

# UTRGV™

## OPERATIONS PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2025



THE *Valley's*  
UNIVERSITY

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# Message from our VP & Chief Operating Officer



Dear Vaquero Community,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural edition of our newsletter. I am excited to share the incredible work our team is doing to support your success and enhance your experience here at UTRGV.

Our departments are driven by a shared mission: to create a campus that is safe, well-maintained, and visually appealing. From caring for existing facilities to designing new spaces that foster learning and innovation, and ensuring the well-being of our community, every effort we make is centered on supporting our students, faculty, and staff.

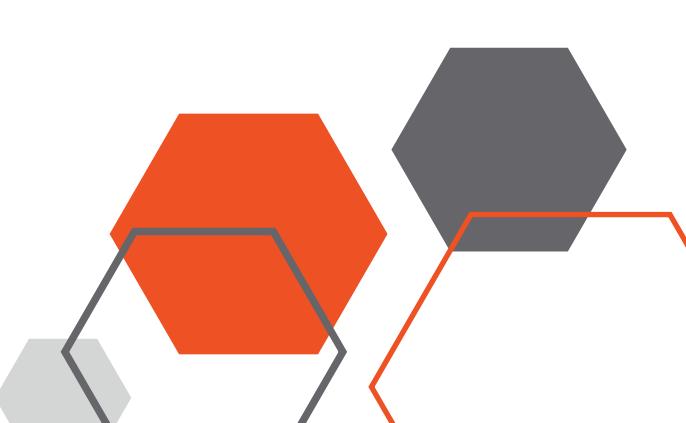
With UTRGV's unique distributed campus model, spanning Edinburg, Harlingen, and Brownsville, our efforts extend across all locations to ensure that every campus is vibrant, welcoming, and equipped to support your success. In this newsletter, you'll find updates on major initiatives, behind-the-scenes looks at ongoing projects, and insights into how we are enhancing these campuses to create the best possible experience for our Vaquero community.

We hope this newsletter fosters a sense of connection and pride in the work being done to support your journey. Thank you for allowing us to serve you, and as always, go Vaqueros!

Warm regards,



**Jason Hartley**  
Vice President &  
Chief Operating Officer



# Meet the Team



**Jason Hartley**  
Vice President &  
Chief Operating Officer



**Abraham Hernandez**  
Associate Vice President Campus  
Facilities Operations



**Eliza Gomez**  
Director of Emergency  
Management



**Laura Lara**  
Associate Vice President of  
Planning & Construction

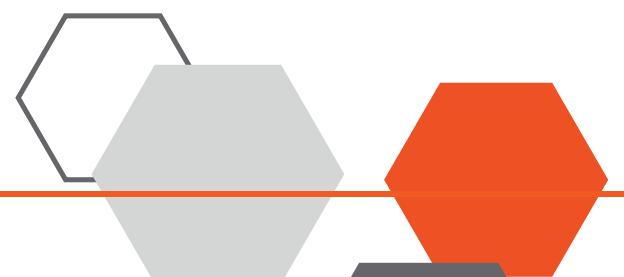


**Maria Perez**  
Director of Division Operations



**Matthew Moncus**  
Interim Director -  
Environmental Health, Safety  
& Risk Management

Opportunities don't happen,  
we *Build* them.





**Mark Saenz**  
Chief Real Estate Officer



**Adan Cruz**  
Chief of Police



**Jeremy San Miguel**  
Interim Director –  
Office for Sustainability



**Liza Dimas**  
Clery Compliance Manager



**Gerardo Rodriguez**  
Assistant Vice President of  
Strategic Space Planning



**Letty Benavides**  
Associate Vice President for  
Auxiliary Services





# UTRGV Quad

## *Groundbreaking Change to a Long-Weathered Problem*

If your day at the UTRGV Edinburg campus during September 2022 required crossing the central campus area, you likely experienced having to walk around a fence with a tape that read "**Under Construction**". Perhaps you accounted for extra time when walking to class or work and wondered what they were building. If you did, and you returned to campus in 2023, you discovered what the wait for was for; the new **QUAD** was unveiled and ready to welcome the UTRGV community back.

Right at the heart of the Edinburg campus, the Quad, or **EIEAB Drainage and Site Improvements Project**, is a green space designed with three purposes in mind:

- ◆ Flood prevention
- ◆ Providing outdoor seating and study spaces for students
- ◆ Beautifying and expanding the biodiversity of the campus



**Initial high-level studies, discussion and engineering analyses** were conducted, which helped understand the circumstances leading to **storm water mitigation deficiencies**.

