PRESIDENT’S ACADEMY
for life-long leaders
THE ACADEMY

The challenges facing our world are increasingly more complex with a global pandemic and other health care issues, political divides, environmental challenges, issues of social justice, long wars and, as we write this leader’s guide, an economy with world-wide inflation.

While some may wonder what kind of world we are leaving to our next generation, we wonder about the next generation we are leaving to face the challenges we leave behind.

We created the President’s Academy for Life-Long Leaders to deliberately and intentionally develop our next generation within the Ram Family to be prepared to lead through these challenges. As we progress through our careers, we assume roles with more responsibility and increasingly greater challenges.

Our Academy programs will offer students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to be well-prepared to assume positions of great responsibility. The Academy is aligned with our university mission and vision.

ASU MISSION

Angelo State University provides highly competitive graduates to the global marketplace by delivering quality programs in a values-focused and student-centered teaching and learning environment.

OUR VISION

By the end of this decade, ASU will be known as an innovative leader in driving educational, cultural, and economic initiatives to meet the needs, face the challenges, and grasp the opportunities for our region, state, and the global community.
A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONNIE D. HAWKINS, JR., LT GEN (RET), USAF

Dear Ram Family,

This leaders’ guide outlines the direction we will take at Angelo State University as we grow and develop leaders to assume roles of increasing responsibility throughout your careers.

“No leader sets out to be a leader. People set out to live their lives, expressing themselves fully. When that expression is of value, they become leaders. So the point is not to become a leader. The point is to become yourself, to use yourself completely – all your skills, gifts and energies – in order to make your vision manifest. You must withhold nothing. You, must, in sum, become the person you started out to be, and to enjoy the process of becoming.” – Warren Bennis

I have been blessed to have several role models in my life that made a significant impact upon me. Each one has given me a strong sense of purpose and focus on being a leader who is constantly aware of leadership challenges we all face. For me, that means following the framework Warren Bennis identified in the quote above. We must give everyone the opportunity to live and work in an environment that allows them to grow, develop, and thrive. It means empowering others to assume the highest level of responsibility they can attain, and then preparing them for the next level. It is through this type of development that we will create career opportunities for individuals, and build leadership depth for our university, community, and beyond.

OUR VISION AT ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

By the end of this decade, ASU will be known as an innovative leader in driving educational, cultural, and economic initiatives to meet the needs, face the challenges, and grasp the opportunities for our region, state, and the global community.

Being an innovative leader is how we want the university to be recognized. Having the influence to create new and better ideas, while moving toward positive results is our vision. This requires us to have leader development programs available for everyone within the Ram Family who aspires to help accomplish our vision.

I encourage you to consider being a part of this initiative. You are part of our journey to create a sustainable, values-based culture. I have no doubt that we will make our vision a reality for us and future generations to come. Remember – if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Sincerely,

Ronnie D. Hawkins, Jr., Lt Gen (ret), USAF
PRESIDENT ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
Birth is a beginning and death a destination; but life is a journey. A going, a growing from stage to stage: from childhood to maturity and youth to old age.

From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing; from foolishness to discretion and then perhaps, to wisdom. From weakness to strength or strength to weakness and often back again. From health to sickness and back we pray, to health again.

From offense to forgiveness, from loneliness to love, from joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion. From grief to understanding, from fear to faith; from defeat to defeat to defeat, until, looking backward or ahead: we see that victory lies not at some high place along the way, but in having made the journey, stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage.

Birth is a beginning, and death a destination
And life is a journey;
A sacred journey to life everlasting.

— Alvin Fine

We use a compass to symbolize we are on a journey. As leaders, our journey is a life-long pursuit to hone our skills and develop our talents.

As we progress through our careers, we assume roles with more responsibility and increasingly greater challenges. This guide introduces our approach to preparing all members of the Ram Family for the challenges we will face as individuals and teams.
Shortly after being named as the fifth Chancellor, Dr. Tedd Mitchell set our visionary priority to implement a journey to create a sustainable values-based culture throughout the Texas Tech University System.

In August 2020, Chancellor Mitchell selected Lieutenant General United States Air Force (Retired) Ronnie Hawkins from a competitive field of over one hundred applicants to serve as President of Angelo State University. He made the decision because of General Hawkins’ lifetime of distinguished service and professional achievement, his shared vision to create a sustainable values-based culture, and his long history of developing and empowering talent in the organizations where he had served in his 37-year military career.

