

## Aggies on Call

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### Texas A&M Launches Faculty and Staff Concierge Services

Equilibrium@Texas A&M, the university's work-life balance initiative, has launched "Aggies on Call," a concierge service pilot program. The new program is a partnership between Employee Services and Scholarships & Financial Aid and was developed in response to needs expressed to the Women's Faculty Network Work-Life Balance subcommittee.

More than 1,300 students presently are registered as on-call service providers for such tasks as lawn mowing, car washing, pet washing, house cleaning, laundry support, babysitting, pet sitting and errand running.

The pilot program will run April 1 through August 31, 2008 to gauge faculty and staff interest. If successful, "Aggies on Call" will become an official university service in the fall of 2008.

To utilize "Aggies on Call" as an employer, faculty and staff members should log onto <http://jobsforaggies.tamu.edu/> and follow the instructions to register as an off-campus employer. When prompted to "Find your organization", enter "off campus", and then continue the registration process. Once registered, an employee using "Aggies on Call" can post a position to allow students to contact them. If time is short, the employer can search the list of registered students under the "Job Preference" category and then send an email to or call the student(s) to provide details about the job. Employers utilizing the services of students registered for "Aggies on Call" are responsible for screening individuals for suitability to the tasks. Rates for services are negotiated between the requesting employer and student, but hourly pay must be at least the federal minimum wage of \$5.85 (\$6.55 effective July 24, 2008).

"Aggies on Call" is one of several new Equilibrium@Texas A&M services launched in the past several months. Other recent programs include:

- Commuting Aggies Resource Services (CARS)—an initiative launched to support faculty, staff and students who commute to College Station. CARS provides short-term housing, reduced MSC hotel rates or semester-long housing options through Residence Life Housing, as well as a listserv for commuters to use to contact each other or to coordinate ride-sharing. CARS also takes advantage of services available through Transportation Services for bus and ride-share opportunities. To learn more about CARS go to <http://employees.tamu.edu/employees/WorkLife/commuting.aspx>.
- Workplace Lactation Program—mothers returning to work following childbirth can request a workplace lactation information packet at <http://employees.tamu.edu/employees/WorkLife/familyFriendly.aspx>, which includes information on pumping, breast milk handling and storage in support of breastfeeding. The Workplace Lactation Program is one of the reasons Texas A&M was designated in 2007 as a Mother-Friendly Worksite by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

- Family-Friendly/Unisex Restroom Locator Assistance—the university GIS map can be searched to find family-friendly and unisex restrooms. The map highlights university buildings containing family-friendly and unisex restrooms. By double-clicking on a highlighted building, information is provided on the amenities and location of the family-friendly or unisex facilities in that building. The searchable GIS map is located on the Facilities Coordination website at this link <http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/map/framesetup.asp>

To learn more about Equilibrium@Texas A&M, go to <http://employees.tamu.edu/employees/WorkLife/familyFriendly.aspx> or call (979) 862-1503.