



## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT, UPLIFT CEO YASMIN BHATIA:**

February 11, 2016

"We are deeply disappointed about the events that occurred while our junior class of Uplift Hampton scholars were touring the Texas A&M campus earlier this week as part of our robust Road To College Program. We are proud of our scholars for the grace and composure with which they responded to the college students who chose to engage in a disrespectful and unacceptable manner. While we appreciate the swift response of the Texas A&M leadership, it is my hope that we broaden the conversation at colleges locally and across the country about increasing inclusion and cultural awareness programs so that all students can feel safe and welcome regardless of their ethnicity. Currently only 8% of low-income students in the United States graduate with a college degree within 6 years. At Uplift, we are laser focused on fulfilling our mission of 100% college acceptance of our graduates (many of which are the first in their families to attend college), and 70% earning a degree within 6 years. We as educators need to come together for the betterment of all students and work collaboratively to ensure that all students feel accepted and supported while in college. Our country and our future can only be stronger through these students' successes. Uplift Education looks forward to being part of a broader solution by working with universities to create the best possible college environments for the students we serve."

### ***About Uplift Education***

Uplift Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operating a network of 34 tuition-free, college preparatory, public charter schools in Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Irving, Grand Prairie and DeSoto on 17 campuses. Uplift Education schools provide a rigorous, multidisciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation. Uplift Education educates nearly 14,000 students, with the majority being low-income and minority students who will be the first in their family to attend college. Uplift schools are public schools -- students are selected by a blind lottery with no information collected on their past academic performance. For more information, visit [uplifteducation.org](http://uplifteducation.org) or [facebook.com/uplifteducation](https://facebook.com/uplifteducation).

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