A fundamental character trait Ronnie Hawkins demonstrated throughout his career is a deep commitment to developing people to serve in positions of great responsibility. This Ram Fam Leaders’ Guide introduces the framework of the President’s Academy for Life-long Leaders and the eight points of the compass we will use to guide our journey as we develop people to lead at increasingly higher levels of responsibility at Angelo State University and beyond.

We designed the President’s Academy to be both scalable and customizable. Being scalable means, we will have different offerings for the various levels of leaders throughout the Ram Family, from Students to Senior Leaders among faculty and staff. Being customizable means, we tailor curricula to meet the unique needs of our university colleges and departments.

As Alvin Fine says, “…life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage, made stage by stage.”

This Ram Fam Leaders’ Guide explains the stages of our leader development journey.

Warm regards,

Steve Sosland
VICE CHANCELLOR, LEADER AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
A CERTAIN KIND OF PERSON

What if students graduated with the perspective that the point of their education is not just to gain knowledge and a degree but to become a certain kind of person. Highly proficient in some domain, yes, but more than that.

The kind of person who sees clearly what must be done and does not wait for permission from authority or peer-group approval to act. The kind of person who sees everything through the prism of core values and who strives to live up to those values in every aspect of work and life. The kind of person who never sees other people as merely an expedient means to one’s own career success and who earns the trust and love of those they lead. The kind of person who, by virtue of personal humility and indomitable will in service to a cause larger than oneself, inspires others to help in achievement of Big Hairy Audacious Goals that stimulate progress.

— Jim Collins in the foreword to Leadership Reckoning
Each of us possesses a moral compass programmed by parents, teachers, coaches, grandparents, clergy, friends, and peers. The compass is an integral part of our being. It continues to differentiate between proper and improper behavior until the day we die.

— John Huntsman, former Utah Governor

In her book, *Built on Values*, Ann Rhoades tells us that leaders drive values by making the commitment to a values-based culture where they lead by example. Many organizations make the mistake of having a very small group of senior leaders name the values for others to live by.

We believe leaders create the environments that allow team members to live their personal core values that drive their behaviors. Our collective behaviors – how we choose to act – determines our organizational culture.

Unhealthy cultures put people and the goals of the organization at risk. We choose to build healthy, sustainable cultures based on the values of the people in our universities and system teams.

Our journey to create a sustainable, values-based culture began in February 2021, when a team of 85 summit participants identified the core values shared amongst the group. We then held town hall meetings across the campus to give the opportunity to all students, faculty, staff, and administrators to give input and make improvements to the original document.

Our academy programs will remind participants of the values and desired behaviors to which we committed during our values summit.
Leaders, all leaders, are hired or promoted with an expectation to perform—and achieve results.

In some organizations, how leaders get the results matters little as long as they meet their performance goals. *For them, the end justifies the means.*

At Angelo State University, how we get the results is as crucial as the bottom line.

It all begins with leaders who create the environment that inspires all team members to be the best version of themselves.
SIGNIFICANCE | IMPACTO
Construct a legacy and reputation of dynamic impact beyond ourselves.

• Nurture positive growth of self and others.
• Embrace opportunities and celebrate achievements.
• Be inquisitive to expand knowledge and horizons.
• Ignite innovation.

COMMUNITY | COMUNIDAD
Collaborate to develop an inclusive sense of place and purpose.

• Pull together to engage in purposeful teamwork.
• Serve others and extend genuine acknowledgment and recognition.
• Unify to strengthen institutional purpose.
• Cultivate meaningful relationships through intentional acts of kindness.
• Act to meet relevant community needs.

COMMITMENT | COMPROMISO
Hold ourselves and each other accountable to our responsibilities and goals.

• Generate an environment that handles adversity and supports resilience.
• Encourage healthy conflict to energize growth and effect positive results.
• Advocate self-reflection and institutional growth mindset.
• Deliver excellence through continuous improvement.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY SHARED VALUES

INTEGRITY | INTEGRIDAD
Do the right thing, even if no one knows.

• Act with upstanding character, humility, and trustworthiness.
• Be transparent in motive, communication, and action.
• Take responsibility for actions.
• Provide honesty and respect at all times.
• Consider others first.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
DIVERSIDAD & INCLUSIÓN
Celebrate, appreciate, and build on our differences.

