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Greetings from Bronc Country,

The fall season has begun in the Valley — I know because the other day, when I went to work, my pickup truck told me that it was 68 degrees outside. Of course, when I left the campus, the pickup told me that it was 96 degrees. The good news is that the students are back — 19,263 of them. We have already broken the record for attendance at volleyball games, and Spirit Week begins this week, culminating in Midnight Madness and the burning of the letters: UTPA. It is an amazing event as we begin the start of the Bronc basketball season.

But sports are sports. What matters in November is the election. We need to get out the vote in the Valley, in the State, wherever you may be. I suppose that to many people it matters for whom you vote, but for me and for Pan Am all that matters is that you vote.

I hope that you, our UT Pan American friends and family, take the time to vote in this election and elections to follow. Voting is one of our most important civic duties — actually voting is a privilege that defines us as Americans. That is why I have joined the board of the nonpartisan Advocacy Alliance Center of Texas, better known as AACT, a nonprofit on whose board both the Hidalgo Republican and Democratic chairpersons sit. This organization was created to unite community organizations, hospitals, businesses, large employers, schools, universities, and financial institutions with the simple but critical mission of dramatically increasing voter participation in South Texas. According to AACT, "2012 will be a key turning point for South Texas in the electoral process." I am in agreement. My sincere wish is that we never have to hear the unfortunate statistic that only "6 out of 10 vote in Texas and only 2 out of 10 vote in the Valley." We need to upgrade that number to "10 out of 10" or at least "8 out of 10."

Who you vote for is your personal choice, but in the long run what is ultimately important is that you make the time to vote. Why vote? Your vote will make a difference at the State and national level for the Rio Grande Valley that I have come to love and call home. Every vote by someone associated with UT Pan Am strengthens our voice and our "clout." If we vote, UT Pan Am can be a force that no one can ignore. Your vote will ensure that the children in the Valley are not forgotten, that our schools are not overlooked, that South Texas is no longer ignored. I realize that I am going out on a limb with this Mano a Mano — presidents are not supposed to be political. The truth is that I am not trying to be political — I just want Pan Am to have a voice.

AROUND CAMPUS

\$3.1 million to support women in STEM academics

The National Science Foundation's ADVANCE Program recently awarded UTPA \$3.1 million to recruit and retain female Hispanic faculty members in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

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RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Professors recognized for teaching excellence

The UT System Board of Regents honored six faculty members as recipients of the 2012 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards, the board's highest teaching award.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Students get glimpse of future at HESTEC 2012

Nearly 800 middle school students got the opportunity to hear from theoretical physicist and the popularizer of science Dr. Michio Kaku during UTPA's 11th annual Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC) Week.

[Read more...](#)

GIVING

New Board to play important role in Bronc Country

UTPA has formed its first development board to strengthen

For those of you in the Valley, we have an early voting location in the Student Union. During early voting, you can vote at any location, including ours. I encourage you to vote early wherever you are (on our campus from October 22-November 2, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.). To learn more, visit www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/elections. Let's all do the right thing — vote, and let's help our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, *compadres* to do the same. Let's show the State and the entire nation that Pan Am cares and that we matter.

Y como siempre, mano a mano, seguimos adelante.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Nelsen
President



UTPA President Robert S. Nelsen wants to hear what is on your mind. Ask the president questions and receive a personal response from him. [Click here](#) and ask away. Dr. Nelsen is ready to listen and respond.

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Follow UTPA:    

its relationship with the community and work together on improving the quality of life in South Texas.

[Read more...](#)

ALUMNI

Alumni look to hire the best at annual Career Expo

More than 30 alumni returned to their alma mater to recruit the best and brightest Broncs for their companies at the annual Career Expo on Sept. 28.

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CAMPUS EVENTS & KUDOS

Yuck! It's here through Jan. 6

Check out UTPA's latest and free exhibit "Microbes: Invisible Invaders, Amazing Allies" at the Visitors Center, now through Jan. 6, 2013.

[Read more...](#)