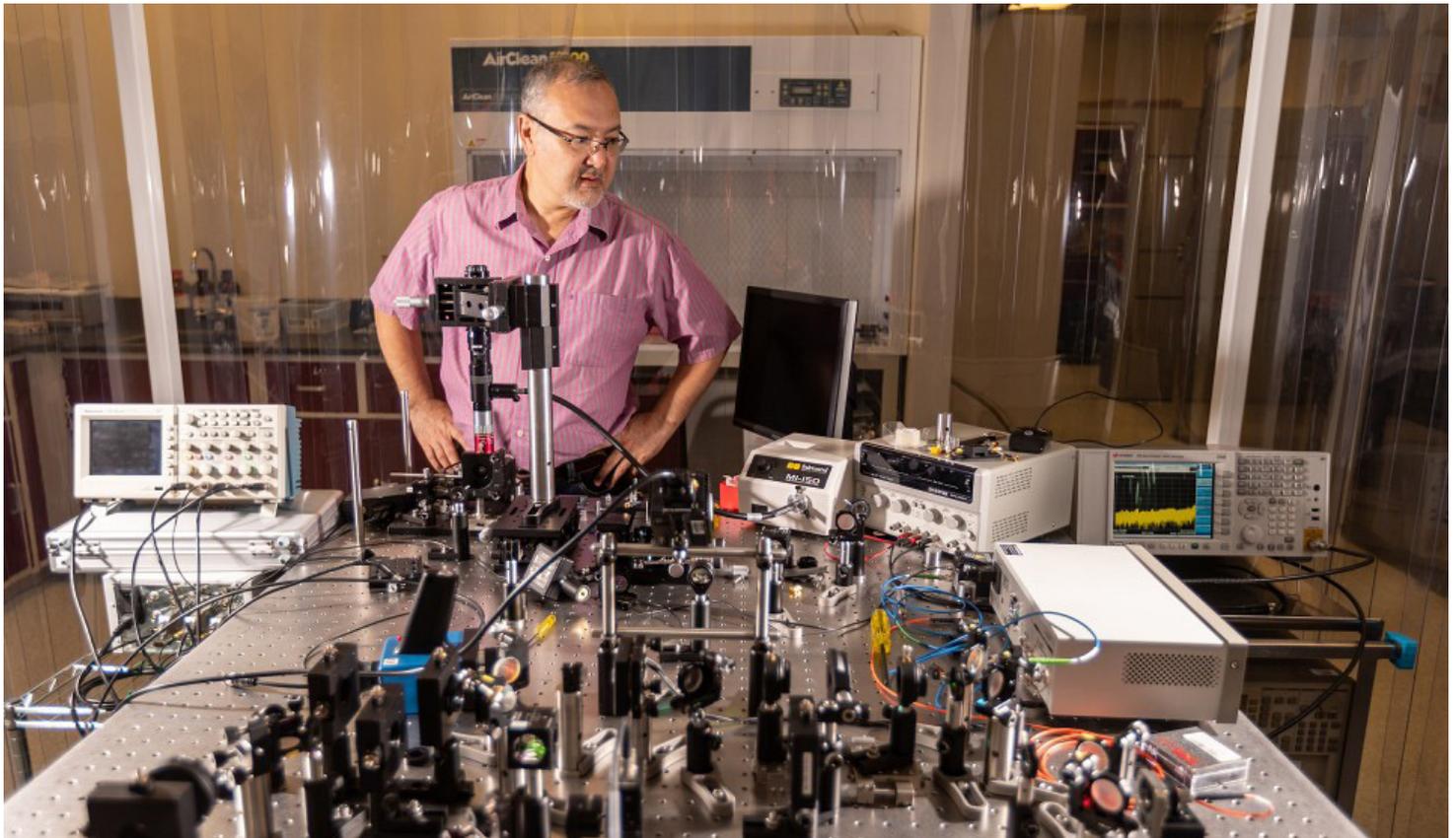


Office of the Executive VP
for Research, Graduate
Studies & New
Program Development

