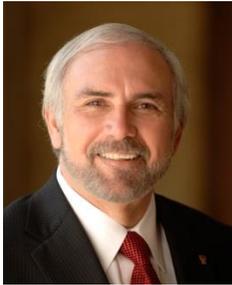




**2014 RGV LEAD REGIONAL CONFERENCE
November 3-4, 2014 - Session Descriptions**

Opening General Sessions



Dr. Guy Bailey, President, UTRGV (November 3, AM)

In 2013, The University of Texas System leadership created a new university in South Texas—The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. UTRGV is a single institution that spans the entire Rio Grande Valley, with a presence in each of the major metropolitan areas of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen and McAllen. UTRGV will also be home to a school of medicine. Dr. Guy Bailey, who has extensive experience in higher education leadership, serves as UTRGV’s President. Bailey, who has called UTRGV “the first new major university of the 21st century,” will provide a status report as UTRGV prepares to enroll its first students in fall 2015.



**Lizzy de la Garza Putegnat, Brownsville Economic Development Council
(November 4, AM)**

In August 2014, SpaceX announced that it would build a commercial space-transport launchpad in South Texas. The Brownsville Economic Development Council worked with SpaceX for several years, and Lizzy de la Garza Putegnat was part of Brownsville EDC’s team. Putegnat, who also works with RGV LEAD on the Brownsville Career Center Project, will share information about SpaceX and the important relationship between education and economic development.

Breakout Sessions Offered Both Days

Rio Grande Valley HB5 College Prep Courses: Placement, Curricula, and Assessments

This presentation will describe the placement criteria, curricula, and assessments used in the math and ELA college prep courses developed by Rio Grande Valley institutions of higher education in collaboration with local school districts. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be addressed.

Dr. Jonikka Charlton, Dr. Colin Charlton, Dr. Virgil Pierce

“Is College Worth It?”: A Public Awareness Campaign

In response to a growing media chorus questioning the value of higher education, and in light of decreasing college-going rates directly from high school, the College for All Texans Foundation and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board commissioned the development of a public relations toolkit for use by education and business organizations interested in advancing the level of academic achievement in the state. Did you know many students earning technical associate degrees have higher initial earnings than many of those earning baccalaureate degrees? This presentation will introduce the use of the print and online tools available to help future students have all the information needed—

including likely future earnings by degree level, major and institution attended—to plan for their education beyond high school.

Nina B. Wright, College for All Texans Foundation

Kelly Carper Polden, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Building Our Leaders in Dentistry—Recruitment and Development for Success

This session provides a description of the Building our Leaders in Dentistry (BOLD) and Learning Enhancements for Achievement in Dentistry (LEAD) programs, the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) components aimed to increase Hispanic dental professionals through recruitment and retention.

Through BOLD, recruitment efforts with South Texas high schools and universities are established to develop an educational pipeline for dental-related hands-on activities taking place in San Antonio, the Rio Grande Valley Region, and Laredo. The LEAD program is the cornerstone of the pipeline-building strategies, providing a 7-year pathway of experiences for academic success. LEAD 1-3 activities include mini courses, DAT preparation, admissions process, leadership development, and mentoring of college-level students to be competitive dental school applicants. LEAD 4-7 assists Hispanic dental students through participation in pre-matriculation, pre-clinical, and mentorship activities to enhance academic performance while attending dental school.

Juanita Lozano-Pineda, UTHSCSA Dental School

Effective Transition Counseling: Understanding the Impact on Federal Financial Aid

A tremendous amount of progress has been made in helping our students get a head start on college—resulting in high school students’ creating college transcripts in high school. The resulting systemic change is great enough that school districts, colleges, and universities need new-and-improved counseling and advisement (techniques, methods, ways) to help our students achieve their dreams. Participants in this session will learn more about federal financial aid policies related to students’ college coursework during high school that can affect their financial aid eligibility. Having a basic understanding of these policies is crucial to providing high-quality counseling and advisement for students who begin their college studies in high school.

Jael Garcia, UTPA

Rebecca Cano, Student Financial Services Coordinator, South Texas College

Effective Transition Counseling: Advising Students Who Create College Transcripts in High School

This session continues a dialogue begun during transition-counseling conferences in 2012 and 2013. Participants will provide an overview of the types of courses through which students can earn college credits in high school. Participants will also share strategies for advising students who create college transcripts in high school through dual and concurrent enrollment and how poor academic performance impacts their college academic standing. Finally, panelists will share strategies designed to help high school students establish graduation plans focused on students’ long-term college-and-career goals.

