



# United States Patent and Trademark Office

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*

September 16, 2024

Paul Sharpe,  
Dean of Libraries  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 West University Drive  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Dear Dean Sharpe:

On behalf of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, we would like to offer our enthusiastic congratulations to you and to the many skilled, dedicated, and professional library staff members of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's University Library, Edinburg Campus and Brownsville Campus, respectively, on their official designation as Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs).

We commend you for undertaking this initiative. PTRCs can help historically underserved communities gain greater access to the patent and trademark system to protect their ideas, brands, and companies, and you can help create pathways to high-quality and better paying jobs and successful entrepreneurship. By opening the doors for all to participate in our innovation ecosystem, we will achieve equity and unleash the full potential of every American and our country.

As PTRCs, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley libraries will enable your patrons and the innovators in Texas to tap into the rich resources provided by our network of intellectual property experts and increase the diversity of the inventors, entrepreneurs, and small business owners who access the innovation ecosystem. Doing so will foster greater equity, stimulate the national economy, create jobs, and ensure America's competitiveness. We look forward to working closely with you to extend these important services to the students and faculty at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, as well as to the inventors, entrepreneurs, and researchers throughout the State of Texas.

We stand ready to help you contribute to the economic development of your region as a fully operational, participating PTRC institution. Again, congratulations and welcome to the PTRC Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathi Vidal".

Kathi Vidal  
Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Intellectual Property and Director of the  
United States Patent and Trademark Office