UTRGV **embraced the challenge** of addressing these needs simultaneously, and how in doing so created unique solutions. The story of the **\$5,100,000 Edinburg Quad Project** began in November 2018 when UTRGV had experienced devastating weather events that flooded the Edinburg campus, creating interest in the issue and resulting in a **drainage-focused project**.



## Quad Stakeholder Task Force:

comprised of 14 members including UTRGV student representatives, Campus Construction and Operations Personnel, Dean of Students staff, and Student Union leadership.

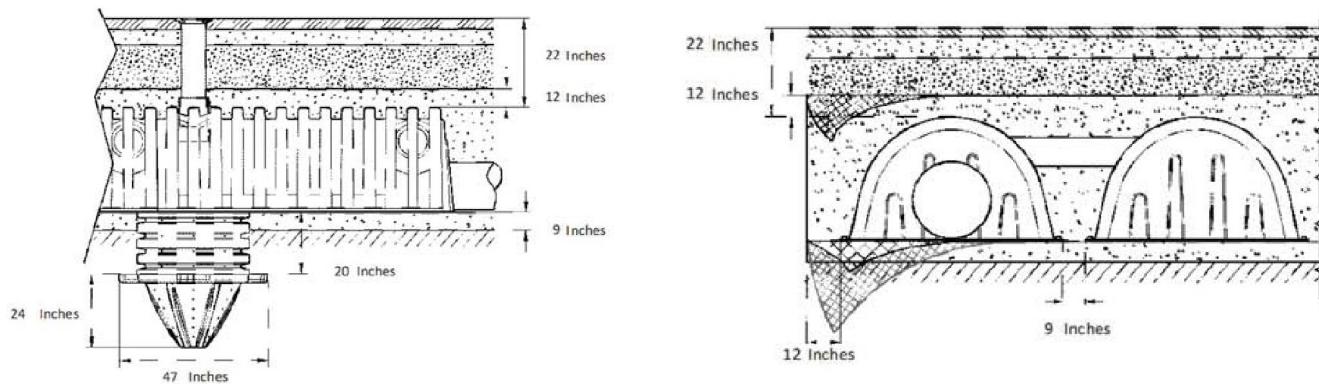
## The Design Team:

- ◆ General Design and Landscape – *Ten Eyck Landscape Architects*
- ◆ Drainage and Infrastructure – *Perez Consulting Engineers (UTRGV Civil Engineering consultant)*



## ABOVE THE SURFACE

The Quad offers a **beautiful green space** with an essential walkway, outdoor seating, areas for students to gather and study, and connect with nature.



## BELOW THE SURFACE

A **stormwater storage system** underneath the activity lawn prevents flooding in the area, and along the northern edge of the project, bioswales and basins capture additional water runoff used to irrigate the plants in the project and surrounding areas.

# UT Health RGV Cancer and Surgery Center

***Building a healthier future for you and the Rio Grande Valley***

Get ready for some exciting news that's bound to make a difference in our community! Imagine having access to advanced cancer treatments and technology without leaving your hometown. With an impressive investment of **\$148,423,401**, the **UT Health RGV Cancer and Surgery Center** is on the horizon, and it's set to transform how we experience healthcare right here in the Rio Grande Valley.

The reach of this new facility will be felt everywhere. From advancing **cancer prevention and treatment** to driving **scientific discoveries** that will one day save lives. Patients will receive the quality care they deserve, all while surrounded by the love and support of their community. And let's not forget about the incredible opportunity this center presents for students!

The UT Health RGV Cancer and Surgery Center, a true game changer for healthcare in the Valley. The new three-story, **144,231-square-foot cancer and surgery center** will offer top-tier cancer care and will offer outstanding services such as:

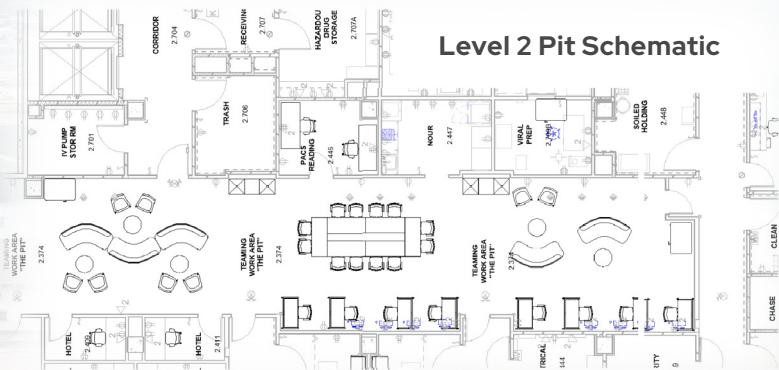
- ◆ A Radiation Oncology Clinic
- ◆ Ambulatory Surgery Center
- ◆ Diagnostic Imaging Suite
- ◆ Rehabilitation Therapy
- ◆ Medical Oncology Clinic
- ◆ Orthopedics Center

That's more  
than the size of 3  
football fields!



