide the necessary paperwork.

Departments will be notified once a student completes the I-9 requirements and when they are scheduled to attend New Hire Orientation.

### Examples of Acceptable Documents Include:

- **List A (Identity & Employment Authorization):** U.S. Passport, Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766)
- **List B (Identity):** Driver's License, State ID Card
- **List C (Employment Authorization):** Social Security Card, Birth Certificate

### International Student Hires:

Students authorized to work for a specific employer due to immigration status must present:

- Unexpired Foreign Passport
- Form I-20 and Form I-94 indicating F-1 nonimmigrant status

For additional information related to Student Employment, please contact [employment@tamuk.edu](mailto:employment@tamuk.edu)

### ***Position Management: Student Employee Positions***

The Office of Employee Services will continuously monitor vacant student employee positions. Similar to budgeted positions, any student employee position that has been vacant for more than one year will be closed. For more information, please contact [employment@tamuk.edu](mailto:employment@tamuk.edu)

### ***Upcoming Training for Hiring Managers***

We are committed to supporting hiring managers through training and resources. Please review the upcoming training opportunities below and sign up to secure your spot:

- **October 7, 2025**
- **October 14, 2025**
- **November 4, 2025**
- **November 11, 2025**

Sign up today to enhance your skills and stay current with best practices in employee management.

Sign Up Here: [Hiring Manager Training](#)

### **Employment Support**

Our Employment Support team is here to guide supervisors and employees through every step of the hiring and employment process. Whether you need assistance with job postings, application reviews, or navigating the hiring process, we are here to help.

For support, please contact [employeeservices@tamuk.edu](mailto:employeeservices@tamuk.edu)

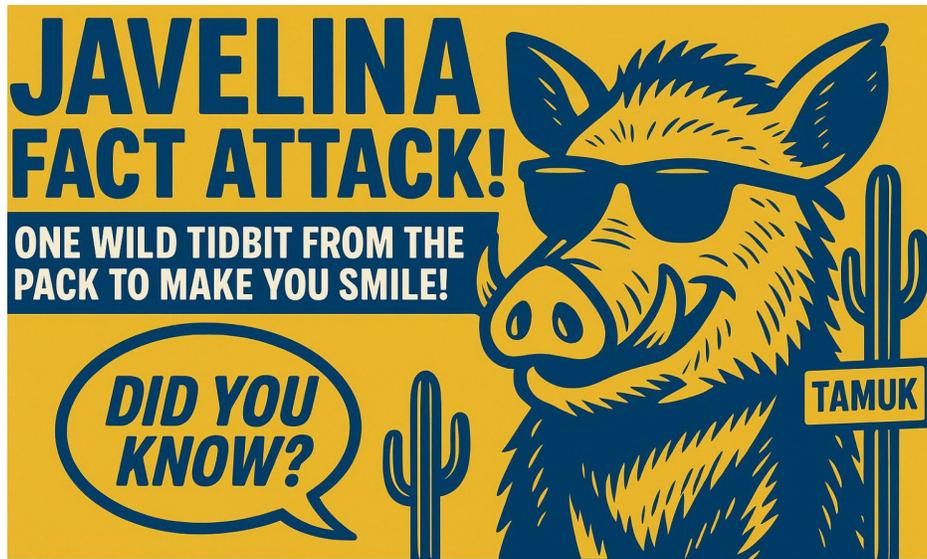


**Make it a goal to connect with one new colleague this month.**

This month, challenge yourself to connect with one new colleague you don't usually work with. Grab a coffee, take a quick campus walk, or just stop by their office to say hello. You might be surprised how much you can learn!

Cross-department connections are like hidden superpowers—they spark fresh ideas, build teamwork, and give you a better picture of the amazing work happening all across campus. Plus, every small connection helps us live out the spirit of a Caring Campus, where everyone feels supported and included.

So go ahead—start a conversation and see where it leads!



### *The Bell Tower Legacy*

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*Did you know that back in 1949, the **College Hall Bell Tower** was chosen as the official symbol of excellence for the university? Its image was proudly added to the official university logo and has remained there ever since!*

*The Bell Tower isn't just a landmark—it's a piece of living history. Standing tall in the heart of campus, it has watched generations of students walk by on their very first day and again on graduation day. For many, the Bell Tower represents tradition, achievement, and the enduring spirit of our university. Next time you pass by, take a moment to look up—it's the same tower that has inspired Javelinas for more than 70 years!*

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