The Following Faculty and Staff Were Awarded Grants in September and October. View details on the Research website’s reports page.

**School of Medicine:**
- Dr. Subhash Chauhan
- Dr. Kelsey Potter-Baker
- Dr. Gladys Maestre
- Dr. John Blangero
- Dr. Cristel Escalona
- Dr. Andrew Dentino
- Dr. Saul Rivas
- Zoila Vasquez

**College of Sciences:**
- Dr. Hudson DeYoe
- Dr. Cheryl Harrison
- Dr. David Hicks
- Dr. Scott Gunn
- Dr. Michael Persans

**College of Engineering & Computer Science:**
- Dr. Stephen Crown
- Dr. Isaac Choutapalli
- Dr. Maysam Pournik

**College of Education and P-16 Integration:**
- Dr. Jair Aguilar

**College of Fine Arts:**
- Dr. Katherine McAllen

**College of Health Professions:**
- Dr. Christopher Ledingham
- Betsaida Rodriguez

**College of Liberal Arts:**
- Dr. Russell Skowronek
- Christopher Miller

**School of Nursing:**
- Dr. Sharon Radzyminski

**School of Social Work:**
- Dr. Luis Torres-Hostos

Funds Awarded - By Fiscal Year

Visit our website to view other research data such as this graph.
The Scholarly Communication department continues to support the adoption of affordable course materials through the Affordable Textbook Adoption Grant. Congratulations to Dr. Edgar D. Corpuz, Dr. Natalia V. Guevara, Dr. Sylvia Robles, and Dr. Ian Werkheiser for completely redesigning their courses to use Open Educational Resources (OER). By teaching with these materials this semester, they have been able to offer their course to students with little to no additional course material costs. Ten more faculty members are currently redesigning their Spring 2021 courses to use OER or Library Licensed materials. If you are interested in textbook affordability visit our online Library Guide at https://utrgv.libguides.com/oer to learn more!

SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION
OFS recently hosted a virtual event, Dec. 2, in which four UTRGV Sustainability Fellows described their fellowship projects and findings. Dr. Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement in the United Nations Department of Public Information’s Outreach Division, provided a keynote address in which he shared his thoughts on a sustainable future. Watch the event video. Dr. Damodaran later included this UTRGV initiative in his U.N. blog “Why We Care.”

Did you get to attend the virtual Arbor Day Celebration OFS hosted in November? Watch the event video here.
GRADUATE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR SESSIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
UTRGV Graduate College will continue to host Financial Assistance Webinar sessions for new and current graduate students throughout the month of December. During these sessions, students will learn more about Financial Aid as a graduate student and other forms of financial assistance. For more information about these sessions, please contact us at (956)-665-3661 or email us at gradsuccess@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV GRADUATE COLLEGE RECRUITMENT
This Fall semester UTRGV Graduate College strived to provide the most opportunities for applicants to learn about our quality programs. As the Fall 2020 semester comes to an end, the recruitment team will have provided over 50 different webinars. These webinars include program specific, focusing on new programs and Accelerated Online Programs, general webinars, employee specific webinars, and funding your graduate education webinars. To learn more, sign up for one of our upcoming webinars at www.utrgv.edu/gradevents or schedule your personal appointment with a Graduate Recruiter at www.utrgv.edu/grad.

CENTER FOR ONLINE LEARNING AND TEACHING TECHNOLOGY (COLTT)

SAVE THE DATE: EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE LEARNING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
The theme for this year’s virtual Excellence in Online Learning Conference, to be held March 25-26, 2021, is “Elevating Instruction for the Digital Learner.” Don’t miss the opportunity to participate in sessions, hear from peers sharing their experiences, and learn more about all the resources available to you. Connect with fellow educators to gain insight and ideas to incorporate in your own online or hybrid courses.

COLTT WOULD LIKE TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF A VALUED COLLEAGUE.
Dr. Ramiro de la Rosa passed away on October 14, 2020. We remember him not only as a loyal and dedicated member of our UTRGV community, but as a friend. Dr. de la Rosa joined the legacy UTPA in 2012 and became the Associate Director for Research Innovation in Distance Learning in 2015. He also taught online for the Master in Public Affairs and Education Leadership program, taking on additional responsibilities in order to share his knowledge with the next generation of educational leaders. He held a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Leadership Studies, and served as a board member of the Texas Distance Learning Association. His passion for using technology for education led to several publications in online education in the areas of effective instructional innovations, such as “gamification” and the use of graphics. Additionally, he was recognized with several awards: Dr. de la Rosa was awarded the 2019 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Teaching & Learning for his significant achievements in the innovative use of Blackboard technology, as well as being recognized for “Outstanding Commitment to Excellence and Innovation in Distance Learning by an Individual” by the Texas Distance Learning Association in 2017. His impact on the UTRGV distance learning program, and to individuals, cannot be understated. We thank Dr. Ramiro de la Rosa for his efforts and will continue to honor his legacy of innovation, respect, and selfless teaching.
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

100 students impacted via 3 COIL courses fall 2020. These COIL courses will be offered again in the spring, and 3 more faculty are in training for new spring 2021 COIL activities. One COIL faculty, Dr. Teresa Feria, was recently awarded the 2020 Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Awards (ROTA). COIL Virtual Exchange is an innovative strategy of internationalization. In the COIL model, faculty from two different institutions link their classes by creating and coordinating academic activities, which will be performed fully online by their students. For more information about COIL, email ipp@utrgv.edu.

50 students completed Gilman International Scholarship applications. This is an approximate 400% increase from previous years. 25 students were awarded a total of $109,500 for study abroad from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State. IPP promoted this scholarship which is only eligible for undergraduate Pell recipients to study abroad.

International Education Week (IEW), November 16-18, provides an opportunity to recognize international education, cultural understanding, and exchange worldwide to all our UTRGV members and our surrounding community.

Overall, we had an extraordinary social media engagement where we gained 1,159 likes to our Facebook Page (11490% increase), and we reached 212,489 people with our posts. Events included: Keynote Speaker Michele Mitchell, American filmmaker, journalist, and producer of the film “The Uncondemned” spoke to the UTRGV community about resilience. The UTRGV community was invited to watch their exceptional documentary in which brave women demonstrate a passion for justice and the 1994 Genocide’s survival against the Tutsis in Rwanda. After the movie, we met Consolee Nishimwe, a motivational speaker and a survivor who shared her story of pain, resilience, and hope. Additionally, Uzoamaka Okori & Victory Igberase, UTRGV International Students from Nigeria, hosted a virtual “Flavors of Africa Cooking Class” featuring a traditional dish from their home country.

We received over 200 UTRGV student submissions to our “Picture The World” Photo Contest. Asked what represents “happiness” to them, the photographers of the top three most “liked” pictures on social media won an Apple Watch, a JBL Speaker, or Apple Airpods. See all entries here.