

# UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY I-CORPS

EST. 2017

FURTHERING ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION  
AND ACCELERATING INNOVATION



<https://www.utrgv.edu/cic/programs/nsf-i-corps/index.htm>



## OVERVIEW

In 2017 the Center for Innovation and Commercialization (CIC) at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) was awarded an NSF I-Corps Site Grant to assist in the goal of furthering entrepreneurial education and accelerating innovation.

Now in its 2nd year, UTRGV I-Corps conducts Site level trainings to bring students from engineering and entrepreneurship together to work on projects. The Site also hosts regional events and sponsors teams to attend other regional events.

## SITE ACHIEVEMENTS

UTRGV I-Corps has had 17 regional Teams, 3 community Teams, and over 40 Site Teams. The Site has sent 1 Team to the National I-Corps program, and 7 other Teams have been recommended to attend and currently are in the planning process.

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Faculty from 3 schools have led Teams, and as a result have changed their research methodology to begin with customer discovery.

## BROADENING PARTICIPATION

In an effort to expand I-Corps, UTRGV hosts regional events to introduce the program to other institutions. Recently, Deans from 5 colleges have indicated interest in working with the Site to introduce I-Corps to their universities.

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Team has participated in the National I-Corps program for the opportunity to secure a \$50,000 grant from NSF to engage in intense customer discovery and business model design.

**\$20K**

Generated in  
commercialization grants  
and investment funding

**205**

Participants have  
engaged directly with  
UTRGV I-Corps

**44**

Teams of students,  
postdocs, and faculty  
members