



Legislative Priorities
84th Legislative Session

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Rio Grande City

McAllen

Edinburg

Harlingen

South Padre Island

Brownsville

MEXICO

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

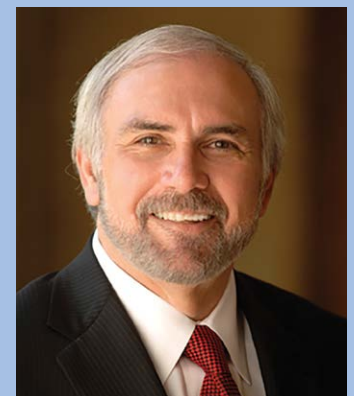
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley opens in Fall 2015 and will be a bold new institution that holds the promise to forever change the academic and economic landscape of South Texas.

I am profoundly honored to have been chosen as the first president of UT Rio Grande Valley. Together with the students, faculty and staff of UT Brownsville and UT Pan American, and with insightful guidance from The University of Texas System and our local and state partners, we have the chance to engage in a rare opportunity to create an unrivaled public university and medical school that will positively change the lives of our students, the Rio Grande Valley, the State of Texas, the nation and the world.

The Rio Grande Valley is situated along the Texas-Mexico international border; it is home to one of the most beautiful coastlines in the country and is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. As the first major public university in Texas to be established in the 21st Century, we intend to capitalize on this exceptional geographical and cultural positioning.

Our goal is to be a Gateway to the Americas by creating a university that is bilingual, bicultural and biliterate. We are privileged to reside in the most dynamic region of Texas, where untapped potential meets true grit and a thirst for knowledge – a perfect setting for a new, vibrant university to serve not only those who call the Rio Grande Valley home, but also those who will seek out UTRGV for the matchless experience and opportunity it will provide.

This 84th Legislative Session, we thank you for your commitment and public service to Texas. We hope this information helps you understand the students, needs and priorities of UT Rio Grande Valley, and we look forward to working with you for the betterment of our students and our great state.



Dr. Guy Bailey
President

A New University for the 21st Century

Innovation. Opportunity. Purpose. Careers. That's what **The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley** will offer. UTRGV will host nearly **30,000** students across a four-county region spanning Rio Grande City, McAllen, Edinburg, Harlingen, Brownsville and South Padre Island.

UTRGV will empower talented students to obtain successful futures and propel our region to shine as a global innovator in STEM education, bilingual education, health education, biomedical research, and emerging technology.

Over 70% of UTPA and UTB students are receiving some form of financial aid.



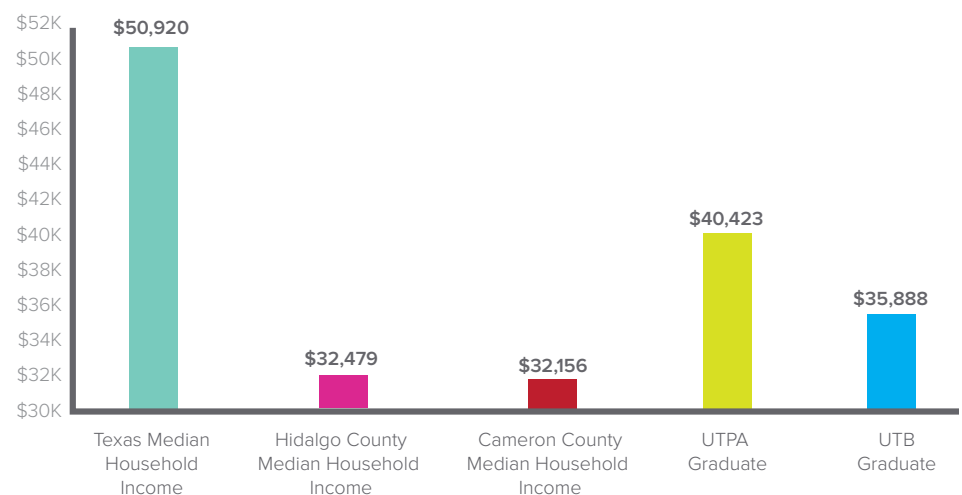
UTPA	UTRGV Student Snapshot	UTB
21,015	Total Enrollment	8,047
77%	Receiving Financial Aid	71%
22	Average Age: Undergraduates	24
32	Average Age: Graduates	35
23	Average Age: All Students	25
71%	With 2.5 GPA or Higher	76%
47%	With 3.0 GPA or Higher	46%
4%	Living On Campus	6%
10%	Married	17%
13%	Have Children	22%
20%	Four-Year Graduation Rate*	16%
49%	Six-Year Graduation Rate*	48%
44%	Employed Off-Campus**	32%
9%	Percent Employed On-Campus	6%
27%	Work-Studies	15%
58%	Direct Wage	83%
16%	Other	2%

Source: All data is as of Fall 2014, except * Data Source: THECB Jan. 2015 Accountability Report. **2014 National Survey of Student Engagement conducted in Spring 2014.

