U T R G V: A 21st Century University for the Community at Large

Connecting Communities to Regional Economic Development Panel

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Southwest Border Colonias: Housing and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century
UN Habitat III US Regional Conference
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Who are we?
UTRGV: A Distributed Campus

[Map showing locations in the U.S. and Mexico]
UTRGV Key Institutional Priorities

• Student success
• Educational opportunity
• Medical education
• Research on issues relevant to the Valley
## Who are our students?

### Our Colleges
- College of Health Affairs
- College of Science
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Engineering & Computer Science
- College of Business & Entrepreneurship
- College of Education & P-16 Integration
- Graduate College
- University College
- Honors College

### Demographics
- Undergraduate: 87%
- Graduate: 13%
- Females: 57%
- Fulltime: 65%
- Hispanic: 88.8%
- White Non-Hispanic: 3.7%
- Pell Grants: 78%
- Financial Aid: 79.3%

New School of Medicine – July 2016
Who are our students?

How do we ensure Student Success?
How do universities engage in economic development?
Vannevar Bush, Director Office of Scientific R & D, to Pres. Truman, July 1945. Led to the formation of the National Science Foundation in 1950. Explored how research can drive ED.

National Research Council, 2012. Emphasizes the importance of research universities to U.S. economic development in the era of minimal state support, challenging federal funding, and shift in industry R&D.
My Office: University-Driven Economic Development
What’s the context?
More college students battle hunger as education and living costs rise

Washington Post, 4/9/2014

Poverty increasing in public schools

Low-income students made up at least half the public school student population in 17 states in 2011, a marked increase from 2000, when four states topped 50 percent.

Washington Post, 10/16/2013


Report by Southern Education Foundation, Oct 2013

Not just a social justice issue but also an economic development issue!
Broadband and Job Opportunities
Over half the world’s population currently lives in urban areas, and in 2014 the United Nations released a report projecting that by 2050 that number will rise to 70 percent. With the trend of rapid urbanization in mind, many countries have started planning to strategically supporting the development of smart cities and communities: urban centers—enabled by ICT technology and reinforced by sustainability and livability goals—that maximize resource allocation and efficiency of services through intelligent, connected devices and automated systems. This meeting will explore the common characteristics of smart communities, the role of connectedness and sustainability in developing smart communities, and the partnerships between governments, universities, and industry that are integral to advancing smart community development. Throughout we will touch on challenges, opportunities, and policy implications associated with the roll-out of intelligent systems.
Adapting federal initiatives to the local level

Broadband Opportunity Council Report and Recommendations

Pursuant to the Presidential Memorandum on Expanding Broadband Deployment and Adoption by Addressing Regulatory Barriers and Encouraging Investment and Training

August 20, 2015

Co-Chairs:

Secretary Penny Pritzker, U.S. Department of Commerce
Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture
What would the Bi-National RGV Asset Map look like? Take a look at San Diego and the Imperial Valley.


Cali Baja Bi-National Mega-Region
Imperial Valley

What’s next?
Next steps

• UTRGV roles:
  • Convener
  • Facilitator
  • Integrator
  • Educator
• Identify and strengthen partnerships (public/private)
• Engage the communities
• Ask the right questions…
Our Students:
• Persistent
• Resilient
• Resourceful
• Creative