Norma Salazar, Alma Gomez Clarisa de la Fuente, TSTC Harlingen

Sofia Ramirez, South Texas College

Sonia del Angel, The University of Texas-Pan American

Gloria Ramirez, Career Counselor at Sharyland Pioneer High School

Belinda Ovalle, Financial Aid Officer at Edinburg North HS

Effective Transition Counseling: Utilizing the ApplyTexas Counselor Suite

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has created an online application for higher education that allows students to apply for admission to every public university in Texas, plus some private and two-year schools. Through ApplyTexas, students can complete and submit admission and scholarship

applications online. The ApplyTexas Counselor Suite is an information-rich, free resource for high school counselors, who can obtain many reports that are needed at the campus and district level. Reports from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board indicate that only 30 percent of Rio Grande Valley counselors are utilizing the ApplyTexas Counselor Suite, and the utilization rate for this free resource should be much higher. This session is designed for high school counselors, explaining how to utilize the ApplyTexas Counselor Suite and obtain reports about college applications and financial aid.

Participating counselors will also have the opportunity to apply for access.

Pilar Janis, Brownsville ISD

Minerva Ibarra, Region One ESC

Breakout Sessions Offered November 3, 2014 Only

Stackable Credentials: Pathway to Bachelor of Applied Technology and Bachelor of Applied Science at Community College

This session continues a dialogue begun during transition-counseling conferences in 2012 and 2013. High school students who enroll in dual-credit and concurrent-credit courses are creating college transcripts while still in high school. Some of these students plan to graduate with associate degrees and then move on into BAS (Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science) and BAT (Bachelor of Applied Technology) programs offered by Rio Grande Valley institutions of higher education. This session explains the nature of BAS and BAT programs and provides an overview of advisement students need for successful transition into BAS and/or BAT programs.

Laura Boyer Talbot, South Texas College

Dr. Ali Esmaelili, Dean of Math, Science and Bachelor Programs

Dr. Oscar Plaza, Program Chair for the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management

Allied Health Education – “Where Your Vision Comes to Life”

This presentation will explore La Feria ISD's Allied Health programs that help students get a head start on both college and careers. La Feria ISD currently offers an EMT program, as well as patient care technician, pharmacy technician, medical assistant, and EKG technician courses. Come learn how to develop your Allied Health program with certification programs. Give your students the tools they need to be successful right out of high school.

Josue Alvarado, NREMTLP/RN; HST Teacher-La Feria HS

Forensic Dentistry—Creating a Dental Cast

This interactive forensic dental cast activity will focus on hands-on activities to integrate into YOUR curriculum and to expose students to various health careers in the process. We will also present the various kits available for teachers to check out, as well as the presentations that can be conducted by the Med Ed Team at your classroom.

Esmeralda Lozano-Garcia & Lupita Hernandez-Villanueva, UTHSCSA Med Ed Program

Financial Education: It's Everybody's Business!

In this presentation, participants will learn about the resources used to teach students, parents, and teachers about financial education.

Bertha Garza and Noemi Salas, IBC Bank

Preparing 21st Century Students for a Global Society

By providing a variety of educational opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, San Perlita ISD strives to prepare students for college, careers, and citizenship.

Albert Pena, San Perlita ISD

How to Maximize Aid for Undocumented Students

Each year many undocumented students are not awarded enough aid to attend a university. Some are not aware of what forms to complete and what school accepts what forms. This presentation will inform you on how to help undocumented students complete the process along with requirements and paperwork they will need according to the Texas University they wish to attend. In addition, the presentation will help you become familiar with the Texas Application for State Aid.

Rebekah Sepulveda and Cristina de Leon, UTPA

Aligning Programs of Study with Foundation Graduation Program Requirements

The Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) has developed various tools to assist counselors, administrators, students, and parents in becoming familiar with the state's new graduation requirements. BISD offers all 5 Endorsements and various programs of study within each Endorsement.

