

INNOVATE

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR REGION AND BEYOND

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION (RITC)

9 Grants Were Awarded in April, and 12 in May. 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](#).

In the College of Engineering & Computer Science: Dr. Abdoul Oubeidillah, Dr. Kamal Sarkar, Dr. David Ortiz, Dr. Constantine Tarawneh.

In the College of Health Professions: Dr. Zasha Romero.

In the College of Liberal Arts: Dr. Katherine Christoffersen.

In the College of Sciences: Dr. Kathryn Perez, Dr. Pushpa Soti, Dr. Christopher Vitek, Dr. Mario Diaz, Dr. David Hicks, Dr. Richard Kline.

In the Division of Governmental & Community Relations: Juan Santos, Maria Juarez.

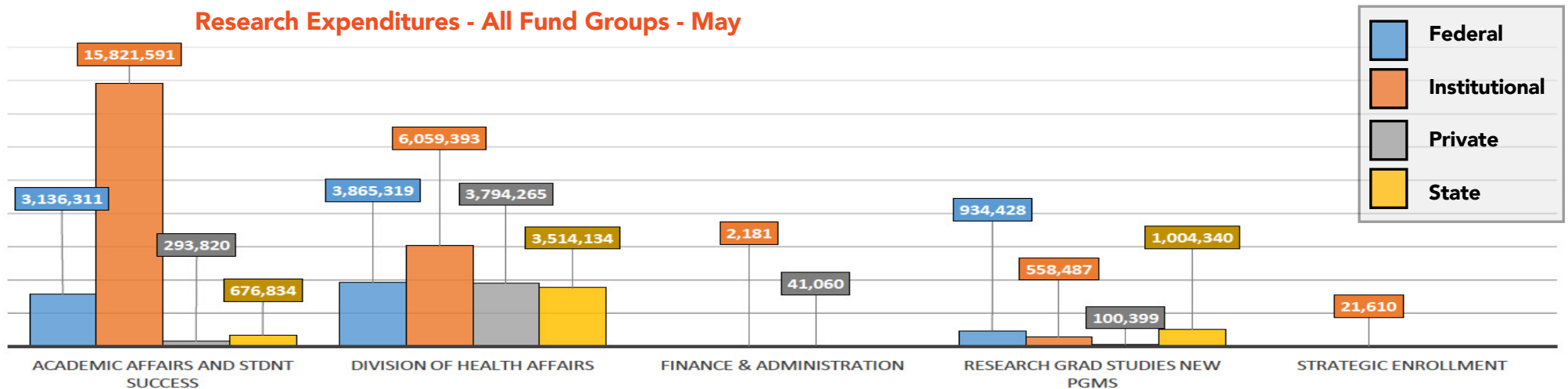
In the President's Office: Veronica Gonzales.

In the School of Medicine: Dr. Subhash Chauhan, Dr. Sarah Blangero, Dr. John Ronnau, Dr. Cristel Escalona.

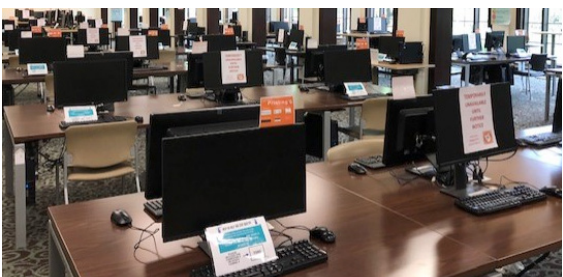
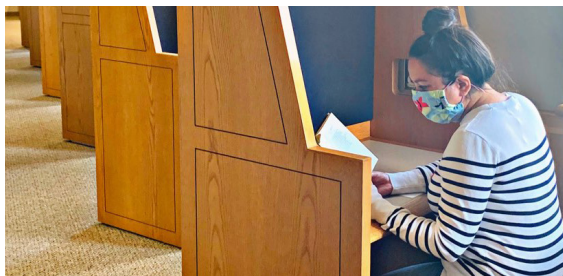
THE NEWSROOM

Have you seen this month's research stories from the [UTRGV Newsroom](#) and [other publications that featured UTRGV researchers?](#)

Research Expenditures - All Fund Groups - May



Library Hours: The UTRGV Libraries are now currently open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, Monday through Friday.



Library Guidelines During COVID19 Pandemic

Since your last visit, you might notice some changes at the library that have been recently enacted for the safety of our staff and for you. In these times of constant change, we thank you in advance for your understanding and patience. We ask that you please follow these guidelines when at the library as safety is our top priority.