Driving  
comprehensive  
regional  
development

As future leaders in healthcare, you'll have the chance to learn in a facility that **prioritizes both education and innovation**. Working alongside specialized cancer and surgery experts, you'll be part of a **trailblazing program** that not only treats patients from underserved communities, but also trains the **next generation** of physicians, researchers, and change agents.



## Transforming Healthcare

As UTRGV students, we can be proud to know that our university is tackling some of the most **pressing healthcare challenges** in our region, making a difference both in and out of the classroom. The development of this new facility marks the start of an **exciting new chapter**, and we can all take pride in being part of it. Opportunities like this create an infinite amount of possibilities for the Rio Grande Valley and playing a pivotal role in the region's economy and status as a leading **research, service and educational powerhouse**.



## PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

In the heart of UTRGV, the **Planning and Construction Department** is the foundation where ideas come to life, shaping the spaces where **students learn, grow, and make memories**. We're the team behind the buildings that support the university's mission and the Valley's future with **endless possibilities**.

From minor renovations to major capital developments, we expertly manage the design and construction phases of a wide array of projects. Our mission is to enhance the university's architectural identity, creating high-quality, enriching spaces that support students, faculty, and visitors alike.

Our dedicated team of project managers, architects, and engineers are committed to shaping the user's experience and university's future by balancing immediate building needs with long-term goals. Each building we complete is more than just bricks and mortar—it's a space where innovation thrives, communities unite, and the future of the Valley takes shape.



**Ready to be part of UTRGV's journey into the future?**  
Join us as we embark on our next centennial, dedicated to innovation, sustainability, and excellence in every project.



# CAMPUS FACILITIES OPERATIONS



Enhancing UTRGV's experience through exceptional facilities management, creating a dynamic and a one-of-a-kind experience.

The Campus Facilities Operations Department, dubbed unofficially as the **unsung heroes of UTRGV**, plays a vital role in ensuring that our academic, research, teaching and clinical sites across the Rio Grande Valley run smoothly and efficiently. With a skilled team of licensed mechanics, technicians, and craftspeople, we provide responsive maintenance and repair services that ensure our facilities remain safe, comfortable, and ready for great learning.

In keeping every aspect of campus life well-maintained, our team consists of :

◆ custodial care	◆ mechanics
◆ grounds maintenance	◆ building maintenance
◆ event support	◆ surplus
◆ systems management	◆ keys and access

Whether it's responding to immediate repair needs, or implementing preventive maintenance strategies, our goal is to create a welcoming environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors.



# OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability at UTRGV is defined as a tool for trailblazing by integrating **environmental, social, and economic impact** into all that we do.

We are proudly recognized as a support unit for integrating sustainability within UTRGV and throughout the Rio Grande Valley with our dedicated partners. Aligning with the United Nations Goals for Sustainable Development, we help students, staff, faculty, and the community become **sustainability trailblazers**.

There are countless opportunities to contribute, whether it's through:

- ◆ hands-on internships
- ◆ faculty and student trainings
- ◆ major programs including Tree Campus and Bee Campus Designations, AASHE STARS International Assessment
- ◆ signature campus engagement events

Sustainability is alive and thriving on campus through the Sustainability Ambassador groups, where students get real-world experience advocating for sustainable practices, researching, and developing projects that impact the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas and beyond.



**Gateway to creating real change on campus and beyond!**





# OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Remember receiving **Emergency Alert Notifications** from heavy police presence, hurricanes, or shelter in place messages?

Thanks to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), they are the **anchor for readiness**, built on preparation and resilience. Their mission is to implement strategic planning for ANY emergency that may impact UTRGV and surrounding areas.

**"Preparedness is not just a plan; it's a promise to our community."**

Their continuous collaboration with local, county, state, and federal partners uplift UTRGV and the Rio Grande Valley in **preparation for any emergency**.