Erika Sikes, Lead Career Placement Officer (CPO), Brownsville ISD

Petra Torres, Curriculum Alignment Specialist, Brownsville ISD

Teacher Externships and a Smorgasbord of Business Engagement Models

“A smorgasbord of different types of externships and a progression of experiences that a school could adopt to scaffold the experiences so that they get deeper as they implement. This is an opportunity for audience interaction to engage in exploring each type, determining how it would look in their school and community, and what they would need to be successful in each type.” (Essential Practice 1.3.4; 3.6.3)

Starr Herrman, Implementation Mentor and Coach, Ford Next Generation Learning

Paula Barkley, Academy Coach, Academies of Nashvill, Ford Next Generation Learning

The Role of Industry Councils in Support of Secondary Education

Ford Next Generation Learning Industry Councils are created by prioritized career pathways to guide and provide support from business leaders for teaching and learning strategies and for secondary school transformation. Industry Councils provide powerful support for educators and in the success of the academy model (Core Essential Practice 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; and 3.8.)

Natalie Prim, Consultant/National Coach, Ford Next Generation Learning

Carl Leiterman, National Coach, Ford Next Generation Learning

Connecting to the Food Service Industry Through Culinary Arts

Over the course of two exciting years, students will immerse themselves in the curriculum and mentored work experience. Students who complete the full program are eligible to earn the ProStart National Certificate of Achievement, which is tied to articulation and scholarship opportunities. In addition to helping students' jumpstart to industry careers, ProStart is also an entry-way to further education, with many college culinary, restaurant and hospitality programs equating ProStart to introductory courses. Culinary students will be demonstrating their skills and speaking about their experiences in the course.

Cristina V. Santos, Culinary Arts Teacher, PSJA ISD

RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors at Los Fresnos CISD

RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors participate in leadership development sessions designed especially for them. The Student Ambassadors participate in multiple regional initiatives but also assume

responsibility for planning and implementing activities on their campuses. The Los Fresnos CISD Student Ambassadors have implemented many initiatives for their district and community. Participants in this session will learn about the creation of the RGV LEAD Club on campus, duties and responsibilities of members and officers, leadership events on campus, and the ways in which the Student Ambassadors are empowering students and parents.

Los Fresnos CISD Student Ambassadors

c/o: Janie Espinoza, Counselor

RGV LEAD's 2014 Data Report: An Analysis of Valley Students' High School and Postsecondary Outcomes

In August, RGV LEAD received its first set of reports from the UT Austin Education Research Center. Those reports provide information about outcomes for high school, college, university, and the workforce. Regional reports are being finalized, and work on individual district reports will continue in coming months. This session provides a preview of some of the data. The session will focus on Valley student success rates including high school graduation rates, attendance rates, TAKS passing rates; college/university enrollment rates and college/university completion rates.

Anadelia Gonzales, Ph.D., RGV LEAD

Creating a Community of Learners: The Need for Networking

Both 21st Century educational contexts and workplaces expect productive collaboration among those with diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. Creating a community of learners to collectively achieve far more together than we can individually requires that we venture beyond our comfort zones, excel in effective interpersonal communication, and actively engage with a diverse network of people. This interactive session will explore ways in which we cultivate conditions for communities of learners to thrive in both education and employment contexts. We will examine the historical and sociocultural influences on the contemporary spaces and places where we live, learn, and work. Practical suggestions will be shared for how we all may optimize opportunities to learn in ways that align with the expectations of 21st Century education and employers.

Dr. Karin Lewis and Dr. Eunice Lerma, UTB, College of Education

RGV Mentors: How to Become Involved

Who influenced you to be the person you are today? Did you have someone guide you in your college and career choice? Now it's your turn to give your high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to be mentored by a professional in the community who shares the same career interest. Attend the RGV Mentors presentation to discover how to get a mentoring program started in your high school.

Janie Johnston Lopez, RGV LEAD Consultant for RGV Mentors

What's Going on in the Real World? Come Find Out Through the A-L-A Experience

The Academic Leadership Alliance (A-L-A) was created in 2003 through a partnership of the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, Region One Education Service Center, and RGV LEAD's predecessor (Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley). A-L-A, which has expanded throughout the region, is a business-education partnership that works! A-L-A's proactive alliance of education and business is helping to bring relevance into classroom instruction and develop a well prepared workforce for our region. Participants in this session will learn how their teachers and counselors can become involved.

Jill Williams, A-L-A Regional Coordinator

RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors and RGV LEAD's Student Leadership-Development Program

In 2014, RGV LEAD began a new student leadership-development initiative through which student leaders from high school campuses served by RGV LEAD would have the opportunity to participate in activities utilizing a structured leadership-development curriculum designed especially for students. RGV LEAD conducted an application process and has named 56 of these students as RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors. Participants in this session will learn more about these student-leadership-development initiatives and opportunities that will be offered in the future for additional students to participate as RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors.