• Build a culture of equity, participation, and belonging.
• Create and nurture a safe environment to share ideas and welcome inclusive, constructive feedback.
• Seek to understand; encourage and empower courageous and honest communication.
• Practice and advocate empathy, just treatment, and mutual respect for everyone.
• Stand up against injustice to form a foundation of trust and accountability.
Character without capacity usually means weakness in a leader, but capacity without character means danger.

— David Gergen, former presidential advisor

President Thomas Jefferson founded the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York, as the nation’s first academy focused on developing life-long leaders of character. Character development is the primary mission of West Point.

Character is the pattern of behavior and decisions in a person’s life that is influenced by the virtues they have developed. Dr. Scott Parsons is the Character Development Integrator at USMA. He writes about different types of virtues:

MORAL VIRTUES – Character traits that respect the humanity of ourselves and others.
Examples: courage, compassion, honesty, justice, respect

INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES – Character traits that develop the habit of life-long learning and thinking, enabling the pursuit of knowledge and truth.
Examples: autonomy, critical thinking, judgment, reasoning, reflection

CIVIC VIRTUES – Character traits that serve the common good, enabling thriving communities.
Examples: citizenship, civility, neighborliness, service, volunteering

PERFORMANCE VIRTUES – Character traits that make it possible for intentions to be realized, enabling excellent work and the achievement of goals.
Examples: confidence, motivation, perseverance, resilience, teamwork

PHRONESIS – The virtue that enables us to perceive, understand, and act admirably, in complex situations.
This includes discerning what to do and how to do it in situations where there is no good option and our other virtues conflict with one another.

In the academy, we will integrate the specific character virtues one must possess to be successful while leading others. Participants will discuss these virtues and identify the traits that will make them effective leaders within the Ram Family.
Ethics is knowing the difference between knowing what we have a right to do and what is right to do.

— Potter Stewart, former Associate Supreme Court Justice

Ethics is the application of the moral principles of our character to the daily decisions we make in our lives.

Michael Beer, Harvard Business School professor, and author of *Fit to Compete* says, “The road to your higher ethical ambition starts with personal reflection about your values and purpose in life. Take the time to have an honest conversation with yourself to help figure out what matters to you, and where your ethics lie.”

In their book, *The Power of Ethical Management*, authors Ken Blanchard and Norman Vincent Peale, describe five traits of ethical leaders:

**PURPOSE** – Be driven by your purpose and use it to guide your actions.

**PRIDE** – Show a sense of healthy pride. Unlike false pride, which stems from a distorted sense of self-importance, healthy pride springs from a positive self-image and confidence in one’s abilities.

**PATIENCE** – Have faith that things will work out well as long as you adhere to your values and principles.

**PERSISTENCE** – Stay the course and remain true to your purpose and values.

**PERSPECTIVE** – Keep the big picture in mind, and understand what’s truly important.

Marianne Jennings, a professor of applied ethics at Arizona State University and author of *Seven Signs of Ethical Collapse*, consults with senior leaders on how to avoid unethical decisions in their organizations.

Participants in the academy will participate in case-study discussions about ethical decisions they are likely to face in their organizations and at their level of responsibility in the university and beyond.
Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening my axe.

— Abraham Lincoln

In Stephen R. Covey’s book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, the seventh habit is Sharpen the Saw – Principles of Balanced Self-Renewal. He tells the story of walking upon someone in the woods feverishly trying to saw down a tree. The person inquires of the tree cutter, “You look exhausted. Why don’t you take a break and sharpen your saw? I am sure the saw will cut much faster if you do.” The tree cutter responds, “I don’t have time to do that. I am too busy sawing the tree.”

We all need time for self-renewal. Time to recharge and reinvigorate ourselves for the work to come. We need to acquire new tools and sharpen the ones we use regularly.

According to Covey, there are four dimensions of self-renewal:

**MENTAL** – Gaining knowledge and visualizing how to use it.

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** – Building relationships and service to others.

**SPIRITUAL** – Realigning with our values, personal meditation or prayer and individual study.

**PHYSICAL** – Focusing on nutrition, exercise and stress management.

Effective leaders build endurance for the long journey of their careers. This includes building positive habits in each of the four dimensions of self-renewal.

Our academy programs will allow participants to create personal development plans in each of the dimensions of renewal and select accountability partners to help each other progress through their plan.
Leaders are people who do the right thing; managers are people who do things right.

— Warren Bennis, Leadership Scholar

There are two common schools of thought on the differences between management and leadership:

1) All leaders are managers, but not all managers make good leaders.

2) All managers are good leaders, but all leaders are not good managers.