INNOVATE

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR REGION AND BEYOND

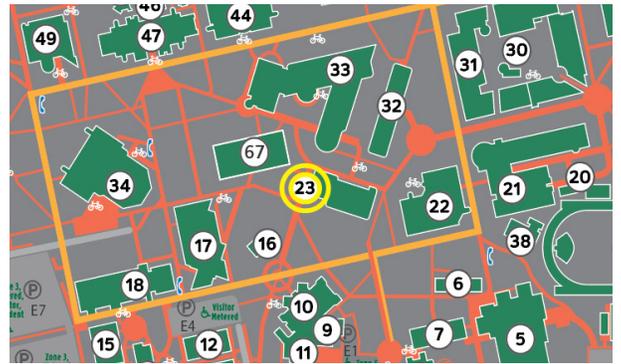
February Highlights: Community Engagement, Research, and Sustainability



UTRGV acquires Special System for Quantum Computing Research - Dr. Rakhmanov Awarded DoD Grant to Work on Electron Beam Lithography. Made possible by a \$600,000 grant administered by the Army Research Office, under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, UTRGV now will have its own high-quality equipment with which to fabricate quantum chips. The instrument will drastically enhance UTRGV's research capabilities and create new opportunities for students as they help refine the next generation of computers: those whose chips are not just "micro," but "quantum." [Read the complete story.](#)

Visit Us In Our Newly Renamed Location - EPHYS is Now the Innovation Building (EINNV)!

As part of our continued growth, the Physical Science building has been repurposed from an Academic building to administrative offices for the Division of Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development. The building numbered 23 on our offices' [location map](#) has been renamed to **Innovation Building (EINNV)**.



UTRGV leading national collaborative to develop manufacturing innovations for DoD.

Dr. Jianzhi Li, UTRGV professor of Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering, has been awarded a grant to establish educational opportunities that enhance manufacturing skills critical to the country's defense systems. UTRGV will receive \$3.96 million from 2020 to 2023. [Read the complete story.](#)

Dr. Dan King Researching the ABCs of Pattern Influence.

Familiarity may breed contempt for some, but not in the marketing world. "The mind is always looking for patterns that feel comfortable or familiar," said Dr. Dan King, an assistant professor of marketing. A paper he co-authored in the Journal of Consumer Psychology focused on a particular pattern – the alphabet – and how it influences perceived truthfulness. [Read the complete story.](#)

Congressman Gonzalez Announces \$49,900 For UTRGV Brain Research.

The funding will be used to study the impact and risk factors of each on people residing in low-resource settings and in low and middle-income countries. [Read the press release.](#)

Multidisciplinary Collaboration Hopes To Help Patients During Post-Op.

UTRGV graduate student Ruben Garcia, in the UTRGV College of Engineering and Computer Science, is working on a project called Vaquero Boot – a device being designed to provide therapy for hip and knee replacement patients after surgery. The boot would prevent blood clots by stimulating muscles around the ankle and foot to encourage blood circulation. [Read the complete story.](#)



Capacity Building for Faculty, Students, and Staff:

Now Available Online: Free, Self-Paced "Essentials of Grant Proposal Development" Course!

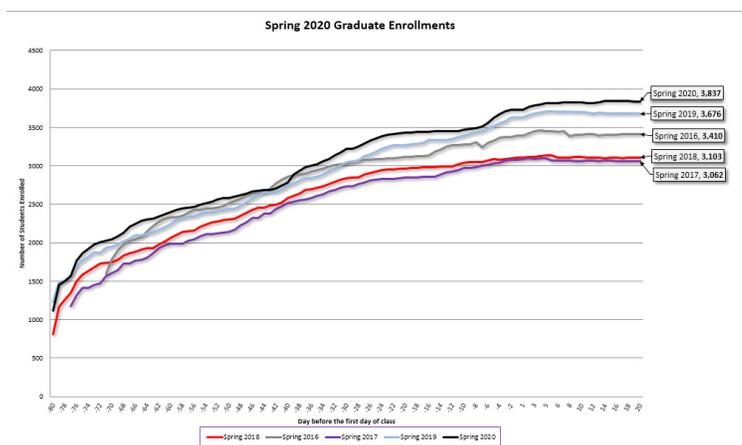
This course aims to provide the basics of grant writing by walking learners through the process with in-depth instruction that includes videos, exercises, resources, and examples. This course was peer reviewed by experts.