Norma L. Salaiz, Ph.D., RGV LEAD

RGV LEAD: Overview and Current Initiatives

Are you new to RGV LEAD, or would you like a refresher? Then this session is for you! This session explains the transition from Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley to RGV LEAD in August 2012, the significance of the RGV LEAD name, and the transition from “Tech Prep programs of study” to “college-and-career-focused programs of study.” This session also provides an overview of current initiatives, such as regional P-16 Council operations, Generation Texas, Ford Next Generation Learning, data reports from the Education Research Center at UT Austin, RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors, RGV LEAD Scholars, and others.

Todd Holland & Pat Bubb, RGV LEAD

Breakout Session Offered November 4, 2014 Only

Students, Teachers & Higher Education Making (+/-) = A Difference

Lyford CISD has developed a program in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) that is producing positive results for the district’s students. This program will describe the Lyford STEM program and the benefits the program is producing for Lyford CISD’s students.

Eric Eschumert, Crystal Rodriguez, Libby Rincones, and Michelle Salinas, Lyford CISD

Excellence Through Classroom Experiential Learning and HB 5—The Perfect Combination

Learn about an innovative program in which business partners are providing field experiences that help teachers embed career readiness into their lessons, which ultimately led to the creation of a class. Discover the impact you can have on student success when you explore opportunities once thought impossible.

Joseph Villarreal, Ronnie Rodriguez, Anna Valdez, Miriam Rivera, Los Fresnos CISD

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership at South Texas College

South Texas College offers an innovative degree program designed for individuals who want to prepare themselves for leadership positions, move up the career ladder, or build on associates’ degrees they have already attained. STC’s Organizational Leadership program provides the first competency-based degree to be offered in the state of Texas. Learn more about this innovative degree program, which blends online classes and face-to-face instruction, in this session.

Rosemond Moore, South Texas College

Jenny Newcomb, South Texas College

Business Engagement Forum

Want to learn how to keep business partners engaged? Hear three business leaders from the Rio Grande Valley share how and why they got involved and what drives them to stay engaged. The panel

will be moderated by Rick Delano, Ford National Team Coach. Panelists are employers who serve on the RGV LEAD Board and are leading in the Ford NGL initiative.

Ford NGL—Rick Delano, National Team Coach

Noble General Contractors—Rene Capistran, Principal Regional Director

Mission Economic Development Corporation—Alex Meade, Chief Executive Officer

Rio Grande Valley Partnership Regional—Julian Alvarez, President and Chief Executive Officer

Senior Clearance Event: Giving Seniors a Fast Track to the First Day of Class

Learn about South Texas College's partnership with local school districts to facilitate the enrollment process and give seniors a fast track to the first day of class. The Senior Clearance Event transitions students from high school to college by establishing a one stop shop at the College Campus. Help your students get ready for college by decreasing the amount of visits they will need to make to the College. The Senior Clearance Event helps students leave the College with a schedule in their hands and an experience that helps prepare them for their first day of class.

Maricruz Hinojosa, South Texas College, College Connections Specialist/Recruiter

Professional Development to Support the Academy Model

Non-traditional, not traditional professional development, prepares all to be able to develop strategies for fidelity of academy implementation. (Essential Practice 1.1, 1.3) Learn about the sequence and content of professional development in the Academies of Nashville.

Starr Herrman, Implementation Mentor and Coach, Ford Next Generation Learning

Paula Barkley, Instructional Specialist for Career Academies, Academies of Nashville, Ford NGL

Highly Functioning Academy Teams

Learning how to use common planning to address many of the essential practices—use of a template to guide discussions, encourage roles and participation to support curriculum and instructional goals and student interventions. Watch a video of training from Academies of Nashville and discuss the take aways for your implementation.

Starr Herrman, Implementation Mentor and Coach, Ford Next Generation Learning

Paula Barkley, Instructional Specialist for Career Academies, Academies of Nashville, Ford NGL

RGV LEAD's Labor Market Report: Understanding and Applying the Information

The publication of RGV LEAD's 2013 regional labor market report marks over 15 years that RGV LEAD (formerly Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley) has published reports designed to provide useful information about labor market trends for students, families, and the educators who work with them. Learn more about the information in the report itself, the sources of the data, and the improvements made in 2013 to make the report even more useful for working with students and their families.

Anadelia Gonzales, Ph.D., RGV LEAD