Remote Resources, Virtual Events, and UTRGV’s Contributions to Community COVID19 Efforts

UTRGV Center for Vector-Borne Disease Shifts Work To Covid-19 Screenings, Testing
The UTRGV Center for Vector-Borne Disease has been certified under CLIA as the UT Health RGV Clinical Lab specifically for COVID-19 testing purposes. The center is helping with COVID-19 testing, which the UTRGV School of Medicine’s clinical practice, UT Health RGV, started March 30 with testing sites in Brownsville and Edinburg. Read the full story.

UTRGV Center for Vector-Borne Disease First Newsletter
We invite you to view the initial newsletter for the Center for Vector-Borne Disease (CVBD).

UTRGV Students Producing 3D Personal Protection Equipment for School of Medicine During Pandemic
The UTRGV College of Engineering and Computer Science is working with the UTRGV Department of Theatre in providing them with 3D printed plastic frames for face shields. Read the full story.

Participate in UTRGV Research on COVID19 Effects on Well-Being
The aim of the anonymous survey is to ascertain how sheltering in place has impacted our health and well-being. Take the survey: https://redcap.utrgv.edu/surveys/?s=74LTK4H37M

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION (RITC)
• 26 New Additions to the Tech Transfer and Entrepreneurship Video Archive [View videos and webinars](#) in the categories of Funding; Valuation of Inventions; Law, Licenses, Patents, & Contracts; Promotion and Marketing; and Management Strategies.

• The Virtual Biomedical Research Animal Day (BRAD) Event offers the university community the opportunity to [pledge support for the humane involvement of animals in research](#).

• NSF Update: [NSF-approved formats for the biographical sketch](#) and [current & pending support documents](#). Read more on the [Research Administration page](#).

• Update to Interim IRB Policy for Human Subject Research: [The Interim Policy for in-person research has been extended to May 30, 2020](#).

• Faculty Development: Our Keys to Research Workshop #7 was held remotely on April 17, 2020 with 77 participants, and covered topics including remote teaching, online library resources, and conflicts of interest.

UTRGV Professor Establishing Cross-Border Collaboration: Biodiversity Library
Dr. Andrew McDonald, professor of biology, is collaborating with researchers from Mexico to share data and prioritize plant conservation efforts of the unique biota in which we live. [Read the full story](#).

In The News: Business Law Expert Warns Against “Blessing Loom” Scheme
“If you see someone guaranteeing a rate of return that is just far better than what anyone else is getting, that should raise red flags,” advised Business Law Lecturer James A. Gleason. [Read the full story](#).

21 Grants Were Awarded in March. Congratulations to the following faculty and staff! View details on the [Research website’s reports page](#) including research expenditure data such as the graph below.

Dr. Hsuying Ward, Human Development and School Services
Dr. Karen Lozano, Mechanical Engineering
Dr. Sue Anne Chew, Health & Biomedical Sciences
Dr. Christopher Miller, History
Dr. Carla Watson-Merla, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Dr. Cynthia Jones, Philosophy
Dr. Rupesh Kariyat, Biology
Dr. Alexis Racelis, Biology
Dr. Christopher Vitek, Biology

Dr. Richard Costello, Environmental Health Safety & Risk
Maria Juarez, Business Development
Hector Landez, Business Development
Dr. Saraswathy Nair, Health & Biomedical Sciences
Dr. Subhash Chauhan, Immunology and Microbiology
Dr. Saul Rivas, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Dr. Sarah Williams Blangero, Department of Human Genetics
Dr. Ravindranath Duggirala, Department of Human Genetics

Research Expenditures - All Fund Groups - March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Federal</th>
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<td>Research Grad Studies New PGMS</td>
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<td>261,416</td>
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The Research and Instruction Librarians of UTRGV are ready to assist faculty and students with a variety of online resources and tools, as well one-to-one research consultations. To set up an online consultation, please visit, https://utrgv.libguides.com/researchguides

UTRGV librarians are producing research-focused instructional videos that highlight our online resources. These videos provide a basic introduction to the library’s electronic databases and online tools for discovering e-books, articles, and other materials. Research & Instruction will also be hosting scheduled Research Hangouts - one hour-long sessions devoted to assisting patrons with research inquiries. Faculty-requested instruction session are now being provided through Zoom. In order to request instruction, please visit, https://www.utrgv.edu/library/help/request-forms/request-library-instruction/index.htm

Our Research and Instruction Librarians can assist you in utilizing the University Library webpage.

