

## UTRGV Small Business Development Center Hosts Workshops

The UTRGV Small Business Development Center recently hosted a two-day workshop on the government's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

The "SBIR/STTR Program Essentials" workshop covered the process of developing the proposal structure and objectives; finding a topic/subtopic for the proposal; and developing the strategy and planning the project.

SBIR/STTR experts Dr. Michael Kurek and Bijo Mathews also shared on the importance of contacting Program Managers and Technical Points of Contact at federal agencies; writing the proposal to meet the reviewer expectations and the review process; planning for commercialization; and avoiding common problems and pitfalls.



"Funding for early-stage, high-risk R&D projects is typically non-existent. SBIR/STTR, also known as 'America's Seed Fund', covers this gap. Innovative, small companies would benefit from learning about these programs and their application processes. Opportunities to fund a broad range of technology areas are available," shares Maria D. Juarez-Serna, Program Director of the UTRGV SBDC.

This two-day session was sponsored by the UTRGV SBDC in partnership with the UTSA SBDC Technology Commercialization Center. The UTRGV Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center also collaborated with promotional support.