Both Warren Bennis and Peter Drucker, two of the most prolific authors on this topic, have similar versions of the opening quote. The point they make is not about trying to label individuals as managers or leaders, but rather understanding that both leadership and management are critical functions needed for the effective organization.

We need people who can create a vision, inspire, galvanize and get results (leading); and we need people who can plan, staff, organize, prepare, implement, control and measure results (managing). Sometimes, and in some organizations, one person may be able to fill both roles. Often the roles are filled by separate individuals.

Leaders must ensure the functions of management are in place for the organization to run effectively. Ken Blanchard says in his seminal book, *Leadership and The One Minute Manager*, “Managers need to use different strokes (leadership styles) for different folks, depending on their competence and commitment in their present job.

This compass point focuses on the functions of a manager. How do we manage ourselves? How do we manage projects? How do we standardize and improve processes? What systems do we put in place to ensure consistent, predictable, positive results? How do we measure those results?

We will scale our academy programs for management challenges faced in different levels of leadership and tailor the curriculum to fit specific challenges in the university.
There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less
than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction.
— John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. President of the U.S.

Decision-making is a learned competence. We can learn
to make good decisions from others – trusted mentors,
friends, and colleagues. We can learn through our own
experiences of successes and failures. We can also learn
the processes of decision-making.

This compass point focuses on decision-making processes
for individuals and those in a collaborative team
environment.

In the academy, we will discuss:

+ how our values inform us during difficult decisions,
+ how to make decisions with limited resources,
+ how to make timely decisions, and
+ how to make decisions when leading through a crisis.

We will study and understand the practice of bringing
gether highly believable people who are willing to
engage in thoughtful disagreement to enhance the
group's ability to make quality decisions and increase the chance
of success.

We will use case studies and historical examples to learn
from others and discuss what we will do when faced with
similar challenges. Then, applying lessons learned, we
will develop algorithms based on values and principles
to speed the decision-making process and tailor the
methodology to fit the university's context.

Our academy programs will be scaled for the decisions
typically made at that leader level and tailored for unique
challenges facing the university.
The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

— George Bernhard Shaw, Irish Playwright

When Stephen R. Covey was writing his most famous book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, in the 1980s most organizations’ people-development programs centered on individual growth and independence. His first three habits acknowledged this and focused on the principles of Personal Vision, Personal Leadership, and Personal Management.

Covey’s next three habits helped lead the transformation from independence to interdependence—collaboration and breaking through silos. These habits focused on the principles of Interpersonal Leadership, Empathetic Communication, and Creative Cooperation.

This new focus on interdependence meant that the one-way, directive communication that had been so much of organizational development history would no longer work effectively as we transitioned to new generations in the work place. It became increasingly important to develop the next generation of leaders by listening to them and empowering them to learn, lead and communicate effectively.

In 2004 Covey published *The 8th Habit: Find your voice and inspire others to find theirs*. This new emphasis on empowerment has led us to focus on behaviors like listen to understand, assume good intentions, and respond rather than react.

Our academy programs will remind participants of the importance of collaborative communication to develop a positive working environment that leads to better solutions for complex challenges.
“People who have mastered organizational acumen exhibit an understanding of how their organizations work and how different elements influence or interact with one another. Organizational acumen includes knowledge of systems, people, structures, and processes that work together to make the enterprise healthy or unhealthy. In a leading-edge workforce, organizationally masterful individuals talk matter-of-factly about the value chain including people, processes, inputs, suppliers, outputs, customers, and outcomes.”

— Henrik Ekelund, President & CEO of BTS Group

According to Robert Kaplan, Harvard professor and author of *The Balanced Score Card*, “A mere 7% of employees today fully understand their organization’s strategies and what is expected of them in order to help achieve organizational goals.”

Our faculty and staff programs will introduce participants to the organizational structure of each entity within the Angelo State University. We will review the purpose, vision, and mission for the university. We will review the budget process, funding sources, and the grant proposal procedures. We will get an overview of relevant State Laws, Regents’ Rules, System Regulations, and Operating Policies.

Students will learn how to study organizations and match their skills and education to connect with potential career opportunities.
LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

Each of our programs are designed to build a solid foundation and enhance a leaders skill set along the way. Ideally, a participant will complete these programs in order, but we also understand each leader has different leadership experiences and needs. We ask you to reflect on your leadership journey to see which of these programs will add value for you.

