

From: Office of the Vice President for Student Success [<mailto:studentsuccess@UTRGV.EDU>]

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To: EMPLOYEES@LISTSERV.UTRGV.EDU

Subject: Student Success Highlights -- Engagement Zone, Academic Dishonesty, and more



We are excited this month to launch the new [Engagement Zone](#) portal! We know our students are looking for meaningful ways to engage with our community. We know faculty and staff are looking for community organizations for service learning opportunities for students and for partnerships. Through *Engagement Zone*, volunteer needs and events are posted in real-time by community partners. Over 100 partner organizations are already listed and interested students and faculty can find requests for volunteers by interest, date, region, and organization. I encourage you to take a look! Thank you to Engaged Scholarship and Learning, Student Involvement, Community and Governmental Relations, and the staff of the Developing Hispanic Institutions grant for your incredible work on this portal!

Thank you for all that you do to support our UTRGV students!

Kristin Croyle

Vice President for Student Success

Highlights

- **Engaged Scholar Symposium**

We had a fantastic experience at our first UTRGV Engaged Scholars Symposium last week! Students and faculty participated in Brownsville and Edinburg, with oral and poster presentations representing the contributions of 390 authors, scholars, and artists, primarily undergraduate students. Two community partners also received awards as Distinguished Community Engagement Partners for their excellence in working hand in hand with university students, staff, and faculty to advance educational and community goals: Luzelma Canales from RGV FOCUS, and Eddie Olivarez, Chief Administrative Officer, Hidalgo County Health and Human Services. Thank you to the large number of faculty and staff who worked to make this a great experience for our students, and particularly the office of Engaged Scholarship and Learning!

- **LeaderShape Institute**

We are excited to be hosting a LeaderShape Institute in May for students with leadership potential. 60 undergraduate and graduate students will be attending an intensive and energizing six day institute with faculty

and staff focused on developing skills in leading with integrity to create a just, caring, thriving world. Thank you to our Student Involvement area for sponsoring this experience. Questions? Contact leadership@utrgv.edu or call 882-6776 or 665-2660.

- **New Student Orientations**

New student orientations for first-year students starting Fall 2016 have already started! Our entering students who are coming to us with significant college hours earned in high school or have been awarded scholarships are attending orientation this month, with 183 students attending in Edinburg last Saturday and 299 students expected in Brownsville this Saturday.

- **Writing Center**

The Writing Centers in Edinburg and Brownsville have had a busy year. With 16 student tutors, they have held over 7,000 tutoring sessions! They offer individual, group, and Skype tutoring and students also are welcome to work on writing in the Centers and receive assistance as needed as they write. This is their busiest time of year, so students are encouraged to come early and definitely in advance of when their papers are due! Questions? Contact wc@utrgv.edu, or 665-2538 or 882-7065.

- **Summer Camps**

The Office of Student Educational Outreach is coordinating an effort to share best practices and safety standards for summer programs that bring minors on campus. The Rio Grande Valley is home to approximately 354,000 K-12 students that are eager for summer enrichment and UTRGV is the ideal place to provide a positive learning environment for the region. Faculty and staff that are interested in hosting summer camps are encouraged to visit the [new summer camps website](#) that includes the UTRGV Summer Camps Planning Guide and other resources. Camps that will be offered must be officially registered on the website; once the registration is complete, the camp will appear on the list of available camps for public view. Many summer camps have already been registered!

Calendar Items

A more detailed academic calendar is available [online](#) extending through Summer 2017.

May 2	Dessert and Dialogue interactive strategic planning session, 2:00-4:00, Ballroom, Edinburg
May 4	Dessert and Dialogue interactive strategic planning session, 1:00-3:00, El Gran Salon, Brownsville
May 5	Study Day (no scheduled classes)
May 5	Resilience Showcase (new date)
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 13-14	Commencement (13 th in Brownsville, 14 th in McAllen) – over 3000 students graduating!!!
May 16	Spring Semester Grades Due by 3:00 p.m.
June 6	Summer I Semester Begins

Questions Raised this Week

- **I have a student in my class that I think has plagiarized his work. What should I do?**

In this situation, you have two options. **Option 1:** You may call the student into a meeting to present facts supporting your suspicion. The student may at that time respond and if the student is unable to provide an acceptable explanation, you may advise the student of the penalty that you intend to impose. Complete the

Disposition portion of the [Faculty Referral/Disposition Form](#) and submit it to Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR). Having that record on file at SRR is important in case there are future incidents of academic dishonesty with the same student. If you are unsure what sanction might be appropriate, you are welcome to consider our [sanctioning guidelines](#). **Option 2:** You may refer a case of suspected scholastic dishonesty to SRR for investigation and processing. SRR will see the case through to a final disposition. Just complete the Faculty Referral portion of the [Faculty Referral/Disposition Form](#). You may include a proposed sanction.

- **I know that graduates need tickets for family members to attend commencement in McAllen. If a student wants extra tickets, how can they request them? And do they need to pay for them?**

Students needing additional tickets may request them by completing the online request at enrollment.utrgv.edu/graduation no later than May 8th. Additional tickets will be granted based on availability and divided between students who submitted a request by the May 8th deadline. An email and/or text message will be sent on Monday, May 9th with instructions on how to pick up any additional tickets. Graduation tickets are free! We require tickets simply to ensure that we don't exceed capacity so that all guests attending will be able to enter and have a seat. Students who are participating in graduation have been informed of this request process via email. Guests at the Brownsville commencement ceremony do not need tickets.

- **Are a lot of students traveling between the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses?**

We know we have a number of students traveling across the Valley to take advantage of events, elective courses, clinical and community placements, and student involvement opportunities, but it's difficult to quantify exactly how many students are traveling for co-curricular reasons. However looking strictly at course enrollments, we know that approximately 4% of our students have face to face classes in both Brownsville and Edinburg this semester. We continue to work to expand course availability on both campuses so that, if students choose to travel for classes, they will be doing so to take advantage of special opportunities rather than feeling like they have to travel. Thank you to Parking and Transportation Services for providing frequent and direct [shuttle services](#) between the campuses, including Harlingen!