

ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

STUDENT SUCCESS Highlights





The Division of Student Success is staff, faculty, and students working together to ensure that our current and future UTRGV students achieve their potential. We work closely every day with faculty, staff, students, families, educational providers, and community members who share the same goals.

Over the last year, the staff, faculty, and students in Student Success have had a significant impact on our students' experience at UTRGV. This report includes a brief summary of some of those activities.

Organized by our three significant areas in Student Success – Student Life, Student Academic Success, and Student Educational Outreach – we invite you to celebrate these accomplishments with us. Below are a few highlights to get you started!

Lustin



Kristin Croyle, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Success

- Student Educational Outreach extended the reach of UTRGV into 184 SChools across the Rio Grande Valley through district, state and federally funded programs.
- Pass rates increased from 7-18% in challenging STEM core curriculum courses over the last year in sections in which faculty worked closely with the Learning Center to institute Peer Led Team Learning.
- The Office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning coordinated almost 41,000 Service learning hours from students serving and learning in the community. Through partnerships between excellent faculty, community organizations, the Office of Community and Government Relations, and the Center for Teaching Excellence, the estimated value to our community partners of this service is over \$1 million dollars and the value to our students in learning is priceless.
- 16,000 students were involved in one of our over 300 student organizations, supported in their leadership development and connection to the institution by our Student Involvement team.
- Our UTRGV Chess Team drew an international spotlight to UTRGV when they won the 2018 President's Cup, the national chess championship, and again when UTRGV was honored as the Chess College of the Year by the U.S. Chess Federation.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Student Academic Success (SAS) is comprised of six major units—Engaged Scholarship & Learning, the Learning Center, the Writing Center, the Career Center, the Academic Advising Center, and the University College. Together, we collaborate with faculty and staff from across the institution, as well as with community partners, to provide students with the support they need to pursue their academic and professional goals. Our job is to build on the assets that students bring with them to the institution and to ensure that every single student feels a sense of belonging and purpose at UTRGV. To that end, our services are all designed to support students in the development of the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind they will need to pursue the lives they want with confidence in an ever-changing world.

MISSION

Student Academic Success provides students with the tools and support needed to flourish academically and in their future professional pursuits. We strive, especially, to help students transition into the institution, to understand how to use the tools available to them to make decisions about academic and career planning, and to engage in the kinds of experiences we know will help them stand out when they pursue their dreams after college.

WORKFORCE





STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS UNITS



ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP & LEARNING

The mission of Engaged Scholarship & Learning is to develop, promote, and facilitate experiential learning and community engagement initiatives that advance students' academic success. Activities include, but are not limited to, such high impact practices as undergraduate research, service learning, and academic internships. These opportunities enrich students' academic experiences and help students make connections between what they are learning and future careers and advanced study.

LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center's focus is to provide support for students to succeed academically in their coursework. Using research-based best practices for learning, the Learning Center trains over 250 peer leaders to provide one on one and small group tutoring and a variety of peer-led learning initiatives connected directly to high need core curriculum courses with historically low pass rates. Examples of these initiatives include supplemental instruction, embedded tutoring in developmental classes, and peer-led team-based learning in our introductory chemistry and college algebra courses.





WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center offers one on one and small group writing consultations for undergraduate and graduate students in all disciplines. Sessions focus on purpose, audience, and genre requirements, as well as invention, organization, source citation, and ultimately revision. Writing consultants strive to help students not only improve the project they're working on, but also develop more holistically as writers, with the hope that students will come to value and gain more confidence in the process of getting feedback and revising based on readers' needs.

CAREER CENTER

The Career Center provides support and professional development for undergraduate and graduate students and alumni in formulating and implementing career plans. The Career Center works closely with academic colleges to sequence career education over the entirety of the students' academic journey, helping them make connections between what they're studying and their eventual career plans. Utilizing a range of online tools and face to face programming, staff help students explore career options, seek on- and off-campus employment, and get feedback on resumes and prepare for interviews. They also cultivate relationships with employers.





ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

The Academic Advising Center guides students as they learn how to use the advising tools and resources available to them to make informed decisions about their academic development. In partnership with academic colleges and departments, Advisors help students make smart choices about which classes to take each semester. They also help students discover their interests, identify their skills and talents, and identify the kinds of experiential learning opportunities that will broaden and deepen their academic experience. Advisors also proactively identify and reach out to students in need of additional assistance.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The mission of the University College is to support students in their transition to the university. UC faculty and staff collaborate with others across the institution to provide a range of first year experience programming designed to nurture students' confidence and sense of academic belonging at the institution. Examples of this programming include our first year experience course, UNIV 1301; our Jumpstart Summer Bridge program for students who are not yet college ready; and multiple podcast series and Facebook Live sessions which address topics of special interest to new students. University College is also the academic home for undecided students, so we partner with Academic Advising on special advising and programming to help these students explore their options and make a decision about their educational pathways.



STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2017-SPRING 2018

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Students' graduation issues resolved since late Fall 2017 launch

of UTRGV majors have new BLUEPRINTS - 4 year experiential road maps

VCOBE students have joined the UTRGV Promise program for Fall 2018

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP & LEARNING



Service Learning hours

Equivalent dollar vo of service hours to Equivalent dollar value community partners

Increase in attendees at our Engaged Scholar Institutes, which help prepare students to complete and present undergraduate research

THE LEARNING CENTER PEER LED TEAM LEARNING (PLTL)



Increase in Chemistry I pass rate from Spring 2018 to Spring 2018 with introduction of PLTL

Increase in Chemistry II pass rate from Spring 2017 to Spring 2018 with introduction of PLTL

+ 18% Increase in College Algebra pass rate from Spring 2018 with introduction of PLTL

THE WRITING CENTER



ONLINE Writing Center tutoring sessions

Writing Center contacts

Increase in contacts from Spring 2017 to Spring

UTRGV CAREER CENTER



Students employed on campus Fall 2017 through Spring 2018

Students employed in on-campus internships through the Student Employment Initiative

crease in internship postings

Increase in reported internships with 23% in-

Employers attending career expos

Students attending a career expo, a 13% increase over last vear

ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER



2.86/2.3

96%/88%

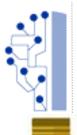
Advising sessions scheduled Undergraduate students met with an

advisor at least once Advised students had higher GPAs in comparison to students not advised

Advised students earned more hours in comparison to students not advised

Advised students had higher fall to spring retention than students not advised

JUMPSTART SUMER BRIDGE PROGRAM



Students (duplicated) participated in Jumpstart (Summer 2017) for Math and Reading/Writing

Pass rate for developmental Reading/Writing in **Jumpstart**

Pass rate for developmental Pre-Math for Liberal Arts in Jumpstart

Students (duplicated) became college ready in Math and/or Reading/Writing through summer Jumpstart and corequisite remediation efforts in Fall and Spring

UNIV 1301: LEARNING FRAMEWORKS



Higher retention rate for students required to take UNIV 1301 who enrolled in the course versus similar students who did not enroll in

Of first year students took UNIV 1301 (2200 students

Students who were identified as needing UNIV 1301 and took it had .6 higher GPA than similar students who did not enroll in UNIV (2.5 vs. 1.9)

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES

BLUEPRINTS

This year, SAS staff worked closely with faculty in the colleges to provide first year students in all majors with four-year experiential roadmaps, called Blueprints, which integrate academic and co-curricular guidance. With these Blueprints, students see at a glance what courses are critical to timely progression to their degree, what kinds of career development activities faculty believe they should engage in each year, advice about which student organizations are a great fit for their major, and more!

GUIDE MOBILE APP FOR STUDENTS

Guide, UTRGV's first mobile application for students, was launched in the 2017 orientation season. The app provides students with personalized guidance, alerts, and timely tips to help them keep on the path towards timely graduation. Content is organized around topic areas like financial aid and the first year experience, and students are able to check off their progress on key tasks, such as registering for classes or submitting FAFSA information on time. This way, students can see when they've accomplished something on their to-do list without having to call an office or stand in a long line for confirmation. Focus groups with students who've used the app have been extremely positive, and next year's efforts will be centered on marketing the app more widely to our entire undergraduate student population.