UTPA students employed on campus have a current six-year graduation rate of 65.6% as compared to a 42.7% six-year graduation rate for all students.

Data: Fall 2008 Entering Freshman cohort after 6 years.

Median Earnings of Graduates with Bachelor's Degrees



Source: Higher education pays, College Measures. Quick Facts, Bureau of the Census

In 2013, the average undergraduate total academic cost (TAC) among all 37 four-year public universities in Texas was \$3,951.

Total Academic Cost (Fall 2013)

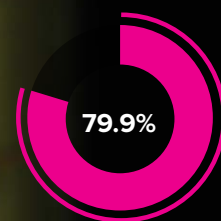
FALL 2013 UNDERGRADUATE TOTAL ACADEMIC COST FOR FULL-TIME ENROLLED TEXAS RESIDENTS		
The University of Texas-Pan American Total Academic Cost	TAC Average	The University of Texas at Brownsville Total Academic Cost
\$3,141	\$3,951	\$3,018
\$810	Dollar Amt. Below TAC Average	\$933
20.5%	Percent Below TAC Average	23.8%
36/37	TAC Rank	37/37

Resident undergraduates taking 15 SCH in Fall 2013

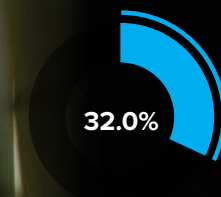
From 2000-2010, the population in Texas increased by 4,293,741 while the United States population increased by 27,323,632. Hispanics accounted for 65% of the net increase in Texas and 55% in the U.S. as a whole.

UTPA continues to provide the second lowest tuition rate in the State of Texas while UTB offers the state's lowest tuition rates.

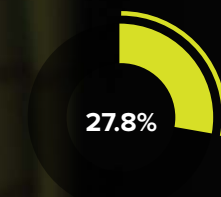
According to the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey, RGV residents:



Principally speak Spanish at home



Report speaking English less than "very well"



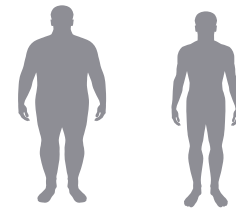
Are foreign-born (primarily from Mexico)

Source: Higher education pays, College Measures, Quick Facts, Bureau of the Census

health care

diabetes

obesity



South Texas Diabetes & Obesity Institute



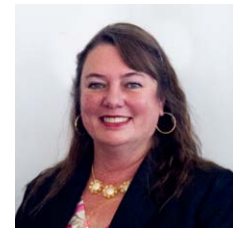
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and its medical school are poised to become an internationally recognized epicenter for research and treatment of diabetes and obesity.

In October 2014, UTRGV recruited a 22-person research team to lead the South Texas Diabetes & Obesity Institute, which will advance research, develop better treatments and ultimately improve the health of residents in South Texas and beyond. Renowned genetics and infectious diseases expert, Dr. Sarah Williams-Blangero, is the Institute's director.

The research team is comprised of researchers who have worked with over 15,000 study volunteers from San Antonio to Nepal. Their work spans the spectrum of medicine from diabetes and obesity to heart disease, osteoporosis, psychiatric disease, cancer and infectious diseases. The research group is establishing, and plans to rapidly expand, an existing research program at the new institution. Researchers are already interacting with public health and community programs to collaboratively combat the prevalence of diabetes and obesity in this vulnerable region.

With so many in need of medical care, not having enough doctors to treat patients has contributed to the epidemic number of these preventable and treatable diseases seen on a daily basis in the RGV.

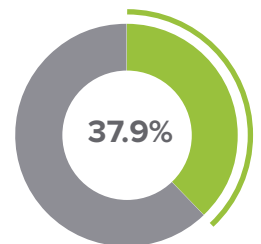
Diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the United States. Roughly 30% of South Texans have diabetes.