For more information and updates, please see www.utrgv.edu/library/

1. Face coverings are required for entry.
2. Follow the social-distancing markings when approaching a service desk.
3. Open areas available for individual study. Furniture has been adjusted for social distancing.
4. Printing will be permitted, but library staff will retrieve the printouts for you.
5. Computers will be available for use with appropriate distancing.
6. To support efforts toward a clean/sanitized building, a no food policy has been implemented.
7. We are disinfecting the areas you use, so please follow the "Help Us Help You Stay Healthy" flyer guidelines posted on study carrels, tables, and computer workstations.
8. Even though we are currently not checking out material at the moment, the library offers a vast amount of electronic resources and accessible online alternatives for your immediate use.

Noteworthy Resource at the University Library: LearningExpress Library Access

Did you know the library has access to Learning Express Library? [LearningExpress Library](#) "provides a completely interactive online learning platform of practice tests and tutorial course series designed to help patrons, students, and adult learners succeed on the academic or licensing tests they must pass." Use it to prepare for a GED or EMT exam, the GREs, MCATs, ACTs, or just about any other test. First time users: create a Username and Password.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UTRGV Continuing Education provides professional development skill training to the City of Brownsville. This training moves the city forward in fulfilling its commitment to empower employees and strengthen professional skills in the workplace! Despite the changes in landscape due to COVID-19, the City of Brownsville and UTRGV Continuing Education stand strong by coordinating a Managing Conflict session via Zoom for 35 City of Brownsville team members.



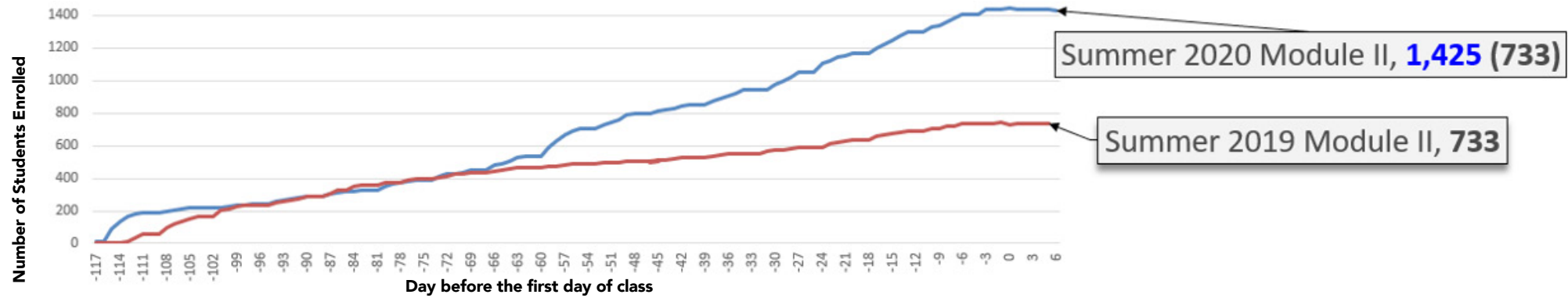
The Language Institute is offering English as a Second Language courses fully online!

Students (15 years or older) will be able to learn grammar as a foundation for communication, conversation, discussion and structured listening practice that help students gain confidence speaking and understand English in everyday situations. Special rate available for UTRGV employees! For more information, please contact us at li@utrgv.edu or give us a call at (956)665-2133.



Summer 2020 Module II Enrollment Record: Graduate enrollment in Accelerated Online Programs (AOP) has hit a new milestone. Enrollment in Summer 2020 Module II reached 1,425, which represents a 94.4% increase over Summer 2019 Module II.

AOP Summer 2020 Module II Graduate Enrollment (Certificates and RN to BSN are included)



The Graduate College held the Spring and Summer 2020 Presidential Graduate Research Assistant Recognition Ceremony Virtually

On Saturday, June 6, 2020, Dr. Parwinder Grewal and UTRGV President Dr. Guy Bailey celebrated the accomplishments of PGRA graduates, recognizing each with a personalized slide. Students shared this moment with their family, friends, and faculty [via this video](#).

412 Degrees & Certificates Awarded to Graduate Students in Spring 2020!

The Graduate College awarded 10 doctorate degrees, 336 master's degrees, and 66 certificates.

UTRGV Graduate College will be hosting virtual information sessions every week to promote new programs, cover information on funding, specific programs, international applications and UTRGV employee opportunities. Visit www.utrgv.edu/gradevents to register.