OUR VALUES INITIATIVE

The Our Values initiative is a six-month program designed to bring our values to life. Sessions will focus on each of our values and guidance will be provided on how we can operationalize each of our values.

Session Topics Include:
+ Our Values: Where we started and where we are going
+ Integrity
+ Diversity & Inclusion
+ Significance
+ Community
+ Commitment
STUDENT LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This seven-month program will provide experiential learning for Juniors at ASU. Within this program, students will utilize scenario-based learning, readings from a variety of influential authors, and receive five hours of professional coaching from an International Coaching Federation (ICF) credentialed coach. The pilot cohort of the Student Leader Development Program will consist of 24 students who will represent multiple facets of ASU’s campus culture. Selected students will meet monthly for a classroom-based experience and matched with a mentor to enhance their development. We will increase the size of the cohort after applying lessons learned from the pilot.

Curriculum for this program will bring to life the competent leader model within the President’s Academy for Life-long Leaders. Topics include:
+ The President’s Competent Leader Model
+ Leadership and Character
+ Decision Making as a Leader
+ Effective Leader Communication
+ Managing Others
+ The Ethical Leader
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS

This six-month program is designed to introduce leadership theories and models to Ram Fam participants who have an interest in moving into a leadership role within their organization.

+ Principles of Leadership
+ Emotional Intelligence for Leaders
+ Leadership Communication
+ Transforming Conflict into Collaboration
+ Feedback Essentials
+ Building Your Leadership Presence

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

This nine-month program is designed to provide functional knowledge of effective leadership to those with less than three years of supervisory experience.

Session Topics Include:
+ Six Dimensions of an Effective Leader
+ Emotional Intelligence
+ Understanding Unconscious and Conscious Bias
+ Leading with Your Strengths
+ Developing Your Team
+ Leading for Results
+ Managing Conflict
+ Leading Your Team
+ Motivating Your Team
NEXT-LEVEL LEADER PROGRAM

This nine-month program is designed for those participants who have experience in a supervisory position and seek to further develop their personal and professional leadership style.

Session Topics Include:
+ Values-Guided Leadership
+ Next-Level Character
+ Leadership Ethics
+ Developing Self
+ Next-Level Management
+ Intentional Decision-Making
+ Next-Level Communication
+ Organizational Acumen
+ Next-Level Self-Awareness

ONE TEAM FELLOWS PROGRAM

This 16-month program is designed to provide high-level leader development that includes engaging classroom instruction, team and organization-wide projects, readings and various other experiences designed to enhance the leadership abilities of those who aspire to senior leadership roles.

Session Topics Include:
+ Authentic Leadership
+ Emotional Intelligence I & II
+ Developing your Influence
+ Team Development
+ Psychological Safety and Trust
+ Adaptability and Resilience
+ Critical Thinking/Decision Making
+ Leadership Well-Being
+ Diversity and Inclusion
+ Organizational Issues
+ Lessons Learned in Leadership
+ ASU Team projects
Sources

Values

Character
Ryan Holiday, *Courage is Calling* (New York: Portfolio/Penguin, 2021)

Ethics

Self-Development

Management

Decision-making

Communication

Organizational Acumen
THOUGHT LEADERS

Many of the organizations we observed use leadertainment as a major focus for developing leaders. They engage authors or nationally recognized speakers to deliver presentations and then leave it to individuals to determine how to use the information, or not.

We took a different path. We have partnered with thought leaders on topics relevant to developing leaders of character. We have chosen to work with them over time and integrate their lessons into our programs. These are some of those with whom we are working:

Ann Rhoades
The driving force behind the culture at Southwest Airlines. She taught us how to build a cultural foundation on shared core values.

Stan McCrystal
Retired Army four-star general and founder of the McChrystal Group. He taught us the power of collaborative communication and empowerment.

Pat Lencioni
Author of multiple books on building organizational health. He taught us the how to create vulnerability-based trust and to utilize the Working Genius model to get the right people in the right seats on the bus.

Randy Conley
Together with Ken Blanchard is helping us develop emotionally intelligent servant leaders who fundamentally know how to build trust.

Carla Harris
Former Vice-Chair of Morgan Stanley. She taught us her Pearls of Wisdom and the importance of helping young leaders find coaches, mentors, and sponsors to assist in their career development.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FROM STEVE SOSLAND, VICE CHANCELLOR, LEADER & CULTURE DEVELOPMENT, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

I want to acknowledge the following team members who collaborated on this project. They are experts in their related areas and contributed greatly to this field guide.

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