

# **UTRGV Transforming Our World Strategic Plan**

## **Action Planning Template for Institutional Goals**

### **Section 1**

#### **1.1 Initiative Title:**

Strengthen and expand ties with partner institutions for collaborative research

#### **1.2 Short Description & Justification:**

This initiative will serve two main purposes. It will both internationalize the institution and increase the research output of the institution which is a key toward becoming an R1 institution.

Increased collaborations that result in research output will benefit the university in a number of ways, including more opportunities for research collaborations, student exchanges, and international recruitment. As UTRGV researchers will have expanded opportunities to carry out research with foreign partners the overall research output of the institution should increase. A formal agreement allows the faculty to directly use the resources of the partner universities.

#### **1.3 Initiative Lead and contact information:**

Alan Earhart, Director of International Partnerships and Programs (IPP)

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UTRGV Office of Global Engagement

### **Section 2**

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

- Research impacting the RGV and beyond
- Globalization

#### **2.2 Identify principal CPOAF subgoals and objectives:**

- Research impacting the RGV and beyond
  - Build a research enterprise, including shared equipment infrastructure, Research services graduate programs an undergraduate research opportunities that empower the generation of knowledge discoveries and creativity.
- Globalization
  - Support faculty and student research focused on international issues and themes

## 2.3 Identify related CPOAF subgoals and objectives:

### Section 3

#### 3.1 Key Metrics:

Metric	Metric Leader(s) (Contact Info)	Baseline 2017–2018	Actual Data 2018–2019	Benchmark 2 2019–2020	Final Target 2021–2022
# visiting scholars from partner institutions	Director Alan Earhart	51 total scholars	62 total scholars	70 total scholars	80 total scholars
# outbound faculty exchange participants	Director Alan Earhart	0, (No available data)	0, (No available data)	2	4
# partner institutions	Director Alan Earhart	?	35	38	42

#### 3.2 Stories of transformation

There are many initiatives for international research collaborations that are occurring between our faculty and faculty from partner institutions around the world. For example, there are ongoing collaborations between UTRGV faculty and our partner institutions in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Last AY, OGE enhanced research at UTRGV by supporting faculty travel to 24 international conferences in 12 countries; assisting UTRGV affiliated faculty publish 9 articles; and having 2 faculty members join research projects overseas.

Each fall semester, UTRGV students travel and study for the term at Soonchunhyang University in South Korea. They study global politics, economics, as well as learning about and experiencing Korean society and culture. Though the program is only one semester in length, the experience is so intense and rewarding that more than one-half of UTRGV students elect to extend their stay to one year. They return to study in the Asian Studies Minor and take more Korean language courses.

### Section 4

#### 4.1 Activities

Activity	Activity Status (proposed, in-progress, implemented)	Timeline for Implementation	Lead responsible (include contact info)
Trip to Colombia with senior leadership to meet with other universities and negotiate new exchange programs, boost recruitment, and establish joint research projects. Agreements will be a key indicator of this progress.	Proposed	Fall 2019	Alan Earhart

Ongoing support of academic and research units in creation of new agreements of cooperation. Support will be in the form of new workshops to educate faculty, more explicit and detailed webpages to convey key elements to faculty.	In-progress	Continuous	Alan Earhart
First time delegation from Ghana was hosted and negotiations were conducted. There will be a follow up visit in October by the Vice Chancellor of all universities in Ghana. We will negotiate new programs in faculty and student exchanges, create new agreements of cooperation, boost enrollments by Ghanaian students (both undergrad and grad), and create new tailored education programs.	In-progress	August 2019	Dennis Hart

**Section 5.**

**5.1 Key institutional actors**

Unit/department	Justification	Key contact or position
International Programs and Partnerships	Scope of responsibility	Alan Earhart

**5.2 Other supportive institutional actors**

Unit/department	Justification	Key contact or position
All Colleges and Research Groups		Various

**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 activities are part of the routine operating expenses of UTRGV

**6.2 Projected Outcomes**

**6.2a Short-term (by September 2018)**

The number and quality of international collaborations has continued to increase over the first four years of UTRGV.

### **6.2b Mid-range (by September 2020)**

At the expiration of each partnership agreement, OGE will communicate with the faculty and department sponsor to review and assess the activities that resulted from the partnerships. The ongoing international collaborations will continue to enhance research opportunities for UTRGV faculty. Both new and ongoing collaborations will contribute to this enhancement on an ongoing basis.

### **6.2c Five-year impact (by September 2022)**

[See my comments above regarding mid-range impact. The point is to get a sense of the effect that this initiative will have on UTRGV. How much of an increase in overall research output can we expect by the end of the 5-year period? What else might have changed? The metrics should give us a sense of how this will be from a strictly quantitative perspective; this might be a bit more qualitative.] International partnerships will continue to provide support and opportunities for UTRGV students and faculty to do research, study, and learn internationally. OGE will continue to find more opportunities while simultaneously nurturing those that already exist. The end result will be an enhanced portfolio of international opportunities for UTRGV stakeholders.