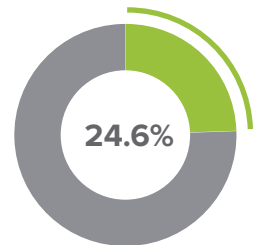
Dr. Sarah Williams-Blangero
Director, South Texas Diabetes & Obesity Institute

Obesity among Hispanics in South Texas

The prevalence of obesity among South Texas Hispanic adults is **37.9%**, compared to a **24.6%** prevalence among non-Hispanic whites.



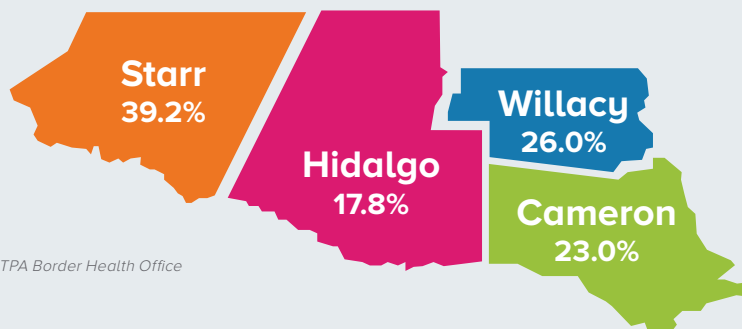
Hispanic



Non-Hispanic

Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Combined Year Dataset, 2007-2010.

Prevalence of Diabetes in the RGV



Source: UTPA Border Health Office

The incidence of type 2 diabetes in the RGV is among the highest in the nation and is closely linked to high rates of obesity in the region.

medicine
 health care
 diabetes
 research
 partnership

UTRGV School of Medicine

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's top priority for the 84th Legislative Session is to assure success of the UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine and to leverage efforts previously made in the RGV by UT Health Science Center San Antonio. The new School of Medicine has the potential to transform the region, state and the nation by becoming a leader in student success, teaching, research and health care.



Our Progress

In August 2014, construction began on the South Texas Medical Academic Building in Edinburg. Additionally, the Smart Hospital, complete with cutting edge technology and human simulation mannequins, opened its doors at the current Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) in Harlingen and is servicing medical students, high-school students and community organizations. The inaugural Dean was named in February 2014, and he has worked with local hospitals to create eight new residency programs throughout the Rio Grande Valley. He has also successfully recruited an accomplished 22-member research team to the South Texas Diabetes & Obesity Institute that is part of the medical school.



Accreditation

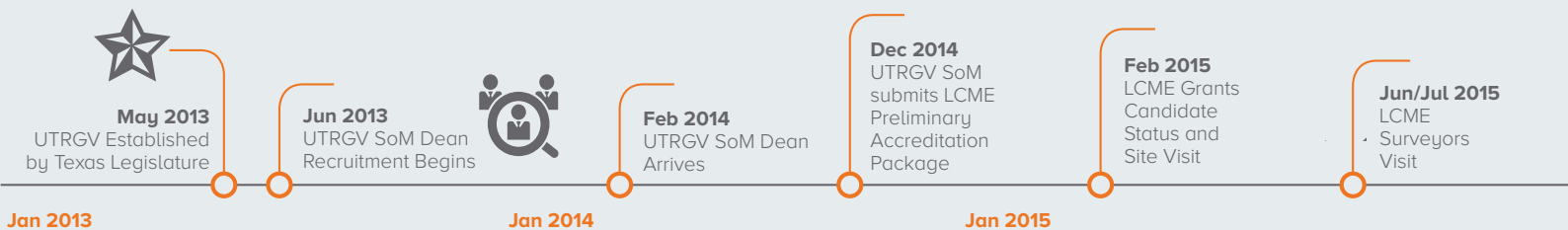
Initial submission to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) for preliminary accreditation has occurred. With a competency-based curriculum designed to instill scientific, clinical and research expertise of the highest professional standards, graduates will be:

