Promoting and Achieving Student Success: Strategies, Initiatives, and Outcomes

Dr. Havidán Rodríguez
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Susan Brown
Assistant VP for Strategic Analysis
& Institutional Reporting

Dr. Kristin Croyle
Vice President for Student Success

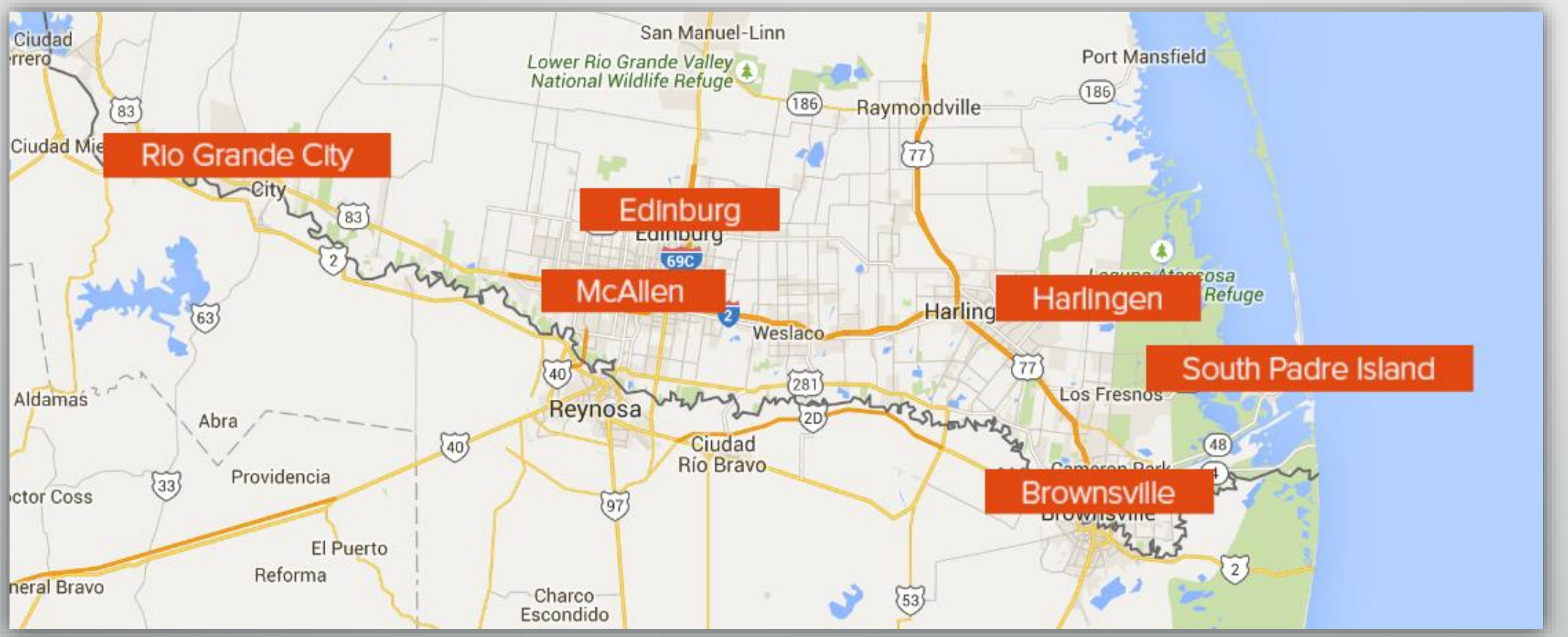
Dr. Maggie Hinojosa
Vice President for Strategic Enrollment

WE WILL BUILD OUR FUTURE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Detail area
Austin
Gulf of Mexico
Rio Grande Valley
281
77
STARR
HIDALGO
WILLACY
83
Edinburg
La Joya
Harlingen
N
San Benito
McAllen
CAMERON
30 miles
MEXICO
Brownsville
AMERICAN-STATESMAN