[Login to CITI](#) to access the course. [This guide shows you how.](#)





Graduate College Takes the Lead in Battle of the Colleges! The UTRGV men’s basketball team hosted Utah Valley on Thursday, February 13 at the UTRGV Fieldhouse for the Battle of the Colleges. Deans from different colleges across campus, along with students from their colleges, competed in a halftime free-throw shooting competition with a trophy at stake. The Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Parwinder Grewal, and doctoral candidate, Martin Jalomo (Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction) won the halftime free-throw competition trophy.



Graduate Enrollment Continues to Grow. For Spring 2020, UTRGV has currently enrolled 3,837 students.



On Tuesday, February 18th The UTRGV Graduate College hosted an information session in San Antonio. A total of 24 prospective graduate students attended who were excited to learn about all the programs we offer as well as the new [Graduate Dean’s Scholarships!](#)

Save these dates!

**Three Minute Thesis
Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

**Graduate Student Research Showcase
Thursday, April 2, 2020**



UTRGV COLTT Director Presents At Blackboard's First-Gen Symposium

Francisco Garcia, UTRGV COLTT director, presented on "Utilizing EdTech to Support First-Generation Hispanic Students" at Blackboard's First-Gen Symposium on Wednesday, February 12, at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Excellence in Online Learning Conference

ELEVATING INSTRUCTION FOR THE DIGITAL LEARNER

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

APRIL 2, 2020 | 10 AM - 3 PM
BROWNSVILLE & EDINBURG
CAMPUSES

CONFERENCE

APRIL 3, 2020 | 9 AM - 4 PM
SALON CASSIA, BMAIN
BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS



DR. ROB ROBINSON
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Save The Date: Fourth Annual Excellence In Online Learning Conference

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT) cordially invites you to participate in our Fourth Annual Excellence in Online Learning Conference (EOLC) to be held on **Thursday, April 2nd** and **Friday, April 3rd** at UTRGV.

April 2nd: Pre-Conference workshops taking place at the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses.

April 3rd: General Conference taking place at the Brownsville campus.

In this conference, you will have the opportunity to build new foundations in best practices and innovations in Online and Hybrid education. You will also have the opportunity to participate in sessions, hear from peers sharing their experiences, and engage in hands-on workshops aimed to foster interactions, collaboration, and problem-solving in online and hybrid education. Finally, you will have an opportunity to network with other faculty and online learning professionals from the South Texas Region.

Please click on the links below for more information.

- [Call for Proposals](#)
- [Call for Award Nominations](#)
- [Register for the conference](#)

SAVE THE DATE
REGISTER NOW

FESTIBA Focuses On Sustainability

This week, FESTIBA 2020, following its theme of building a better world, will bring concerts, art exhibits, literary readings and panel discussions involving research and important sustainability issues. Last Saturday, the Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA) kicked off with the South Texas Literacy Symposium in the Ballroom of the Edinburg campus. The panel discussed this year's topic, which is sustainability and environmental awareness, and what the public can do to reverse ecological damage. [Read the full story from the student newspaper, The Rider.](#)



Spreading Sustainability Awareness in the Community

UTRGV Dr. James Jihoon Kang and Students along with UTRGV's Chief Sustainability Officer Marianella Franklin spoke on a panel at **PSJA-ISD's Guest Speaker Event** with Water Rescue Foundation Founder Moses West. West spoke to students about the global water crisis, as well as demonstrated the Atmospheric Water Generator he created, which aims to provide clean drinking water to people in need.



On Feb. 26-27, for **FESTIBA GEAR-UP Days** at UTRGV (right), 600 freshmen joined us on campus from high schools across the RGV. Ms. Franklin introduced the Keynote Speaker Mr. Mario Bracamontes, Principal of PSJA-ISD Buell Central High School. Bracamontes gave an invigorating and motivational speech, inspiring hundreds of students with examples of the remarkable work he has implemented at his school and encouraging both students and educators to respect and value our region's richness for the sake of sustainable development.

On Feb. 13-14, Office for Sustainability staff members Forrest Sparks and Roshni Manwani participated in the **Coastal Wetlands Expo 2020** at the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center. They taught young attendees about the importance of being good stewards of our planet with a recycling game that emphasized correct recycling, composting, and most importantly, minimizing use of plastic.



Save the Date: Faculty Write-In Events April 17.