UTRGV PROMISE

Student Academic Success is co-leading our newest initiative, the UTRGV Promise, which signifies the institution's promise to help students graduate in four years. Students commit to things like completing 30 degree-applicable hours each year, maintaining a certain GPA, and registering in a timely manner, and we promise to ensure they will get the courses they need to stay on track, have access to special advising and career development opportunities, as well as build strong connections with faculty and have the kinds of high impact educational experiences we know will enrich their academic experience. This year, we have launched the Promise in the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship and are looking forward to adding more colleges soon.

GRADUATION HELP DESK

Funded by a UT System grant, the Graduation Help Desk (GHD) helps students who are facing graduation barriers to find solutions to overcome them. Staff who work the desk are highly trained in UTRGV curricula and academic policies and use a case management approach to helping students work through these issues so they are able to graduate in a timely manner. This work is enabling us to identify common stumbling blocks for our students and share that information with key stakeholders to make any changes to policy, curricula, etc. that will keep future students from facing similar challenges.

ACADEMIC ADVISING'S REORGANIZATION AROUND COLLEGE CLUSTERS

In response to faculty, student, and advisor feedback, the Academic Advising Center reorganized advisors this year around college clusters, enabling advisors to make meaningful connections with faculty in the colleges and develop more specialized knowledge of what students in those majors need to know to be successful.

TAKING OUR WORK TO THE NEXT LEVEL

DEVELOPING CAREER INFLUENCERS NETWORK

Next year, we will focus our efforts on developing a Career Influencers Network, consisting of faculty, Career Center and other key staff, as well as community members. This network will be charged with helping us create a vision for career education and professional development that draws on everyone at the institution as essential partners in this work.

ENGAGING MORE STUDENTS IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

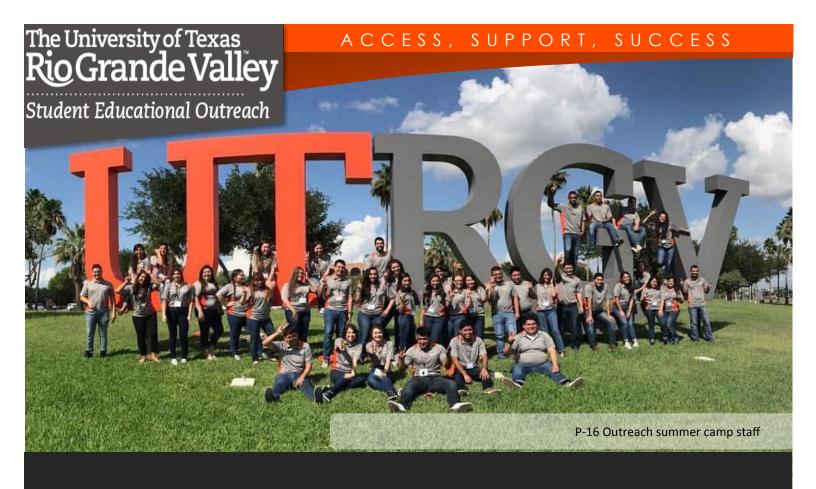
Engaged Scholarship & Learning and the Learning Center are campus leaders in designing programming and offering opportunities that engage students in bringing what they're learning in the classroom to life. Plans are in the works to utilize the Learning Center's 3D/virtual reality software for summer camps and extend its use into our classrooms.

INTEGRATING GUIDE & BLUEPRINTS

In the next iteration of these projects, we will be working to integrate the information on the Blueprints into our Guide app, with the intention of making it easier for students to visualize what they need to do and track their progress. Blueprints will also be made available online so students, faculty, and staff have easy access 24/7.