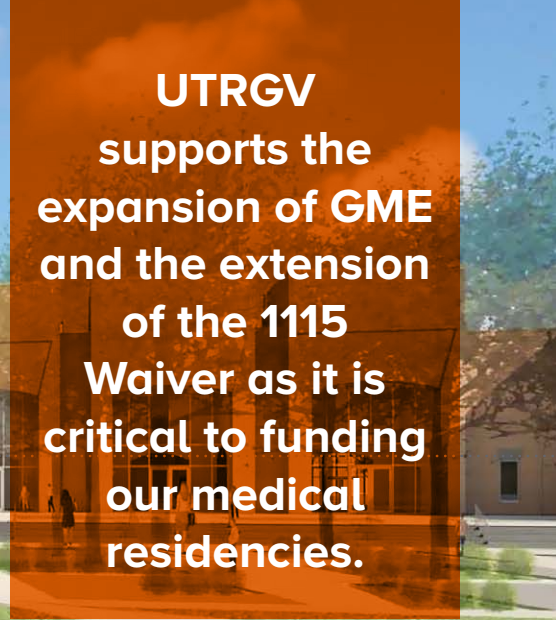
- Patient Advocates
- Community-Focused
- Culturally-Compassionate
- Collaborative Leaders
- Creative Problem-Solvers

A Partnership with the Region

Since the creation of the RAHC in Harlingen in 2002, 1,300 medical students have completed a portion of their clinical education and the Internal Medicine post-graduate (residency) program has graduated 10 classes, with 80% of physicians remaining in Texas to practice. Over 200 community-based practitioners in the RGV are also current UTHSCSA faculty who participate in the RAHC medical education programs.

UTRGV School of Medicine Timeline





UTRGV
 supports the
 expansion of GME
 and the extension
 of the 1115
 Waiver as it is
 critical to funding
 our medical
 residencies.

UTRGV's School of Medicine inaugural class of 50 students begins in July 2016.

Residency Programs

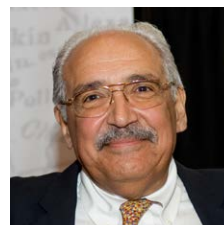
Partnerships with local hospitals including the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance (DHR) in Edinburg, South Texas Health System (McAllen Medical Center (MMC)), and Valley Baptist Medical Center (VBMC) in Brownsville and Harlingen have allowed for the creation of four new residency programs including:

- Internal Medicine (36 slots)
- Family Medicine (18 slots)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (16 slots)
- Surgery (20 slots)

In addition to the existing Internal Medicine Residency at VBMC and Family Medicine Residency at MMC, a total of 90 Graduate Medical Education slots were approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and program directors have been hired for the four programs listed above. The following residency programs are currently in development:

- Preventive Medicine (6 slots)
- General (Adult) Psychiatry (16 slots)
- Child Psychiatry (4 slots)
- Pediatrics (24 slots)

Dr. Francisco Fernandez
 Vice President for Medical Affairs
 Dean, UTRGV School of Medicine



» Funding Requests:

In addition to the current appropriation of \$32.6M at UTHSCSA, a total of **\$40.0M / 230 FTEs** is needed for operations over the biennium. Secured funding from the state is essential as LCME accreditation requires evidence of firm financial support.

Biomedical Sciences Research

Additionally, **\$8.6M / 7 FTEs** will support twelve UTRGV faculty members who are currently conducting research in Biomedical Sciences, focusing on infectious diseases, diabetes, cancer, neuroscience, and tissue engineering.

Oct 2015
 LCME Board Meeting for Preliminary Accreditation

Oct 2015
 If approved, begin UTRGV SoM Student Recruitment



Jul 2016
 UTRGV SoM Charter Class Begins



Feb 2018
 LCME Board Meeting for Provisional Accreditation

Feb 2020
 LCME Board Meeting for Full Accreditation

May 2020
 UTRGV SoM Charter "Class of 2020" graduates



Jan 2016

Jan 2017

Jan 2018

Jan 2019

Jan 2020

engineering

technology

science

STEM

HESTEC



Student Enrollment on the Rise in STEM

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), a regional campus, will host nearly 30,000 students across a four-county area when it opens its doors in Fall 2015. Two major focus areas for UTRGV include:

- Advancing STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
- Accommodating a growing student population

The current engineering building on the Edinburg campus was designed to accommodate 1,370 students. However, enrollment in our engineering programs has already exceeded 2,200.

» Funding Request:

Plans for a new **\$42.5M Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Studies Building** will provide the necessary space to support enrollment growth. Additionally, the building will enhance interdisciplinary research collaboration among faculty, increase opportunities for external funding and help provide a solid educational foundation for students pursuing engineering and similar disciplines.

