



The RGV Link

Partnering to Engage Students in College-and-Career Focused Learning Opportunities



RGV LEAD - Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic & Academic Development

RGV LEAD Working for You

We are RGV LEAD, Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development. Since 1992, our non-profit organization has developed and managed collaborative projects that have brought employers and educators together to help students set and achieve college-and-career goals. RGV LEAD's partners include school districts, colleges and universities, Region One Education service center, economic development organizations, workforce development boards, and others. Educational institutions support RGV LEAD because its projects have helped to improve graduation and college enrollment rates. Economic development organizations support RGV LEAD because its initiatives address the Valley's long standing need for an educated, skilled workforce. Working as the project manager for regional joint ventures has enabled RGV LEAD school district partners the opportunity to participate in the following activities:

- ◆ Academies of the Rio Grande Valley
- ◆ Ford Next Generation Learning
- ◆ Counselors' Network
- ◆ Education & Career Expo
- ◆ Educator Externships
 - Academic Leadership Alliance ALA
 - Summer Educator Externships
 - District Coordinators
 - Tri-Partner Leaders
 - Introduction to Externship
- ◆ P-16 Council
- ◆ P-16 Regional Leadership Team
- ◆ Regional Entrepreneurship Challenge
- ◆ RGV LEAD Annual Conference
- ◆ RGV LEAD Scholars
- ◆ RGV LEAD Scholarships
- ◆ RGV LEAD Student Ambassadors
- ◆ RGV LEAD / Region One GEAR UP Ambassadors
- ◆ RGV LEAD Mentors
- ◆ Superintendents' Annual Meeting

18th Annual Education & Career Expo

RGV LEAD, in conjunction with various Rio Grande Valley sponsors, hosted the 18th Annual Education & Career Expo on Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon at the ITEC Center - Texas Southmost College, located at 301 Mexico Blvd. in Brownsville. The event was for high school seniors from across the Rio Grande Valley. "It was a community-wide effort by businesses, educators, and community leaders to help Valley high school students prepare for career success. The partners came together to provide information about career opportunities available in the RGV and the educational institutions providing programs of study for those careers." Pat Bubb, RGV LEAD Interim Director. Seniors visited booths such as post secondary institutions, area industries, local businesses, and participated in the College Knowledge Bowl. Texas Southmost College program tours were also available to students.

Thank You, Sponsors!

Associated General Contractors of Texas * Brownsville ISD * Career & Technical Education Texas Genuine * Careers in Texas Industries * Generation TX * Harlingen HWWWS Waterworks System * Region One Education Center * RGV LEAD * South Texas College * Texas Southmost College * Texas State Technical College * TX 60x30 * University of Texas Rio Grande Valley * Workforce Solutions Cameron

SAVE THE DATE!! Are you just entering the workforce... or are you undecided about your career path?

2019 EDUCATION & CAREER EXPO

- 1** Visit interactive displays as you learn from business representatives
- 2** Visit with representatives from the Colleges & Universities and learn more about their programs of study from within and outside the Valley.
- 3** Compete in the EXPO College Knowledge Game and win prizes!
- 4** For more information contact: RGV LEAD • Eliza Graft (956) 364-4039 • egraft@rgvlead.org

PRESENTED BY

September 19, 2019
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
ITEC Center
Texas Southmost College
301 Mexico Boulevard
Brownsville, TX 78402



Let's Talk Targeted Occupations!

Naomi Perales, RGV LEAD Board President, conducted a meeting with representatives from different career fields in the Rio Grande Valley. The group met at the RGV Partnership in Weslaco, new home for RGV LEAD. The purpose of the meeting was an open discussion on how to address the Labor Market Report and Targeted Occupations for students in the Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Anadelia Gonzales, RGV LEAD strategist, informed the group how she obtains information regarding top occupations, such as: wages, education level needed, career opportunities, projected job demand, etc.

RGV LEAD Board president, Naomi Perales conducts Labor Market Report meeting

RGV LEAD - Mission EDC Summer Internship Experience

RGV LEAD Summer Internship program, sponsored by Mission EDC, provided a forty-hour internship work-week at various job sites in the Upper Valley for students from La Joya ISD, Mission CISD, and Sharyland ISD. Students received hands-on experiences in their career field interest. In addition, students were introduced to soft skills necessary to retain a job.

Businesses that participated in the RGV LEAD Summer Internship Program were: College 1st, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, Dr. Erica Perez, Nerdvana, ROFA Architects, Royal Technologies, and Uptown Medical Wellness.