HELPING UNDECIDED STUDENTS FIND THEIR PURPOSE

Hundreds of students enter UTRGV each year uncertain about their major and the direction of their professional lives. Next year, we will work on building out our programming for these students, ultimately culminating in a "Decision Day" celebration during which students will be welcomed into their new major and college by their faculty.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Student Educational Outreach works to cultivate the next generation of university students by creating a culture of college awareness and expectation through purposeful and sustainable programming. Ultimately, this area oversees initiatives that will connect students and families throughout the region with tools and resources that can aid in their journey towards higher education.

MISSION

The mission of Student Educational Outreach is to develop and provide meaningful program experiences that positively impact the college preparation, access, and degree completion of underrepresented students in the region.

WORKFORCE

The department's workforce is composed of the following number of employees:





PRIMARY GOALS

- **Goal 1:** Enhance the pipeline of students that are academically prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.
- Goal 2: Expand Early College High School outreach and dual enrollment opportunities.
- **Goal 3:** Engage middle and high school students in a university experience through conferences, workshops, and summer camps.
- Goal 4: Improve retention and college graduation rates of our SEO student cohorts.
- **Goal 5:** Cultivate relationships with K-12 partners, community based organizations, and higher education institutions in the region to create impactful and sustainable initiatives that increase access and success of ALL students.
- Goal 6: Increase external funding opportunities for student educational outreach initiatives.

UNIT AT A GLANCE

SEO provides programming to 184 school sites across the four county region, serving:

4 | Elementary | Schools

64 Middle Schools

79 High Schools

Key Programming

- Implementation of 20 U.S. Department of Education Grants serving over 7,500 K-16 students with annual federal funding of \$9,483,369.
- Testing services for prospective, enrolled, and graduate students with over 18,000 exams administered at the Edinburg and Brownsville Testing Centers.
- Support of Youth Programs involving minors at UTRGV; 57 summer camps with over 5,000 student participants are set for summer 2018, 4,389 students participated in summer 2017.
- Dual credit programming at no cost to highly prepared students in 27 school districts and 43 high schools; in addition, a new Harlingen Early High School will launch August 2018 with UTRGV support.
- P-16 Outreach programming such as: Mother/Daughter Program, Father/Son Program, THECB Collegiate Mentor Grant, migrant services such as Abriendo Caminos (a living/learning community for university students) and MUSE (a 7 week summer residential academic program for high school credit).
- The Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) at 118 school sites designed to prepare middle and high school students for success in STEM.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2017-SPRING 2018



18,348 hours

VOLUNTEER service hours submitted by High School Mentors.





75 events

EVENTS at school and community venues in support of college and career readiness



22,500 Mentored

Students **MENTORED** by UTRGV Collegiate Mentors.



STUDY HOURS submitted by Abriendo Caminos scholars.



3.18 **GPA**

Average GPA for collegiate students in P-16 Outreach Cohorts



We received a new
GEAR UP grant in 2017
to work with 4,000
students in 13 middle
schools in 3 school districts.

- 4,050 students received counseling and advising
- 1,140 students received tutoring in content areas
- 355 students attended educational fieldtrips
- 225 students attended summer camps at UTRGV

K-12 SUMMER CAMPS

2018 Top 5 Largest Camps

- 1. Railway Safety
- 2. P-16 Outreach
- 3. TexPREP
- 4. Cheer
- 5. UREC

Year	# Camps Offered	Attendance
2016	46	4,477
2017	55	4,389
2018	57	5,000 +

TRIO

UPWARD BOUND MATH/SCIENCE

- 100% of program participants applied to at least 3 post secondary institutions & 100% were accepted
- 100% of students maintained a GPA of 3.5+
- 94% of students achieved proficient level on state assessments in reading/language arts and math
- 100% of seniors completed the FAFSA

Student Support Services/ASPIRE

ASPIRE provides tutoring, peer mentoring, and resources to 275 eligible undergraduate students in Brownsville annually.