With a particular emphasis on the preparation of engineering students, the new building will offer:

- 124,304 gross square feet (GSF)
- Multiple 60-seat classrooms
- One 250-seat lecture auditorium
- Faculty offices
- Several 150-seat lecture halls



41%
INCREASE

Student enrollment in the College of Engineering and Computer Science on the Edinburg campus has increased by 41% since 2010.

Source: Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, UTPA, January 2015.



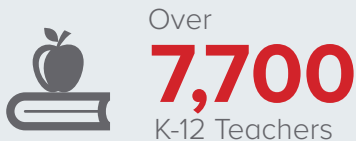
HESTEC

Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week

For over 13 years, the Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC) Week has reached the lives of more than half-a-million people. Initiated in 2002 as a partnership between The University of Texas-Pan American and Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15), this nationally recognized program has evolved into one of the most innovative and successful symposiums targeted at raising awareness for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and careers among Hispanic students. Universities and researchers from across the country have visited the Rio Grande Valley to learn from our model, and this has been one of the institution's most exciting and successful programs.

In 2015, UTRGV will expand the scope of HESTEC to make it a truly regional initiative with events across the Rio Grande Valley and beyond. Additionally, we will build on its foundation as a STEM-centered event and develop yet another focus on the medical field, complementing the UTRGV School of Medicine.

Since HESTEC began in 2002, the program has reached:



Nationally recognized programs like HESTEC (Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology) Week expose thousands of students to STEM fields and careers they never dreamed possible.

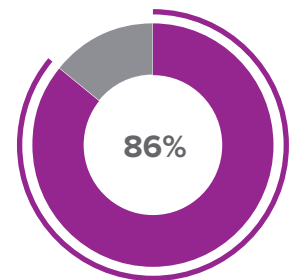
How many students are inspired to pursue STEM careers after HESTEC?



9/10 Leadership Day attendees



7/10 Robotics Day attendees



Latina Day attendees

Expanding Opportunities

Multipurpose Academic Center



To increase student access and success, shorten time to graduation, accommodate enrollment growth, attract additional research funding and expand course offerings, UTRGV's Brownsville campus faces an extreme challenge in providing ample classroom space for its student population.

» Funding Request:

A newly proposed **\$50.6M Multipurpose Academic Center** will offer 177,527 gross square feet (GSF):

- 132,527 GSF classroom space for Science, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences and Physics
- 45,000 GSF for general purpose classroom space

Currently, the UTRGV Brownsville campus owns only **35 classrooms** within its existing buildings. The **student population** has already exceeded **8,000**.



UTRGV students will be exposed to limitless possibilities in STEM education throughout the entire Rio Grande Valley. In Cameron county, SpaceX™ is building the world's first commercial launch complex and Harlingen's United Launch Alliance™ has engineered rockets in the area for over a decade. Together with the \$9M investment from UT System and the Texas Emerging Technology Fund to establish UTRGV's STARGATE, research and career opportunities abound.

As opportunities become available for UTRGV students to study and work with STARGATE and other research centers, the increasing need for classroom space on the Brownsville campus must be addressed.

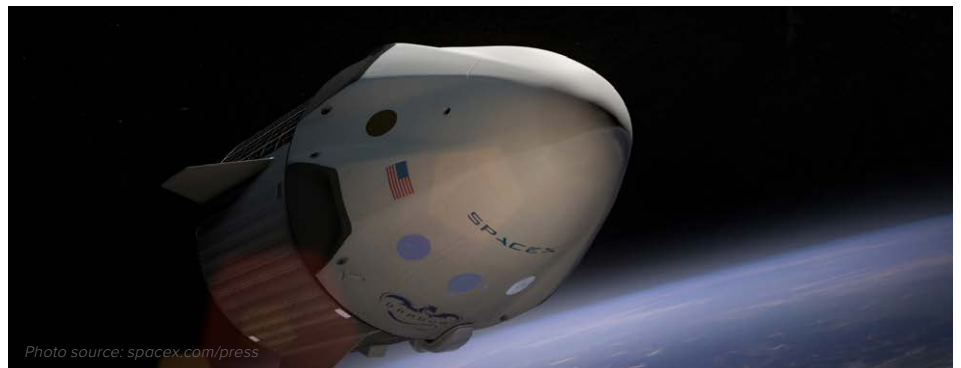


Photo source: spacex.com/press

STARGATE

Spacecraft Tracking and Astronomical Research into Giga-hertz Astrophysical Transient Emission complex

STARGATE is the first research center of excellence for UTRGV. The program will develop new radio frequency-based technologies and will allow our students to be directly involved in all aspects of a space mission, from the initial design phase to its final deployment and operation in orbit. UTRGV students will gain real-world, hands-on training that will make them extremely valuable to employers.

research
sustainability
ecology
environment
energy

Coastal Studies Lab researchers are conducting a hydrographic survey at critical locations in the Laguna Madre to predict where an oil or chemical spill would travel if it entered the Laguna Madre from the Gulf of Mexico through the Brazos Santiago Pass.