Research & Instruction Librarians are working to enhance the faculty research experience. The University Library and the Office of Faculty Success and Diversity are sponsoring Faculty Write-In events that provide an environment where faculty can focus on writing without interruptions. Librarians are available to provide on-site research assistance and technical guidance. This semester, Research & Instruction will offer research-specific instructional sessions in conjunction with the Write-In events.

Additionally, Research & Instruction collaborated with the Graduate College to provide instruction sessions geared toward assisting first-year graduate students. These virtual sessions held on February 24 covered resources and tools for improving graduate-level research and scholarship.

Friday April 17

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Brownsville location:

Library Instruction Classroom, 1.118

Edinburg location:

Library Shary Room

The University Library Announces Access To A New Database: PsycTherapy



[PsycTherapy](#) provides streaming psychotherapy demonstration videos. It provides access to playlists, clips, searchable transcripts of videos, along with other features. Once in the database, choose "Select Databases" and then choose "PsycTherapy" to limit your search to this video content. It can also be searched together with APA Journals and APA Books if desired.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



UTRGV launches Sustainability Student Leadership program

UTRGV's Office of Professional Education and Workforce Development has launched the first Sustainability Student Leadership Program, aimed at training students to be future leaders in sustainable initiatives. "My idea for developing the leadership program for the graduate students is to really help them become the leaders that they're expected to be when they graduate with their master's degrees," said Jaysree Bhat, assistant vice president of Professional Education and Workforce Development. [Read the full story.](#)

Pedagogy Training for UTTN Faculty

UTRGV Continuing Education is currently hosting the 2nd batch of 25 faculty from Universidad Tecnológica de Tamaulipas Norte (UTTN) to provide customized pedagogy training to empower them to develop their instructions in English. The first batch of faculty that were served through a similar training in 2018 have already adapted the curriculum in English and will be returning for follow up sessions this spring to share their experience on a case-study basis.





UTRGV World Series at PSJA

Six UTRGV international students from Canada, Nepal, Germany, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Kazakhstan were awarded with the World Series Today Scholarship from the USIFL grant from the Office of Global Engagement. The students attended the PSJA School district during their International Education Week on Feb 4th – 7th and made wonderful presentations to K-5 students about their home country, culture, games, and reading activities. The student presentations were a total success as more than 500 children attended to learn more about the world!

International Programs and Partnerships is partnering with the [Council on International Education Exchange \(CIEE\)](#) to provide 150 free passports to UTRGV students. On March 6, UTRGV will host the CIEE Passport Caravan where passport agents will be on campus to process passport applications from qualifying UTRGV students at zero cost, a savings of \$145 per applicant. CIEE is donating \$14,500 for 100 passports while Dr. Grewal's office and OGE are donating \$7,250 for 50 passports.

International Admissions & Student Services successfully celebrated the Lunar New Year 2020 at UTRGV!

This is a very important celebration in the Asian Cultures. This year, more than 1.5 billion people around the world got together to celebrate the Year of the Rat! Lunar New Year is about spending time with family and friends, feasting on foods with symbolic meanings, gift-giving and good wishes. This year, we had more close to 400 students attending this significant event! Students, staff, faculty, and friends enjoyed traditional Asian dishes, played games, learned more about their culture, and met new friends!



Save the Date: International Women's Day - March 5.

We honor Dr. Sylvia Robles, 2020 Outstanding International Female Faculty. This year's Outstanding International Female Student Award (and \$1,000 scholarship) will be announced at the reception held on Brownsville campus at Salon Cassia from 12:00 -1:00 p.m.



I Love
UTRGV

The I Love UTRGV campaign will run from Feb. 10 through March 10.

Contribute to the I Love UTRGV campaign by investing in what you love most about UTRGV, where you can use payroll deduction as a method of payment. [You can make a difference with a gift.](#)



FAMILY NIGHT
AT THE BALLPARK

UTRGV BASEBALL

VS

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

FRIDAY, FEB. 28 | 7 PM | UTRGV BASEBALL STADIUM

**ENROLLED UTRGV STUDENTS
RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION
WITH VALID STUDENT ID**

**DISCOUNT \$5
TICKETS FOR
UTRGV FAMILIES
AND GUESTS**

UTRGV FACULTY & STAFF RECIEVE TWO FREE TICKETS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (956) 665-3747 OR (956) 665-3414
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO TICKETS@UTRGV.EDU