Thank you, sponsors and Mission EDC!



Trung Nguyen, Royal Technologies, shares employment tips to summer



Luis Figuero, ROFA Architects, with RGV LEAD Mission EDC Student Interns.



Pictured With several RGV LEAD Summer Interns are RGV LEAD Board President, Naomi Peralez and RGV LEAD consultant, Janie Johnston Lopez

Left: *Serving as interns at DHR enables us to add the RGV LEAD Summer Internship Program to our resúms and college applications.*



Rewards for Becoming a Rio Grande Valley LEAD Scholar!



Hundreds of seniors from across the Rio Grande Valley have proudly donned the red, white, and blue RGV LEAD Scholar honor cord for over a decade. It is their way of letting their community know that they have completed a coherent sequence of Career & Technical Education courses and have earned college credits while doing so. It is an honor that they have been able to add to their college applications and to their job resúms. In addition, RGV LEAD Scholars has qualified students to apply for the RGV LEAD Scholarships. The RGV LEAD Scholars is truly an honor seniors earn with pride!

Update: In order to keep up with current graduation plans, counselors and administrators are meeting with RGV LEAD to revise the criteria needed to become a RGV LEAD Scholar.

RGV LEAD Partners with Region I GEAR UP



Building future leaders is what RGV LEAD had in mind when the company partnered with Region One Education Center and fifty-five middle schools from across the Rio Grande Valley and the Laredo area to train students to be GEAR UP Ambassadors. The Ambassadors received Leadership Development training in April and quickly began sharing their ideas with their peers. This fall, the Ambassadors will acquire knowledge on Targeted Occupations available in South Texas. Training will continue throughout their high school years.



Pictured with ECISD Barrientes Middle School GEAR UP Ambassadors are: RGV LEAD Consultants Janie J. Lopez, Norma Salaiz, and Jill Williams.



"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."
Douglas MacArthur

Educators Serve as Summer Externs



Educators throughout the Rio Grande Valley and the Laredo area have been privileged to participate in various summer externships. The externships are supported through a partnership between RGV LEAD and: Workforce Solutions Hidalgo, Workforce Solutions Cameron, Region One Education Center, local school districts, and businesses in the school districts' areas.

The externs create lesson plans based on their world-of-work experiences in the business they were assigned. They will share the lesson plans with other educators and will implement the lessons in the classroom during the fall semester. All lesson plans have been pre-approved by the partnering employer. As a result, many employer-educator partnerships have developed, and thousands of students benefit from instruction based on Externship experiences every year.

The ultimate goal is to make classroom instruction more relevant in order to provide more productive and successful employees in the future. The resulting experience gives employers the opportunity to have a positive impact on the development of the "future workforce" that business and industry need. School districts recruit educators as participants, providing these individuals with the opportunity to learn first-hand about employers' needs, both "hard skills" (mathematics, communication, computer literacy) and "soft skills," such as working in teams, communicating effectively, and demonstrating good work habits.



Pictured are a few of the extern sites: Port of Brownsville, McAllen Fire Dept., Noticias 48, and the USDA

RGV LEAD Staff & Support

Pat Bubb - RGV LEAD Interim Director
Lilia Perez - Administrative Assistant
Eliza Groff - Program Coordinator
Mayra Vallejo - Receptionist/Office Assistant

Contract Services

Dr. Alda Benavides
Dr. Ana Gonzales
Janie Johnston Lopez
Dawn Quinn
Dr. Norma Salaiz
Marion Velarde

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More About RGV LEAD...

Upcoming Events

October 16, 2019 - P-16 Council Meeting
October 24, 2019 - Tentative Superintendents' Meeting
October 2019 - TBA Fall Ambassador Trainings
November 5, 2019 – RGV LEAD Board Meeting
November 28th, 29th, 2019 - RGV LEAD Holiday
December 5th & 6th - Regional Conference
December 20th thru January 1st RGV LEAD Holidays



*Note: School districts and businesses will be notified of upcoming events.
Follow us on Facebook and the RGV LEAD website!*



"Average leaders raise the bar on themselves; good leaders raise the bar for others; great leaders inspire others to raise their own bar." -
Orrin Woodward

RGV LEAD is raising the bar!

RGV LEAD Board Members Attend Quarterly Meetings



RGV LEAD Mission Statement

RGV LEAD builds the intellectual capital of the region by facilitating collaboration between employers, community leaders, and educators from public schools, colleges, and universities to assist students in acquiring the academic and career skill-sets necessary for success in higher education, careers, and life.