Welcome to the first issue of the Division of Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs (SESA) newsletter. Each newsletter will feature accomplishments, news, updates, and important deadlines.

Join me in celebrating our successes and all the great things happening in our division. I cannot be prouder at your ability to adapt while maintaining high quality customer service and dedication to our students. This is the reason why we continue to succeed during these uncertain times. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and let’s continue to work together!

-Dr. Magdalena Hinojosa, Sr. VP for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs

TRIO Programs

The TRIO programs are federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Student Support Services (SSS), a TRIO program at UTRGV, serves 275 enrolled students annually through academic support and helps students thrive intellectually, personally, and professionally. SSS has just received renewal funding for $1.7 million for a new 5-year grant cycle! The program employs a holistic approach and empowers students to be resilient, demonstrate self-efficacy, and strengthen their self and peer advocacy. Innovative online approaches for the new academic year, including workshops, cultural tours, and coaching and advising sessions, are underway. Upcoming planned activities include:

- A guided virtual tour of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University.
- Attend the Dimensions of Diversity, Biases, Power & Privilege webinar co-hosted with the Center for Diversity & Inclusion.
- Join TRIO’s first book club session to learn more about the challenges and triumphs of undocumented individuals.

SSS also collaborates with various divisions and campus-wide departments to connect students to opportunities that support retention and completion of their postsecondary education. Please contact Program Director, Camelia Rubalcaba, for more information or to explore potential collaborative ideas.

What an unbelievable year!

UTRGV could not have asked for a better team than the staff that serves on Undergraduate Admissions, Undergraduate Recruitment, and New Student Orientation. In collaboration with colleagues across the division and campus, this exceptional staff organized and supported our largest cohort of new freshmen and transfer students to date. Customized to working with students in person, this dedicated team adapted to a virtual environment and assisted new students with their college search and selection journey. They supported future UTRGV Vaqueros and families through the application, admissions, financial aid, scholarship, housing, and enrollment process. This group understands the importance of helping students find the right fit and this inevitably leads to student success. So... If you haven't already done so, get to know this great team! There is never a dull moment in the world of New Students. #ProudToGoOrange

Undergrad Admissions

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions processed over 33,000 applications for the 2020 academic terms, and the hard work of this team contributed to exceeding new first-year student enrollment goals for Fall 2020. Also, the office revamped the Texas Residency classification process for applicants and improved the student experience.