One University with Multiple Campuses Distributed Throughout the RGV



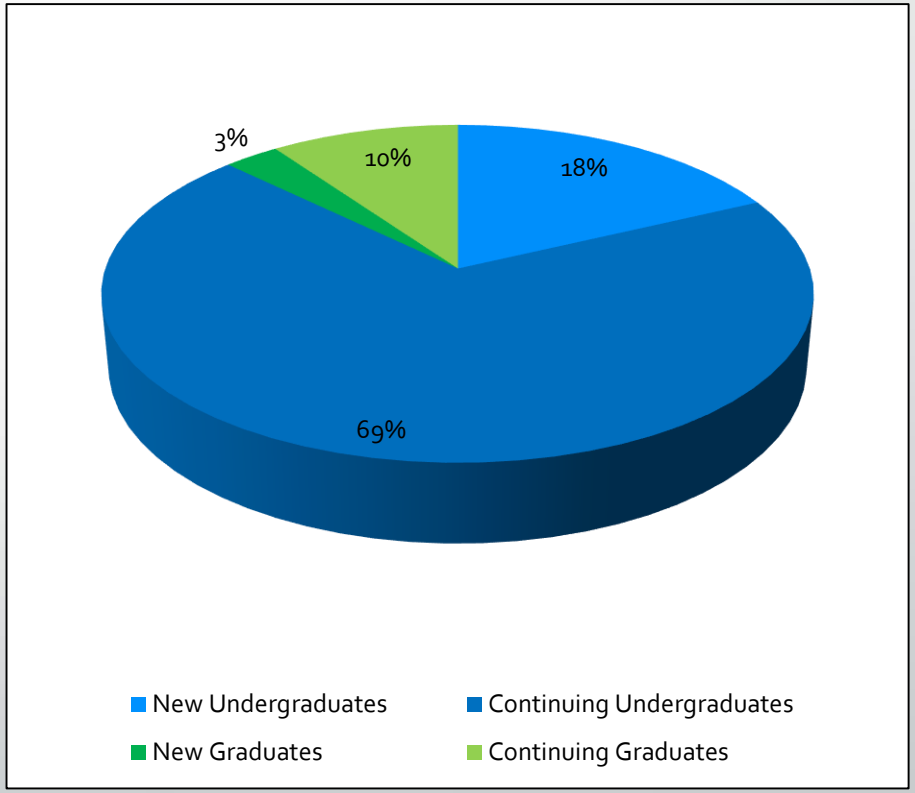
UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Rio Grande Valley

- Predominantly Hispanic/Latino population
- Significant population growth
- High levels of poverty
- Median family income: $37,500
- Access to higher education is key to the success of our students, their families, and the social and economic prosperity of the Rio Grande Valley

Student Enrollment (8/25/15)

- **Student Headcount, Fall 2015**
  - Undergraduates – 25,120
    - New Undergraduates – 5,219
    - Continuing Undergraduates – 19,901
  - Graduates – 3,682
    - New Graduates – 835
    - Continuing Graduates -2,847
- **Total Enrollment - 28,802**



UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Student Characteristics

- 89% Hispanic/Latino
- 87% Undergraduate
- 65% Full-time
- 57% Female
- 78% on Pell Grants
- 61% first-generation

UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Our Priorities

- Student Success
- Educational Opportunities
- Medical Education
- Research on the Issues Impacting the RGV

UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Promoting Student Success: A Holistic Approach

- Developing integrated, university-wide, initiatives centered on student success
- Addressing critical needs of first-generation students
- Active engagement and ongoing participation of the University community
- Institutional resources

UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Examples of UTRGV Student Success Initiatives

Supporting academic preparedness and "cultural transition" to the University	• Jumpstart Summer Bridge Program • UCentral • UNIV 1301 Learning Framework freshman seminar • Advising as teaching
Supporting academic performance	• Peer-to-Peer Instruction • Early Warning System
Supporting academic progress	• Innovative tuition plan • DegreeWorks: Online degree auditing • Centralized advising with outreach facilitated by EAB Campus
Supporting co-curricular success	• Experiential learning transcript • Academic maps

Supporting Academic Preparedness: Jumpstart Summer Bridge

- Required for all admitted freshmen - not yet college ready
- Five-week summer session
- Students enroll in 3-6 hours of coursework, including a combination of developmental English and math (pre-statistics or pre-algebra), and a freshman seminar course (UNIV 1301).
- Includes motivated and invested faculty, peer mentors for all students, and scholarship options. Understanding the "hidden curriculum"
- College Ready at the end of Summer 2015:
  - **87%** English
  - **83%** Math/Algebra pathway
  - **73%** Math/Statistics pathway

UTRGV

Smoothing Bureaucratic Processes: UCentral

- Student Service Center *Ucentral*, launched in August 2015
- Provides a one-stop center to handle all Registrar, Financial Aid, and Admissions oriented issues. Bursar is co-located.
- Student-centered case management approach so students are not sent from one office to another when complex issues are interrelated
- Includes a queuing system that minimizes student waiting
- Building intuitive student processes and a more interactive and powerful online portal

UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Supporting Academic Performance: Peer-to-Peer Instruction

- Supplemental Instruction
  - Fall 2015: 39 courses (110 sections) with 11,591 students
  - Historically, SI students earn a .6 to .9 higher final letter grade
  - Example:
    - CHEM II students who attended SI sessions significantly outperformed those who did not (49% vs 33% passing rate);
    - Students attending 5-14 sessions performed a letter grade above those attending 1-4 sessions
  - Concerns: Students who need the most help often do not participate

Supporting Academic Performance: Peer-to-Peer Instruction

- Link2Success
  - Peer instruction embedded in courses with mandatory attendance requirements
  - Historical tests at UTB show an increase in pass rates **for all students in the treated courses** (not just students who voluntarily attended) of up to **20%**
  - Developing interventions for Fall 2016 based on this model for CHEM I and II and College Algebra