- 167 students received academic tutoring
- 90% of students are retained in program fall to fall
- 90% of students earned a GPA of 3.0+
- 275 students received peer mentoring



NEW INITIATIVES

ENHANCING SERVICES FOR VETRANS

The Veterans' Upward Bound Program (VUB) in Brownsville will move from the Student Union to the Military and Veteran Success Center located in Cortez Hall. VUB is a federal grant intended to assist 125 eligible veterans in Cameron County prepare to enter higher education annually. Currently, 53% of veterans that receive support services from VUB enroll at UTRGV. This strategic move will allow veterans in the community to connect with UTRGV services and aid in their transition to enroll at UTRGV or another post secondary institution.



SUPPORT FOR K-12 YOUTH PROGRAMS

The UTRGV summer camps website received 17,204 unique views in the six months leading up to the start of June camps. Our strategic plan calls for an increase in educational opportunities for youth on our campus and Student Educational Outreach would like to support faculty and staff as they plan programming for this eager population of students. We have added a Youth Programs Support Manager to assist with developing a policy for minors on campus and we have already provided training on best practices and current safety protocols for camp directors. We are also developing a new series of trainings for student employees that have an interest in working with minors to prepare them for the challenge!



HARLINGEN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

UTRGV will be the primary higher education partner for HECHS serving approximately 170 juniors and seniors beginning in August 2018. Classes will take place at the University Center in Harlingen with a focus on core completion and Education & Engineering Pathways.



MOVING FORWARD

GRANT FUNDING

The unit currently manages \$9.5 million in federal grants annually that promote access and success. We will continue to seek out grant funding opportunities and write competitive proposals to increase funding for the university and the region.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We are working to enhance our efforts to connect faculty and staff to K-12 partners. Through our youth programs support model and P-16 Outreach department best practices, we can facilitate partnership development with local ISDs.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Student Life and Dean of Students creates campus partnerships to ensure that individual and collective student issues are addressed. Our programs enrich the student experience by providing opportunities for involvement in leadership; service; organizational involvement; campus and community engagement, and support services designed to aid student persistence and success.

MISSION

As partners in the education process, Student Life collaborates across the University to implement dynamic and student-centered programs and services to maximize student success. We foster an inclusive campus community committed to instill traditions and provide a sense of belonging.



STUDENT LIFE

CORF VALUES

DIVERSITY

We value exposure to a diversity of cultures, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives different from our own.

INTEGRITY

We value integrity by displaying high moral and ethical standards through honesty, trust, respect, and demonstrating professionalism in our actions.

LEADERSHIP

We value leadership by embracing innovation and creativity, implementing new ideas and collaborating with our peers.

LEARNING

We value intellectual freedom and the lifelong pursuit of learning.

SERVICE

We value service to our community to help improve the quality of life for others.

WELLNESS

We value holistic wellness and personal growth through balance in our physical, social, mental, spiritual, and emotional needs.

PRIMARY GOALS

- Goal 1: Create an environment of excellence maintained through policies, practices, and ongoing professional development to assure continuous improvement that positively impact students and their experience with the university.
- Goal 2: Engage students in co-curricular opportunities to enhance their educational experience, inspire engaged citizens, and foster connection to the institution.
- Goal 3: Eliminate obstacles that may adversely affect academic achievement by enhancing student success through advocacy, support, and programs that aid in transition and integration in to the campus culture.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Rebecca K. Gadson
Associate VP & Dean of Students



- Leadership and Mentorina
- Student Activities
- Student Media
- Student Government Association



Douglas Stoves Associate Dean Student Rights & Responsibilities

- Behavior Intervention Team
- Student Conduct
- Chess



Associate Dean Student Support Services

- Student Food Pantry
- Student Accessibility Services
- Military and Veterans Success Center
- Counseling Center





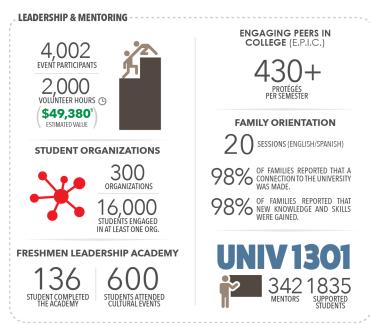
STUDENT LIFE

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2017-SPRING 2018



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The heart of student life and campus involvement at UTRGV. Student Involvement units provide opportunities for students to build life skills, engage with people with diverse perspectives, cultivate a competitive edge, connect to university resources, and stay informed about the latest news and information through Student Media.