This office caters detailed emergency preparedness initiatives such as:

- Ready UTRGV Events offer students and employees the opportunity to engage in valuable insights about preparedness from community partners.
- CampusShield Mobile App, a University Police initiative that offers a shield for safety concerns and other protection features at your fingertips.
- Emergency Communications facilitates multiple notification methods like email, text, and phone calls to all students and employees.

OEM promotes a transparent culture of preparedness to ensure everyone, from students to local response partners, is ready to face **before, during, and after** any challenge.

# CAMPUS AUXILIARY SERVICES

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We support the university's academic and administrative goals by providing essential auxiliary services through collaborative efforts and partnerships that provide financial support, enhance the academic experience, contribute to student success and benefit the broader university community.

**UTRGV Ring**



**Campus Stores**

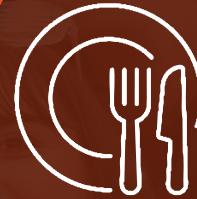


**Child Development Center**



**Vending Machines**





**Dining Services**



**Print Services**



**Parking & Transportation**



**V OneCard and VBucks**



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

Do you ever wonder who keeps the campus well-lit at night or who ensures food in campus dining is safe for you to eat? Maybe that indoor air quality is just right on a hot day?

Behind the scenes, there's a special team of safety professionals who ensure your **environmental health and safety** become a priority every step you take on campus.

The Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management team leads a wide array of efforts including:

- Trainings: Lab Safety, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, Food Handling, Indoor Air Quality, and more.
- Ensure exit signs are well-lit and fire extinguishers are fully functional.
- Organize and train evacuation assistants and facilitate safety drills.
- Calibrate new diagnostic and therapeutic radiation equipment for the School of Medicine and clinical practice groups such as the Cancer and Ambulatory Surgical Center.





## UNIVERSITY POLICE

Through the campus corridors across the valley, watchful eyes and friendly faces guard your wellbeing and existence....this is your **UTRGV Campus Police**.

They work hard to deter crime, respond to emergencies, and aid with countless services. Whether you're walking to class late at night or need help finding your place, **they're just a call away**. The UTRGV Campus Police want to connect with students like you, build relationships, and often host events like safety workshops to share tips and strategies for staying safe. If you see an officer on campus, don't hesitate to say hi or ask any questions. They're here for you!



◆ If you ever feel uncomfortable walking alone, you can request a **Police Escort** to your car. **Call (956) 882-7777**

◆ Locked out of your car or need a jump start? Their **Vehicle Assistance** team is available 24/7. **Call (956) 882-7777**

◆ **CampusShield mobile app** features an **Emergency Button** for quick access to campus police and an **Anonymous Report** option for submitting safety concerns.

"We provide safety-related training to our campus community in the form of Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event training (CRASE), safety talks to campus organizations, and crime prevention audits (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) for our campus partners."

-Chief Cruz



## OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE

When you walk through UTRGV's vibrant campuses, it's easy to overlook how new buildings, modern facilities, and expanding research centers come to be. But behind every plan, vision, space, and building is a team working behind the scenes to secure its future - UTRGV's Real Estate Office.

Without their work, our university wouldn't have the space to support our expanding programs and student life. They scout locations, secure properties, and turn bold visions into reality, ensuring every corner of our campus supports growth and innovation.

UTRGV is constantly evolving, and each new property acquired or building developed is another step towards creating a campus that meets the needs of students today and for years to come.

Here are a few recent developments that are shaping the future of UTRGV:

- ◆ Robert & Janet Vackar Stadium
- ◆ Majestic Theatre Complex in Brownsville
- ◆ 39 Acre Land Aquisition for Academic & Health Advancement



## OFFICE OF CLERY COMPLIANCE

Your safety on campus is an upmost concern when choosing the **right college** to attend or work at. To address this concern, the **Clery Act** is a federal law enacted in response to the tragic murder of Jeanne Clery in her dorm room. It requires universities receiving federal funding to be transparent about campus crime.

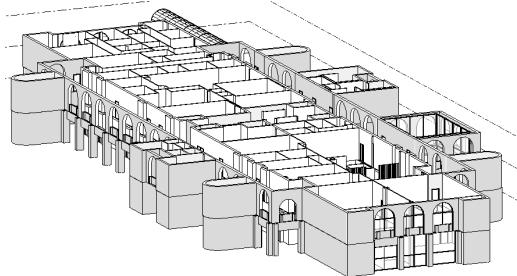
This means:

- ◆ Monitor and report crimes
- ◆ Publish an Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR)
- ◆ Providing stakeholder recommendations to keep the campus community safe.