Coastal Studies in South Texas



UTRGV's Coastal Studies Lab is located on South Padre Island, serves as our marine biology laboratory and offers graduate level biology courses. UTRGV's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico will dramatically enhance coastal studies, increase marine research, and provide field-based education for aspiring scientists.



» Funding Requests:

Coastal Studies Research Center (CSRC)

A proposed **\$45M Coastal Studies Research Center** and an additional funding request of **\$6.3M / 10 FTEs** will support research focused on:

- Sustainability of the shoreline
- Management of marine-based food sources
- Environmental and ecological health of the ocean
- Management of water resources including wetlands
- Regional vulnerability to disasters such as tropical storms and hurricanes
- Disaster mitigation, preparedness and response

South Texas Water Research Focus

Given the rapid population growth and commercial activity in South Texas, it is critical that a plan be developed and implemented to address its needs.

Additional funding of **\$8.5M / 9 FTEs** will extend research efforts at the CSRC identifying water demand over the next decade, with a focus on:

- Water resource management
- Use of safe drinking water
- Agricultural and industrial use
- Flood and drought conditions
- Water storage, conservation, and recycling
- Purification of water, including water from fracking

Energy Research Focus



Energy Research at UTRGV

To complement the research activities at the Coastal Studies Research Center, UTRGV will leverage its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and the windy conditions in South Texas to create a unique research opportunity.

Energy Research Focus

Interdisciplinary teams will address the needs of the wind energy industry as it relates to:

- Wind speed
- Direction and mapping
- Wind power forecasting
- Turbine and electrical grid performance
- Wind turbine design and integrity
- Harnessing the energy from ocean waves

Expanding energy research will provide students with incomparable hands-on experiences.

» Funding Request:

Funding of **\$7.5M / 6 FTEs** will allow UTRGV to engage existing faculty in mechanical and electrical engineering, recruit materials scientists, atmospheric scientists, and energy forecasters/economists to extend research efforts on energy.





UTRGV Extends its Educational Reach into the Community

Texas Academy of Mathematics & Science (TAMS)

Brownsville's Math and Science Academy (MSA) is a dual enrollment college program for gifted high school students who demonstrate high aptitude in the areas of math and science. Students take classes from college faculty with college students, and receive a university experience during high school while earning up to 60 college credit hours. These students receive more supervision and guidance than traditional university students.

» Funding Request:

A funding request of **\$3.44M / 40 FTEs** will transition the program into TAMS, increasing higher education opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields for eligible students.

Unlike TAMS in North Texas, the current program receives no special item appropriation, limiting access to gifted and talented high school students. Elevating the program would place it on par with TAMS in North Texas.

Transitioning MSA into TAMS will expand enrollment from its current, limited commuter model program of 90 students into a residential program that will enroll up to 300 students.

Center for Bilingual Studies Translation & Interpretation Initiative

Edinburg's Center for Bilingual Studies (CBS) and Brownsville's B3 (Bilingual, Bicultural and Biliterate) Institute are comprised of researchers, students and community members who work collaboratively to address critical issues affecting residents of the Rio Grande Valley. These Centers support research, policy formation, and advocacy for bilingual learners with a particular emphasis on impacting students in public school systems.

Goals include:

- Researching issues of bilingualism and biculturalism, nationally and internationally
- Translating research findings into practice through school services, community engagement and policy impacting efforts
- Facilitating and improving educational achievement and attainment for bilingual learners
- Improving physical, mental health and wellness
- Increasing community knowledge and appreciation of cultural, historical, linguistic, and anthropological heritage

» **Funding Request:**

A funding request of **\$1M / 4 FTEs** will build translation and interpretation capacities within the existing Centers, allowing them to positively impact Dual Language instruction at numerous elementary schools throughout the Rio Grande Valley.





UTRGV

A University
of promise,
opportunity and
limitless possibilities.

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley



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