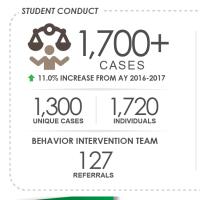


FOOTNOTES
1. 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics, indexed by Independent Sector April 2018.
2. Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) Conference.

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Informs students of their rights and responsibilities as UTRGV community members. Students, staff and faculty who have a concern regarding behaviors such as the Student Code of Conduct, academic integrity, grievances, fairness and equity or concerns about a student's well-being may file a Vaqueros Care Report at www.utrgv.edu/reportit.











STUDENT LIFE

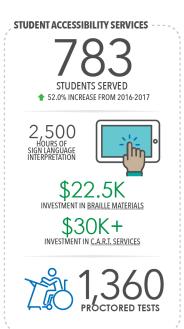
UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

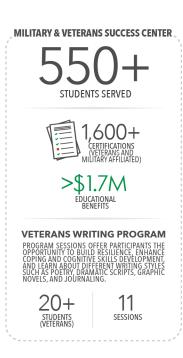


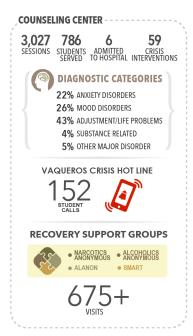
STUDENT SUPPORT

Provides students with a wide range of services that support personal wellness, including mental health counseling, nutritional well-being, resources for veterans, and services designed to remove barriers for students with disabilities.









FOOTNOTES
3. Computer Assisted Real Time Transcription (CART)

STUDENT LIFE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Completed comprehensive review of each Student Life unit's comprehensive plan, created a dashboard to track timelines for collection of data and analysis, completed the CampusLabs Student Affairs credential series, and launched the Staff Aptitude, Attitude, and Experience with Assessment instrument. Future plans: offer professional development series based on feedback.

NEW EMPLOYEE ONBOARDING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developed infrastructure and strategies for onboarding new employees, administrative support staff, and account reviewers. Future plans: provide professional development opportunities for student employees and increase opportunity and support for all levels of personnel to build professional competency.

UT SYSTEM FUNDED INITIATIVES

Received three years of mental health and wellness funding to support 24/7 crisis line; active bystander programming; collegiate recovery center; Therapist Assisted Online; web-based alcohol and sexual harassment and assault prevention for students, faculty, staff; prevention/intervention for high risk drinking; student wellness application; consent marketing campaign, and men's programming.

STUDENT FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FUND

Created to provide limited, last resort, financial assistance to currently enrolled students who are experiencing a serious financial hardship due to a sudden emergency, accident, or unforeseen event that requires additional emergency monetary assistance in order to support their ability to stay enrolled and focused on their academic career.

DREAM ZONE ADVOCATE TRAINING

Dream Zone Advocate training launched Spring 2018 to provide members of the campus community with information on how to provide a supportive and inclusive community for undocumented and DACAmented scholars at UTRGV. Over 50 faculty, staff, and students have completed the training.

CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Opening Fall 2018 to develop learning experiences, workshops, and information designed to foster and support the inclusion of diverse individuals and serve as an identifiable safe space for students to explore multi-dimensional aspects of identity and the intersection of diverse experiences and perspectives.

DREAM RESOURCE CENTER

Launching Fall 2018 to support undocuscholars seeking higher education and students from mixed-status families by supporting academic and personal goals. The Student Government Association's support was integral in developing the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and expanding support for students who are undocumented.

FACEBOOK AS A COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT TOOL

Utilize social media strategy consisting on funneling departmental posts to maximize exposure opportunities by the clustering followers interested in Student Life related topics in a single communication outlet. Achieved 8+% organic growth in followers and significant engagement from AY2016-2017 to AY2017-2018. Current Student Life Facebook followers 11,500+.