This transparency allows students, staff, and faculty to make **informed decisions** about their safety on campus. Their work helps keep everyone informed, so you can focus on your university experience with peace of mind.



# STRATEGIC SPACE PLANNING



As UTRGV continues to expand its reach and influence within the Rio Grande Valley, strategic space planning has emerged as a pivotal component of its growth trajectory. The establishment of the **Office for Strategic Space Planning** (OSSP) in 2022 marks a significant step towards optimizing the university's resources and ensuring that its physical infrastructure aligns with its ambitious academic and research goals.

This dedicated team ensures continued services throughout all the moving parts by:

- ◆ Collecting and assessing data related to space utilization
- ◆ Leveraging 3D building models and advanced space management software
- ◆ Addresses space requests & supports the development of master planning
- ◆ Generating comprehensive reports that inform the university's decision-making processes and annual updates to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

By ensuring that the university's physical resources are efficiently allocated and optimized, the OSSP is contributing to a more **dynamic, sustainable, and innovative** campus environment that drives UTRGV's aspiration as a leading research institution.

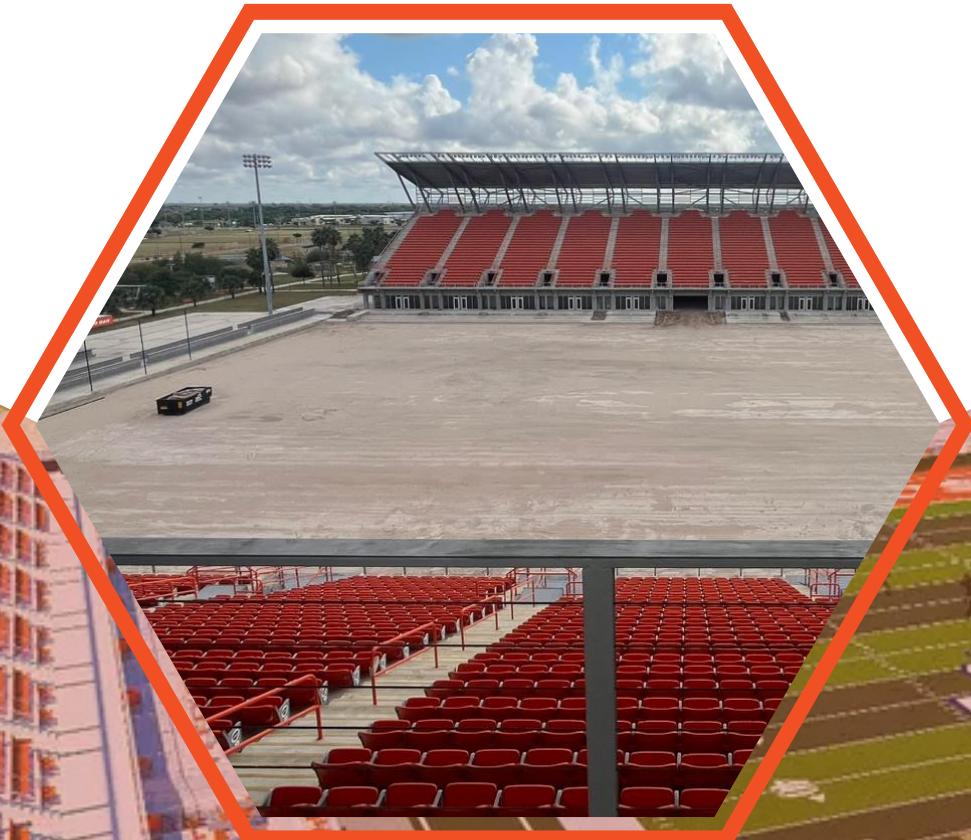
# PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

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**DISCOVER HOW UTRGV INVESTS IN YOU**

Thank you for taking the time to read our inaugural newsletter highlighting how the **UTRGV Operations Planning and Construction team** works to plan, build, and secure the wellbeing of our campus community and their future.

Make sure to lookout for the next issue where we'll take you behind the scenes of **The Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium**.



We appreciate you being part of our journey. Your engagement and feedback are invaluable as we continue working to improve the experience and impact on how our stakeholders **live, learn, and innovate** at **UTRGV**.

