

UTRGV Transforming Our World Strategic Plan

Action Planning Template for Institutional Goals

Section 1

1.1 Initiative Title:

Enhancing the Quality of the International Student Experience

1.2 Short Description & Justification:

Over one million international students are currently studying in the United States, and they bring cultural, political, and historical perspectives that help build vibrant, diverse campus communities.

The mission of the International Admissions and Student Services office is to build a campus community where international students are fully integrated into the learning process and social environment within the UTRGV community. Offering cultural events to our international and domestic students experience greater campus diversity and have a meaningful cross-cultural experience.

Research shows that when students are exposed to individuals from other groups or those who are different from themselves, this can lead to cognitive growth and an increase in cultural competence.

1.3 Initiative Lead and contact information:

Samantha Lopez, Director, International Admissions & Student Services

Samantha.lopez@utrgv.edu; 956-882-7690

Section 2.

2.1 Identify core priority(ies) or other area(s) of focus (CPOAF):

Globalization

2.2 Identify principal CPOAF subgoals and objectives:

Sub-goal 2: Support faculty and students engaged in outreach, initiatives, and research based on international issues and themes

Objective 2.2: Increase the visibility of work being done on international themes, through events and campus initiatives.

2.3 Identify related CPOAF subgoals and objectives:

Community Engagement:

Sub-goal 3: Leverage community engagement and outreach resources/assets across the institution

Objective 3.3: Expand outreach to increase UTRGV's visibility across the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Student Success:

Sub-goal 2: Expand high impact practices and on campus involvement to promote student academic achievement.

Expanding Educational Opportunity:

Sub-goal 2: Increase access to educational programs through the development and implementation of innovative pedagogies, technologies and open educational resources that address distance, language, culture, socioeconomic and scheduling barriers.

Objective 2.1: Increase the number of programs and courses using traditional and non-traditional course delivery methods, including online courses, hybrid, ITV, community-based learning, etc.

Becoming a B3 Institution:

Sub-goal 1: Coursework Development

Objective 1.1: Support development of coursework/programs that incorporate bilingual, bicultural and biliterate initiatives.

Sustainability:

Sub-goal 2: Education for sustainable development.

Objective 2.2: Integration of sustainability in educational programs

Section 3

3.1 Key Metrics:

Metric	Metric Leader(s) (Contact Info)	Baseline 2017–2018	Benchmark 1 2018–2019	Benchmark 2 2019–2020	Final Target 2021–2022
1. Number of students served at both campuses, Brownsville and Edinburg	Samantha Lopez, Director/Nora Cruz Dole, Assoc. Director	4,205	6,514	7,000	7,500
2. Number of event attendees at both campuses, Brownsville and Edinburg	Samantha Lopez, Director/Nora Cruz Dole, Assoc. Director	3,034	3,701	4,000	4,500
3. Increase the number of events per year	Samantha Lopez, Director/Nora Cruz Dole, Assoc. Director	58	75	85	90
4. Increase event satisfaction rates	Samantha Lopez, Director/Nora Cruz Dole, Assoc. Director	80%	77%	80%	85%

3.2 Stories of transformation

2019 [UTRGV hosts International Women’s Day celebration on Brownsville Campus](#)

2018 [UTRGV IASS celebrates International Women’s Day with luncheon in Brownsville](#)

[UTRGV Office of Global Engagement to participate in International Education Week](#)

[UTRGV Showcasing International Education Week](#)

[UTRGV marks 'Year of the Dog' with Lunar New Year Celebration](#)

[International Meet & Greet](#)

[International Students Testimonials](#)

Profiles of Excellence: (showing international students)

[Aldo Vazquez Alvarado](#)

[Francisco Menchaca](#)

[Yannick Rajesh Kambrath](#)

[Joshua Ruiz](#)

[Vladimir Belous](#)

[Samanta Alvarado Nieto](#)

Section 4

4.1 Activities

Activity	Activity Status (proposed, in-progress, implemented)	Timeline for Implementation	Lead responsible (include contact info)
Collaboration of IASS and Navigate from Academic Advisement – This collaboration will help IASS to review the students record with notes from crucial departments serving students.	In Progress	08/26/2019	Nora Cruz, nora.cruzdole@utrgv.edu
Implementation of Campus Nexus for International Student communications – This will allow us to create an intentional and more strategic communication system with our international student population.	Proposed	01/01/2020	Nora Cruz, nora.cruzdole@utrgv.edu
Collaborate with other departments for Coffee and Donuts – Showcase our events	In Progress	08/26/2019	Nora Cruz, nora.cruzdole@utrgv.edu

with other essential departments to better expose our students to campus services and resources.			
Collaboration with the President's Office and Marketing and Communications for enhancement of international events - This will help us to work on the mission of UTRGV with the support and advocacy of our President.	In Progress	08/26/2019	Samantha Lopez, Samantha.lopez@utrgv.edu; Nora Cruz, nora.cruzdole@utrgv.edu
Collaboration with Athletics Department to host a game - This event will help us to showcase our staff and services we provide at UTRGV.	Proposed	08/26/2019	Nora Cruz, nora.cruzdole@utrgv.edu

Section 5

5.1 Key institutional actors

Unit/department	Justification	Key contact or position
International Admissions & Student Services	This unit leads all international student cultural initiatives at UTRGV.	Samantha Lopez, Director, Samantha.lopez@utrgv.edu

5.2 Other supportive institutional actors

Unit/department	Justification	Key contact or position
University Marketing and Communication	UMC will be assisting our department with marketing campus wide.	Karen Dorado (karen.dorado@utrgv.edu)
Athletics Department	IASS will be collaborating with Athletics to host a soccer or basketball game for international students to participate	Julia Perez julia.perez01@utrgv.edu

Section 6

6.1 Fiscal impacts: Estimated costs and/or investments required for initiative implementation (net increase from current activity) and estimated net revenue gain or loss.

All costs associated with these initiatives are part of the budgeted operating expenses of UTRGV. No additional funds are required to implement them.

6.2 Projected Outcomes

6.2a Short-term (by September 2018)

Increases in the number of students involved in international student events (both domestic and international); increase cultural competence and global awareness among our students, staff, faculty,

and all campus community. Increased student outcomes among participants on key metrics: retention, time to graduation, and employability.

6.2b Mid-range (by September 2020)

Assess the outcomes and satisfaction of our events offered by surveying our student population to either increase our number of events or modify the agenda to better serve their needs. The assessments will inform and guide future decisions concerning which outreach events to host and improve the contents of these events. The result will be more impactful and better authored international outreach.

6.2c Five-year impact (by September 2022)

International outreach will help our students become global citizens through intentional and strategic international student programming. This greater awareness of other cultures will increase cultural competency and global awareness among our students. A more internationally aware student body will be more able to succeed in a global workplace. The outreach will be directly tied to the UTRGV mission to transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world, thereby promoting the strategic mission of UTRGV.