UTRGV™
Division of Academic Affairs

Supporting Academic Progress: Advising and EAB Campus

- Analyzed 10 years of data from UTPA and UTB students, identifying success markers and major change patterns
- Now working to identify students who have missed success markers and proactively reach out to them
- Also using EAB Campus (Launched Feb. 2016) to create and run advising campaigns reaching out to student populations of concern in a targeted fashion. Example: Sophomore students
  - Historical retention from 2nd to 3rd year drops from 77% to 66.4%
  - Targeted campaign to 2,800 2nd year students to help them explore engaged learning outside the classroom and academic program connections to career ambitions
  - In the first 24 hours of campaign, 279 students responded

Supporting Co-Curricular Success: Experiential Learning Transcript

- Supported by a Department of Education Developing Hispanic Institutions grant ($3.1 million)
- To build institutional capacity to support experiential learning activities including faculty development and student support structures
- Focused on service learning, undergraduate research, academic internships, and development of an experiences transcript as the final piece (in progress)
- Early internal data shows **gains of 5% in one-year retention** for students involved in service learning and **up to 10% for** students involved in undergraduate research
- Experiences transcript will help
  - Guide students to learning experiences that will be useful to them throughout their lives
  - Incentivize both faculty and students to participate in those activities and report them institutionally

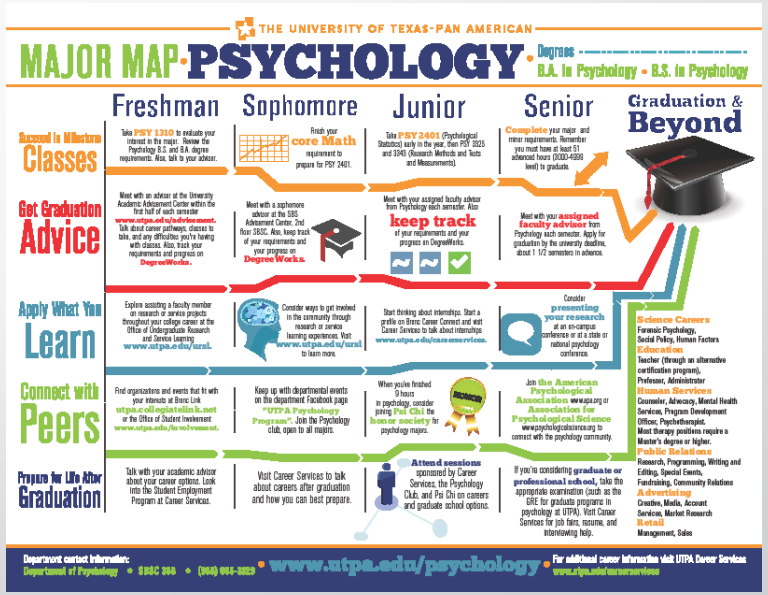
UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Supporting Academic Progress: Innovative Tuition Plan

- Tuition and fees were restructured by a task force of UTRGV staff and prospective students focusing on:
  - **Transparency** – Eliminated many fees
  - **Predictability** – Guaranteed for four years
  - **Incentivization** – Capped at 12 hours. Enrollment at 15 hours gives student **one free class** every semester to encourage progress to graduation
  - **Affordability** – One of the lowest in the country, emphasizing need-based aid

Supporting Co-Curricular Success: Academic Maps

- Academic maps are in development that combine curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities to help students plot a successful trajectory through their undergraduate experiences
- May be particularly useful for first-generation students as they move through the transition into university and as they transition from university to career
- Kudos to Georgia State University



Division of Academic Affairs

STEP Grant

$1.66M NSF grant will help boost graduation rates in engineering & science

Division of Academic Affairs

Biomedical Program

- Competency-Based like program
- Accelerated, Fast-Paced Mini-Courses
- Embedded tutoring was identified as most appropriate academic support model
- Quantitative & qualitative data revealed students were not taking advantage of additional tutoring support
- It was decided that, in the 2nd semester, embedded tutors would be placed in lectures, coaching sessions, team-based learning time, and in the labs
- Data on impact will be collected, which will generate a report with recommendations to determine what other (if any) modifications should be made to this customized academic support model
  - https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/higher-ed-beta/college-app-changed-my-life

Strategic Planning with a Focus on Student Success

- Student success as a core institutional priority
- Develop systematic and holistic initiatives focusing on student success
- Establish benchmarks that will guide us and allow us to determine progress and success of initiatives, especially focusing on:
  - Retention rates
  - Graduation rates
  - Credits per semester
  - Years to graduation
  - Credits completed at time of graduation
  - Participation in experiential learning initiatives (e.g., undergraduate research, service learning, internships, study abroad, etc.)
  - GPA

UTRGV™
Division of Academic Affairs

Strategic Planning:
Starting the Conversation with Data

	Where We Are	Where We Want to Be **
1st Year Retention*	76%	↑
2nd Year Retention*	63%	↑
3rd Year Retention*	55%	↑
4 Year Graduation Rate	21%	↑
6 Year Graduation Rate	42.4%	↑
UG SCH per Semester	12.88	↑
Years to Graduate	5.2	↓
Credits to Completion	142	↓

* Data provided for the latest cohort available
** TBD in Consultation with SPC and UTRGV President

UTRGV
Division of Academic Affairs

Muchas Gracias

UTRGV™
Division of Academic Affairs