Chat with Grad College
 Monday - Friday, 8am - 9pm
 Saturday, 8am - 5pm
 Sunday, 9am - 1pm

UTRGV Graduate College is excited to announce new Traditional & Accelerated Online programs, Certificates, and Specializations!

New Traditional Programs:

[Master of Science in Applied Statistics and Data Sciences](#)

MEd programs in Curriculum & Instruction also gain new specializations: [English](#) and [Mathematics](#).

New Accelerated Online Programs:

[Master of Science in Criminal Justice](#)
[Master of Science in Engineering Management](#)
[Master of Science \(MS\) in Kinesiology*](#)
 MBA specializations in [Accounting](#), [Business Analytics](#), [Entrepreneurship](#), and [Marketing](#).

*\$3,500 Scholarship for this new Kinesiology online program.

New Certificate Programs:

[Entrepreneurship](#)
[Online Instructional Designer](#)
[Bilingual Counseling](#)
[Disaster Management & Sustainability](#)

[User Experience and User Interface \(UX/UI\) Design](#)

Applications are now open for these programs. Take advantage of the \$0 application fee!

CENTER FOR ONLINE LEARNING AND TEACHING TECHNOLOGY (COLTT)

To seize the unprecedented opportunity presented by COVID-19 to prepare UTRGV for high-quality online instruction, our Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT) is providing a series of professional development sessions to help Faculty for online teaching for Summer and Fall 2020. Up to July 15, COLTT has provided the following professional development to UTRGV Faculty:

365 faculty completed an 8-hour BB training for online teaching.

138 faculty are currently enrolled in Online Teaching Essentials (8-Hr Training).

172 faculty completed the blueprinting process for online courses.

146 faculty are currently blueprinting online courses.

93 more Faculty were recently Quality Matters (QM) Certified for a total of **762**.

New feature in Blackboard called Bb Annotate: a new interface to grade assignments, released on June 1st. [Read more about it!](#)

OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

UTRGV's Commitment To Helping Pollinators Renews Bee Campus USA Designation. Bee City USA recently renewed the university's Bee Campus USA certification for its work in enhancing pollinator habitats on and off campus. [Read more.](#)

International Council For Small Business (ICSB) featured UTRGV faculty member Sylvia Robles

Robles represented UTRGV in an international ICSB webinar about teaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to their students and stakeholders, a novel approach to solving global issues. Robles presented virtually to a little over 100 attendees from 15 countries on how issues as diverse as poverty, education, and climate change interconnect with economic, social, and environmental systems and targets.

Sustainable Practices in Research information Presented to **70+** Keys to Research Faculty.

Sustainable Development in Upward Bound Program Reaches **70+** Highschool Students.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The Covid-19 pandemic is evolving. Future study abroad and study away programming will be subject to UTRGV travel guidelines.

The Good Neighbor Scholarship (Texas Coordinating Board) awarded to a UTRGV international student.

Oscar Camarena, from Mexico, will receive full paid tuition for Fall 2020, Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 towards his MBA.

IASS awarded \$4,000 for the "I am a Buddy" Scholarship for Summer 2020.

International Programs and Partnerships is now accepting proposals for 2021 for study abroad (international) and study away (domestic) programs lead by UTRGV faculty. The [Online Proposal Form](#) is required for all faculty planning to travel with students and deliver a course. For more information please [visit our website](#).

Dr. Luis Alcocer of IPP is leading a pilot program at UTRGV for Collaborative Online International Learning: (COIL) Virtual Exchange. Jon Rubin, internationally recognized COIL expert, is training three pairs of faculty for their courses that will be taught this fall: Dr. Maysam Pournik of COECS is working with Dr. Magin Ferrer from Universidad Católica de Santa Fe, Argentina; professor Marcela Hebbard of the College of Liberal Arts is working with Dr. Adriana Guerrero from Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, and professor María Leonard from the Robert C. Vackar COBE is working with Dr. Catalina Martínez and Dr. Adriana Rueda from Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga, Colombia. 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. COIL Virtual Exchange programs nurture experiential global learning by favoring the online collaboration and interaction of faculty and students with peers abroad.



96 F-1 visa students graduated this Spring 2020! An additional **39** will graduate in Summer 2020. IASS mailed out graduation stoles with their home country flag as a gift for our international graduates.

International Admissions and Student Services hosted Virtual Optional Practical Training workshops in May.