

From: Office of the Vice President for Student Success [<mailto:studentsuccess@UTRGV.EDU>]

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To: EMPLOYEES@LISTSERV.UTRGV.EDU

Subject: Student Success Highlights - U Central, ES2 Symposium, Degree Works, etc.



Welcome back to Spring semester! We've come a long way since opening in September -- offering over 5000 course sections in the Fall, graduating over 2000 students in December, and enrolling over 26,000 students this Spring. We are already having a significant impact across the Valley.

Below are selected highlights and updates, some upcoming calendar items, and responses to a few questions we've recently received. If you have questions you can't find the answer to, please let us know at studentsuccess@utrgv.edu and we'll find an answer for you!

Thank you for all that you do to support our UTRGV students!

Kristin Croyle

Vice President for Student Success

Highlights

- **U Central**

U Central – the place to go for students with questions about admissions, registration/courses/grade issues, and financial aid. The professional staff there are trained to be able to help students resolve their issues through a single point of contact and a single visit (no standing in one line after another!). U Central is located in the first floor of the Student Services Building in Edinburg and the Tower in Main in Brownsville and at 888-882-4026. Forms related to U Central services (Change of Major/Minor, Drop forms, Change of Information, etc.) are available [here](#). Since September, they have assisted students through fielding 65,600 calls and 42,700 in person visits! Thank you to our U Central staff!

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Nearly 700 faculty, staff, and students joined in service to the community at over 40 sites across the valley on January 18, 2016. [Check out our campus community in action at this year's day of service.](#) Thanks to each of you who volunteered or organized this event!

- **Engaged Student Symposium**

Please join us in promoting and celebrating the work of some of UTRGV's finest undergraduate students at the Engaged Student Symposium (ES2), April 21-23. With events in Edinburg and Brownsville, we will showcase student work in the areas of undergraduate research, service learning, and creative works from across all disciplines. Eligible undergraduates who would like to participate should submit an application by March 1, 2016. Awards will be given for the most outstanding work! Questions? Contact the Engaged Scholarship and Learning Office at engaged@utrgv.edu.

- **Resilience Showcase**

As the first steps in building a UTRGV resilience initiative, this January we were pleased to host a world class training in resilience conducted by the University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Center. The 90 faculty, staff, and guests from other UT institutions and UT System who participated agreed that the training was a fantastic experience. Thank you to UT System for sponsoring this training. We are now working to finalize plans for a UTRGV Resilience Showcase on Friday, May 6. There will be opportunities at that showcase for students, faculty, and staff to present and learn more about building resilience. Further details will be available within the next few weeks. Questions? Contact Dr. [Aje-Ori Aqbesse](#), Faculty Fellow in the Office of Student Success, for further details.

- **Spring Enrollment**

Spring enrollment is finishing out very strong at 26,195 students as of today. Daily enrollment updates are available online [here](#) if you would find them useful.

Calendar Items

January 28	Distinguished Speaker Neil Pasricha
February 3	Last day to drop courses with no listing on transcript
February 15-20	Homecoming
February 25	Charreada at UTRGV Brownsville campus as part of Charro Days
February 29-March 6	FESTIBA – Festival of International Books and Arts
March 14-18	Spring Break (no class)
March 23-14	Spring Career Expo (23 rd Brownsville, 24 th Edinburg)
March 25-26	Easter Holiday (no class)
April 12	Distinguished Speakers Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, cofounders of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream
April 13	Last day to drop or withdraw from classes
April 21-23	Engaged Student Symposium
May 5	Study Day (no class)
May 6	Resilience Showcase
May 6-12	Final Exams

May 13-14	Commencement
May 16	Spring Semester Grades Due
June 6	Summer I Semester Begins

Questions Raised this Week

- **Degree Works seems to not be 100% accurate. What is the plan for correcting it?**

Degree Works is the electronic tool that we use with students to help them determine what classes they need to take to complete their degrees. There are two issues in Degree Works. First, the degree plans from UTPA that were previously programmed need some corrections because some of our course numbers have changed. This is complicated because some of those course numbers were “reused” meaning they refer to a different course now than they did last year. Second, there are a large number of new degree plans from UTRGV and the previous plans from UTB to program. Our current staff who are fully occupied serving our current students are unable to devote the huge number of hours to this programming so we have contracted the work to experts in the field. That contract is just now being finalized and the work should begin shortly.

- **What about course prerequisites? I heard they aren’t “turned on”?**

Course prerequisites were approved by faculty and are available for students to view in the Undergraduate Catalog and in Assist. However they were not used to electronically restrict registration for Fall or Spring semester because, for them to work properly, student records needed to be accurate and significant programming needed to be completed (including accommodating “reused” course numbers that refer to different courses depending on when the course was taken). We have made enough progress in checking and correcting student records and in the underlying programming that prerequisites will be used to restrict enrollment in the next registration cycle for Summer and Fall semesters.