- The Librarians can show you methods to search the libraries online catalog, which can provide you with list of print and non-print resources.
- The Research and Instruction staff can also introduce to you a list of the many online databases that provide articles from journals, magazines, book reviews, and videos as well.

Join our Research and Instruction librarians via zoom as they will be available to answer any questions you might have.

RSVP through Vlink.
Graduate enrollment in Accelerated Online Programs (AOP) has hit a new milestone. Enrollment in Summer Module I has reached 1,150, which represents a 52% increase over last year in the same module.

UTRGV Graduate College Recruitment Events
For the month of April, Graduate College recruitment has hosted 25 different webinars. These webinars have included program specific, general, and employee webinars. Graduate College will continue to host additional webinars for the month of May including new webinars related to financing your graduate education and our newest online accelerated programs that are starting this Summer 2020 Module II term.

Additionally, Graduate College has hosted Facebook Live Q&A sessions every week in April with an average of 1.3K views. The most successful Facebook Live has over 3.2K views and 87 comments. Graduate College will continue to host biweekly Facebook Live sessions, with the next one being May 4th at 7:00pm. Follow UTRGV Graduate College on Facebook to be notified of the next live session. You can register for virtual events online at www.utrgv.edu/gradevents.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UTRGV’s BSM And PEWD Partner To Bring Fresh Produce To University Community, With A ‘Pay What You Can’ Price
UTRGV’s Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) and the Office of Professional Education and Workforce Development are kick off a food security initiative in an effort to further help the UTRGV community. The campus-based Food Security Initiative – supported by the University’s Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Advancement (SARA), the Office of Sustainability, UTRGV Farm (Hub of Prosperity), local farmers and other student organizations – will bring fresh, locally sourced produce, nutritious recipes and BSM Global Blends’ newly introduced healthy menu items to the campus community. Read the story.
Training Sessions for Summer 2020 Courses

The Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology is providing a series of professional development sessions to help faculty prepare for going online this Summer 2020.

Who is this training for?

- Faculty new to online learning who must become familiar with best practices.
- Those who want a refresher on the topics shared.

Trainings include:

The purpose of these sessions is to provide faculty the support needed to design an effective online course and introduce tools that will help facilitate, deliver, and manage online courses. The workshops will cover topics such as course structure, copyright, accessibility, and will explore data-driven online strategies and practical tips for applying them to your online courses.

1. **Blackboard Basics**
2. **Blackboard Intermediate**
3. **Blackboard Advanced (Grade Center)**
4. **Online Course Design**
5. **Online Course Delivery**

All 5 trainings comprise a larger professional development package for faculty who have not completed the Applying the Quality Matters Rubric Workshop and will be teaching this Summer 2020. It does not replace Quality Matters training.

To register, please visit the [UTRGV Training Services Portal](#).
UTRGV Sustainability Initiatives Targeting Multiple Issues Faced Locally and Globally
Prior to the COVID-19 global epidemic, the United Nations created 17 sustainable development goals to combat worldwide problems. The Rio Grande Valley is unique in facing each of the issues highlighted. For UTRGV Chief Sustainability Officer Marianella Franklin that can be a positive thing.
“There’s no one better to resolve those issues than the individuals who understand the issues,” she said. “The UN has taken a close look at the region, because if we come up with the solutions - the sustainable solutions - these solutions can be replicated globally.” [Watch our video.]

Virtual Earth Day Event
Earth Day is this Wednesday and presents a historic moment for us to reflect back on fifty years of environmental action. UTRGV School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences in collaboration with the UTRGV Office for Sustainability invites you to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day by sharing the following opportunities, including webinars, films, and tips for action. Our TRACS 2020 Summit Keynote Speakers presented for Virtual Earth Day. Make sure to watch the Earth Day TRACS talk by Moses West entitled “Out of Thin Air.” and “Let’s Start the Climate Take Back,” by Joey Shea of Interface.

Celebrating RGV Diversity
Few places showcase the marvelous natural diversity of our planet as spectacularly as the Rio Grande Valley. [This video] serves as a tribute to the incredible diversity the Lower Rio Grande Valley has to offer, inviting us protect, respect, and celebrate the importance of the unique species and ecosystems it harbors. As we explore a sampling of this biodiversity, we hope you will take with you a deeper appreciation for the region and look to it with newfound wonder and awe.