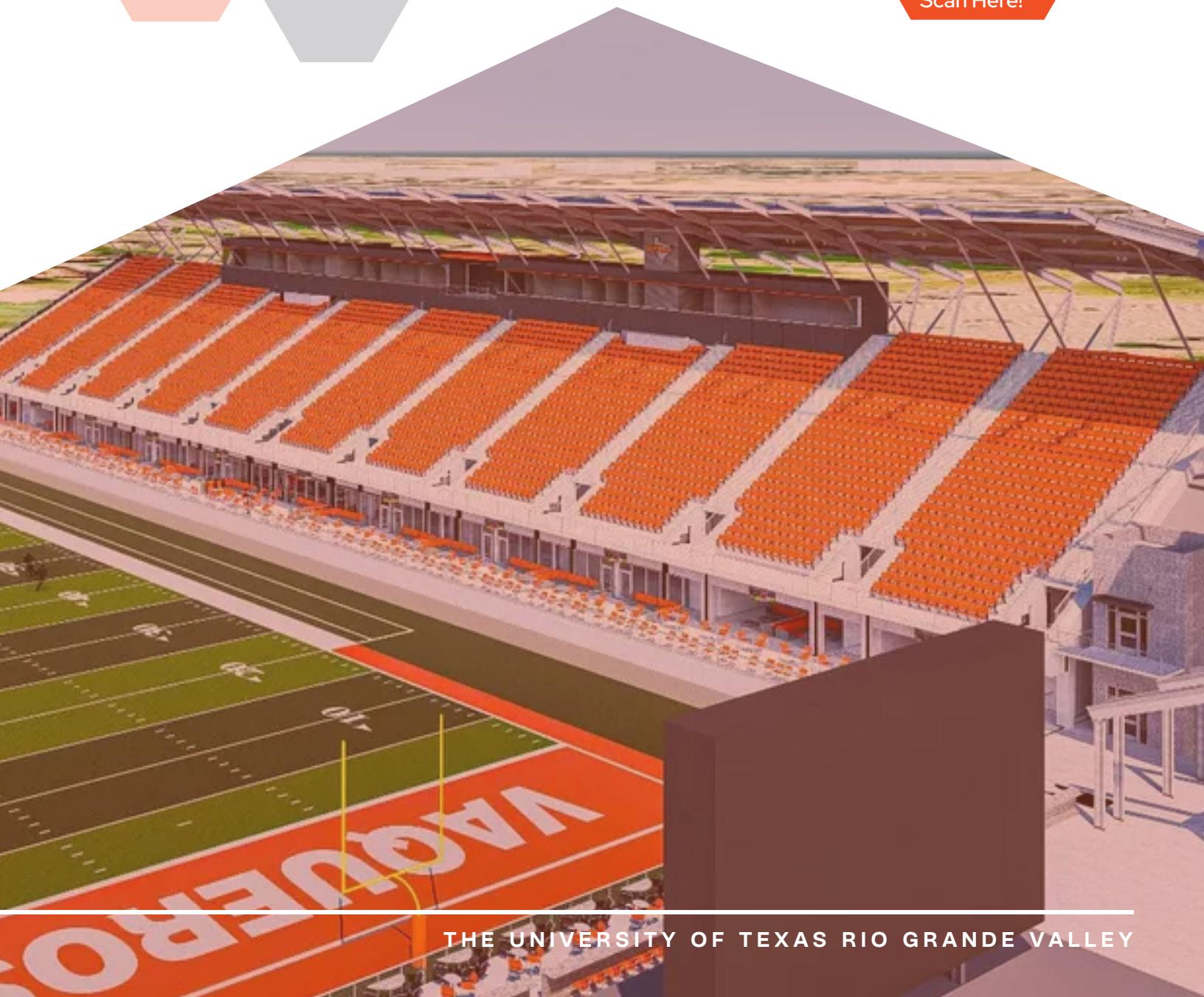
## Vaquero Voices

For questions, feedback, or to share what you would like to see in future issues...

Scan Here!



Scan Here!



# Acknowledgements

## Office for Sustainability **Graphic Design**



**Jonathan Leal**  
Visual Communication Design



**Marilu Abrajan Martinez**  
Computer Science

## Office for Sustainability **Content Writing**



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**Daniela Fernandez**  
Psychology

## Office for Sustainability **Leadership**



**Jeremy San Miguel**  
Interim Director - Sustainability



**Stephanie Trujillo**  
Program Coordinator



UTRGV

# LOOKING FOR A JOB OR INTERNSHIP?

**Operations Planning &  
Construction is hiring!**

(Majoring in Project Managers, Engineers, Architects) or have a passion for Social Media and Marketing?

Scan To Apply!



Scan To Apply!



# UTRGV

TM

BROWNSVILLE | EDINBURG | HARLINGEN

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