



Sam Houston  
State University

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## Purpose:

Historically, Hispanic and African American men have lower retention and graduations rates in both Texas and the United States. The most recent 6-year graduation rates from the Digest of Education Statistics show the deficit in the area of educating minority men. National graduation rates for African American males are an abysmal 35.2%, and graduation rates for Hispanic males are 47.7%.

To counter this, in 2000, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approved the *Closing the Gaps: The Texas Higher Education Plan* in order to increase minority retention and graduation rates in higher education institutions. In support of *Closing the Gaps*, Sam Houston State University (SHSU) established the Sam Houston Establishing Leadership In and Through Education (SH ELITE) Program in

2010.

The purpose of the SH ELITE Program is to enable African American and Hispanic men to transcend the status quo in minority male academic, professional, and personal success.

## Mission:

SH ELITE promotes the academic and civic engagement of African American and Hispanic men through various resources that specifically focus on academic, professional, and personal development, as well as leadership development and service engagement.

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