

Upcoming Dates

February 8

Distinguished Speaker Series
Terry Crews

February 10

Ally Safe Zone Training

February 15

VAMOS/UTRGV
Scholarship Application
Deadline

February 17

Random Acts of
Kindness Day

February 19

LEAP: Diversity Workshop
Series

March 1

Summer Registration Begins

March 9

Voter Round Up

March 26

Ally Safe Zone Training

March 29

Fall Registration Begins

March 31

STARS Scholarship
Application Deadline

April 5

National Poetry Month

May 7 & 8

Commencement Exercises

May 14

LEAP: Diversity Workshop
Series

June 1

Scholarship Enrollment
Deadline for
Entering Freshmen



Photo: Edinburg Campus, Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building (EIEAB)

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Strategic Enrollment & Student Affairs Newsletter

Spring 2021 is in full swing and it's hard to believe that we are coming up on one year of pandemic changes. Together, we have overcome obstacles and managed continued support of our students. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the success of our students.

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

Student Activities

Student Activities incorporates various facets of campus life such as civic engagement, the Campus Activities Board, Distinguished Speaker Series, Spirit Programs, and hosts events that promote UTRGV pride and traditions. The department's mission is to create experiences that instill pride by uniting students with the community through spirit, traditions, culture, and social responsibility.

The department has embraced the virtual environment this year and has provided great events and activities for all UTRGV students. During the Best Week Ever, Student Activities collaborated with several campus partners to host the first virtual concert featuring The Plain White T's. The event attracted over 1,100 attendees and allowed students to engage and learn about campus resources. The fun is not over as Student Activities has a semester packed with events this spring, all starting with [Week of Welcome](#), followed by Homecoming and Charreada in February 2021.

This fall, Student Activities was the recipient of two grants totaling \$3,000 to aid in voter and civic engagement efforts. The grants from the *Campus Vote Project* and *Bread to Spread the Vote* helped support voter engagement outreach and programming. Together with the Civic Engagement Alliance, Student Activities hosted a virtual Rope the Vote Dance Party to encourage students, staff, and faculty to turn out at the polls during the early voting period. The hard work and dedication made towards voter engagement helped the university increase its voter turnout rate for the 2020 election. According to the Advocacy Alliance Center of Texas (AACT), UTRGV had a 15% higher voter turnout rate than the RGV community, and the turnout for student voters was at 71.7%.

Scholarships

Getting a scholarship can be a deciding factor for students interested in enrolling at UTRGV. The scholarship team tackles their daily duties knowing their work impacts enrollment. The team works closely with Admissions and Recruitment and connects prospective students at high schools and community colleges to scholarship opportunities. This team provides presentations and helps students meet admission and scholarship deadlines. Getting scholarship awards out early allows students to make informed decisions, especially those on the fence about attending UTRGV.

Helping scholarship recipients persist while at UTRGV is an integral part of the Scholarships and Enrollment Communication Office's work. Whether working with entering freshman, continuing students, or student-athletes, the scholarship team meets with campus clubs and departments to review internal and outside scholarship applications, deadlines, and the requirements to keep receiving the award. To help with retention efforts, scholarship funds are almost always processed the day they are received by the donor, alleviating any student concern about getting dropped due to a balance owed.

During these unprecedented times, the Scholarships and Enrollment Communication team didn't skip a beat. Brenda G., Brenda C., Beatris, Ashley, Antonio, and Javier worked remotely, while Alicia remained on campus working at the mailroom. Ever mindful of the student experience and retention goals, this team strives to expedite scholarship requests and process scholarships. As of today, utilizing all funding sources including outside scholarships, scholarships have paid for 10,235 students to attend UTRGV, and has awarded \$24,422,186.90 in scholarship offers.

Did you Know

The UTRGV Chess team was the only undefeated team at the 2020/21 Pan-American Intercollegiate Championship held January 4-6, qualifying the team to compete in the President's Cup (informally known as the Final Four of US College Chess).



Distinguished Speaker Series

The 17th season of the **Distinguished Speaker Series** kicked off with two great speakers for the fall semester. The season opened with actor and producer John Leguizamo and followed with CNN News Anchor Anderson Cooper. Both events attracted nearly 1,700 UTRGV students, faculty, and staff to the virtual events.

Student Activities is excited to continue the series during the spring semester with actor and activist [Terry Crews on Monday, February 8.](#)