

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Vaquero Connection

Spring 2021 Edition

Connecting Students to Success

Special Message from Dara Newton

Associate VP Strategic
Enrollment

The spring semester for all of us has been packed with challenges and surprises, from TSIA2 going live on January 11th to the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to the winter storm that knocked out power, water, and internet the week of February 15th. I am proud to be a community member and employee of UTRGV because what I have been able to witness in the Rio Grande Valley and across the State is that our K-16 partners, our students, their families, and UTRGV are resilient. Collectively, our partnership changes the lives of our students and our community and we are not going to let anything effect our students' pursuit of higher education. And like last fall, I must reiterate how much I appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Our newsletter continues to be packed with opportunities for students and families to engage with UTRGV and prepare for the transition to college. I ask for your support in sharing the events and activities planned with your students, as well as, encouraging them to connect with their Outreach Rep to get the one-in-one attention they may need to be confident in the decisions they make. UTRGV is an excellent university to obtain their bachelor's degree and you can rest assured that we are creating "The Future of Texas"!

Zoom Picture: Our Matamoros Regional Outreach Reps, Ale and Priscila, working with Students in Mexico.

Social Media Post: You never know who might show up on our campus - Mr. Sanders thanks for popping by.

A Note from the Director

The Office of Undergraduate Recruitment at UTRGV is happy to welcome you to our Spring 2021 Edition of *Vaquero Connection*. The Recruitment Team hit the ground running this January working to help the senior class complete applications and FAFSAs. With your continued partnership we have been able to assist students and their families meet important deadline by offering both virtual or in person sessions.

The Spring Edition of Vaquero Connection is specifically focused on **Finishing Strong**. In this newsletter you will find updates from the Admissions, Financial Aid, and New Student Orientation offices. We have also created multiple opportunities for Admitted Students to connect with UTRGV before the *New Student Orientation Season* starts. And of course, we can't forget about your Juniors and their families – we have plenty planned to support their college search and selection process!

If you need additional assistance, please feel free to contact us directly at recruitment@utrgv.edu.

We're Here for You

The Recruitment Team is focused on supporting and helping the incoming freshman class be as prepared as possible for their first semester at UTRGV. We know your students have plenty of questions and in many cases, need to submit documents that optimize their New Student Orientation experience – appropriate and accurate advising is key to starting UTRGV on a path to success. Here is how **Admitted Students** can get connected:

- **Admitted Student Appointments:** Book a one-on-one appointment with your Outreach Representative to discuss any missing items and next steps for being prepared to start the Summer and/or Fall term(s) at UTRGV.
 - www.utrgv.edu/schedule-an-appointment
- **Vaquero Next Steps Sessions:** Evening information sessions for admitted students and families about next steps at UTRGV. These sessions include how students can prepare for New Student Orientation, living on campus (Housing) and how to pay for college (Financial Aid).
 - [Feb. 24](#), [March 22](#), [April 14](#), [May 18](#)
- **Explore UTRGV: Admitted Student Day:** Saturday virtual events designed to help admitted students and families connect with UTRGV. Sessions at the March 6 or April 24 events will be led by current students and include their perspective on living on campus, working on campus and being a student in one of our nine colleges and schools (these are sessions they don't want to miss!)
 - https://utrgv.swoogo.com/Admitted_Student_Event

Discover UTRGV: Junior Day

Now is the perfect time for Juniors to start narrowing down their college search. **Discover UTRGV: Junior Day** is geared towards helping Juniors learn more about UTRGV and the opportunities that await them at the institution. This event will cover everything from preparing your application to choosing a major. Watch out for more information later this spring on registration. We encourage motivated sophomores and freshmen to participate as well – an early start is a great start to planning for college.



VaqueroConnection

New Student Orientation

One of the most exciting times in our office and across campus is welcoming new students to UTRGV. The elevated Vaqueros Spirit can be felt starting in late spring and running all summer long. Orientation days are vibrant, electric, busy, and filled with a level of accomplishment - this year will be no different! Starting in March, admitted students will be able to make a reservation for their seat at one of the numerous New Student Orientation Sessions.

Here is a quick overview of important facts that you should know to support your students planning to attend New Student Orientation 2021 at UTRGV.

- Orientation will be completely online: students will **not** report to campus!
- Orientation will consist of two days back-to-back
 - Day One: Advising & Registration, live one-hour virtual appointment (assigned)
 - Day Two: Orientation Programming, required attendance at live and asynchronous sessions
- Students will be guided throughout the entire experience
- Students will connect with Orientation Leaders and other new students in a virtual small group
- Students will complete Orientation Modules on day two during an assigned asynchronous session
- Students will continue to have the opportunity to build affinity and a strong connection to UTRGV through Meet & Greet Sessions that take place throughout the summer after attendance and completion of all parts of Orientation
- Students will attend and participate in Vaquero RoundUp – the first four days prior to the start of classes in August!

Meet Your Recruiter



Samuel Aparicio

Hello all! My name is Sam Aparicio and I have the pleasure of serving as the Outreach Representative for students in the McAllen, Mission, Sharyland, Hidalgo, and La Joya school districts. I was born and raised in McAllen, Texas and earned my bachelor's degree at Texas State University. As an RGV native and first-generation university graduate, I take great joy in assisting students like myself in the pursuit of higher education. I understand the admissions process can be quite daunting and it is my goal to help students and families understand and complete the process with the peace of mind. Starting year two at UTRGV, allows me to continue to enhance my relationship with you and continue to support your students make the most of every opportunity.

Follow Us on Social Media!

Keep up to date with the Recruitment Office at UTRGV. Don't miss updates on events or important deadlines. You might even catch some of your students featured! We are @UTRGVAdmissions on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



Save the Date

This semester UTRGV Undergraduate Recruitment will host virtual events for students in all stages of the admission process. Students and their families are both welcome!

Spring Break Campus Tours

March 16-18 (Click on campus for link)

- [Edinburg](#)
- [Brownsville](#)

Explore UTRGV: Admitted Student Days

March 6 and April 24

- [Register Here](#)

Application and FAFSA Drives

- [Register Here](#)

Counselor Briefings

(click dates for links)

- [March 24, 25](#)
- [April 21, 22](#)
- [May 19, 20](#)

Daily Campus Tours Are Open

- Students can attend in person or virtually

www.utrgv.edu/campus-tours/

