

Candidate for Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences: **Dr. Alan Sams**



Dr. Alan Sams currently serves as Executive Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

In this role, he is responsible for all operations of the largest college of agriculture and life sciences in the United States. It has approximately 350 faculty, 7800 students and a budget exceeding \$69,000,000. The College is organized into 14 academic departments that span all aspects of agriculture, natural resources and biomedical/life sciences as well as their many social dimensions like economics, tourism and youth development. During his time leading the College at Texas A&M, it has grown in enrollment, become more diverse, improved its climate, established several domestic and international research/academic partnerships, increased its research productivity and greatly increased its programs and participation in study abroad courses, internships, field experiences, honors programs and on-line education. He has led major college-wide and campus-wide efforts in strategic planning, international programs and grand challenges. The College is closely aligned with AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension, giving it a local, statewide and worldwide presence in one of the largest, most populated and most agricultural states in the country.

Previously, Dr. Sams was Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University in South Carolina. Under his leadership, the College added new buildings, restructured its management and budgeting system, added new faculty and academic programs and established new research, teaching and outreach programs. Before being Dean, he was Head of the Poultry Science Department at Texas A&M and Interim Head of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science during its formation at Texas A&M University.

He received his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Florida with majors in poultry science and food science and a minor in food and resource economics. He was also employed as a Quality Control Analyst by Gold Kist Poultry of Atlanta, Georgia. He joined the faculty of Texas A&M University in 1987 rising from assistant

professor to professor. He taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses as well as conducted research in poultry processing, muscle biochemistry, meat quality and other aspects of agriculture. His laboratory produced numerous graduate students and journal articles, as well as a textbook on poultry meat processing which is now in its second edition and was translated into Chinese and Russian. He has had significant corporate involvement through many collaborative projects and extensive consulting activities both in the US and abroad. He has received several national and international awards for his work and takes particular interest in global perspectives of agriculture and society.