



RGV LEAD Ambassador Orientation 2022

Thursday, April 28, 2022

9 AM to 11:30 AM

AGENDA

9 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks.....Luis Rodriguez
Executive Director, RGV LEAD

Alex Duran
Student Ambassador, Los Fresnos High School

9:10 AM Innovation/Pledge..... Jenibelle Leal
Student Ambassador, Los Fresnos High School

9:15 AM Ambassador Roles & ResponsibilitiesLuis Rodriguez

RGV LEAD AMBASSADOR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: The Ambassador program is a leadership development initiative for students interested in developing personal leadership skills while serving and representing the RGV, campus, school district, and community.

Ambassadors:

- Participate in and conduct regional leadership training events throughout the school year
- Serve as regional Ambassadors until high school graduation (unless removed by sponsor for misbehavior or failure to fulfill leadership responsibilities)
- Plan and conduct leadership, college, and career readiness initiatives for peers
- Serve as campus and district representatives providing a variety of services
- Maintain student ambassador appearance and professionalism
- Act as a first point of contact to visitors during scheduled events
- Welcome and greet public at scheduled events
- Develop an expanded knowledge of your high school campus and district
- Conduct campus tours for new students, schools, classes, and guests
- Represent your school campus during college/career events

9:30 AM Employer Panel PresentationJanie Johnston Lopez (Moderator)
Contractor, RGV LEAD

STEM Career Cluster

- Dr. Joca Marquez, Evaluation Specialist Contractor, NASA Glenn Research Center
- Dr. Samuel Garcia, Education Specialist, NASA Kennedy Space Center

Health Science Career Cluster

- Francisco Acevedo, Chief Nursing Officer, Valley Regional Medical Center

Transportation/Distribution & Manufacturing Career Cluster

- Mr. Eduardo Campirano, Port Director & CEO, Port of Brownsville

10:30 AM Reflections from Former RGV LEAD AmbassadorsSidney Salas
Former Student Ambassador; Freshman, Texas A&M University

11:00 AM Reflections & Closing RemarksLuis Rodriguez

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

RGV LEAD Student Ambassador Orientation/Spring Leadership Workshop



Eduardo A. Campirano

Port Director & CEO, Port of Brownsville

Eduardo A. Campirano is the Port Director & CEO of the Port of Brownsville. He was appointed to this position in May 2007 and is responsible for the operations of the only U.S. deep-water seaport located directly on the US/Mexico border. During his tenure, the Port of Brownsville has improved its financial position by increasing its cash reserves, issued debt for infrastructure improvements, undertaken major capital projects, infrastructure improvements and repairs, and has attracted port-related investments through public and private sector partnerships. Mr. Campirano's public service extends to his active participation in numerous civic and maritime industry organizations and committees.



Frank Acevedo MSN, MBA, RN

Chief Nursing Officer, Valley Regional Medical Center

Frank Acevedo joined HCA in February 1996; He is the Chief Nursing Officer at Valley Regional Medical Center since 2018. Frank has a Master of Science in Nursing and a Master in Business Administration.

His leadership expanded multiple service lines, improved patient care, strengthened physician engagement, and enhanced nursing services.

He received the reader's choice award by the Brownsville Herald as "Brownsville's Favorite Nurse" and was recognized by the Texas Senate & The Texas House of Representatives as a "Exemplary Allied Health Administrator." Frank was also recognized by the PNACC with "the Modern Spirit of Nightingale Aware 2020."

Frank is a member of the Perioperative Association of Registered Nurses and the Philippine Nurses Association of America. He is also a board member for the South Texas Independent School District and the United Way of Southern Cameron County.

Frank also serves as an advisory board member for The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Nursing School and Texas Southmost College Nursing School. Frank is also a decorated veteran of the United States Air Force.



Dr. Joca Marquez

Evaluation Specialist Contractor, NASA Glenn Research Center

With over five years of evaluation experience, Dr. Joca Marquez is currently contracted with [Paragon TEC/NASA](#) to provide evaluation support services with MUREP (Minority University Research and Education Project), MUREP American Indian and Alaska Native STEM Engagement, MUREP Internships and Fellowships, Space Grant Independent Evaluation, Space Grant Consortia, and Artemis Challenges evaluation.

Dr. Marquez graduated with a doctoral degree in School Improvement from Texas State University in August 2018. Her dissertation focuses on secondary data analysis using databases from the National Center for Education Statistics-specifically on the mathematics and science achievement in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study Cohort 2011. Dr. Marquez received a bachelor's and master's degrees in Chemistry from the University of Texas Pan American. Her master's thesis focused on the synthesis of beta-lactams that have shown in-vitro anti-cancer activity in collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center.

- **For the past 10 years, Dr. Marquez has been a graduate research assistant in Chemistry labs at the University of Texas Pan American, the Biotechnology lab at the Texas A & M Kingsville Citrus Center, and Texas State University. She has collaborated with numerous faculty during her tenure as a graduate research assistant.**
- **More recently, she collaborated on three different research projects at Texas State University.** She has worked with the Greater Texas Foundation (GTF) Grant at the CLAS department, specifically focusing on college access and readiness along the P-16 pipeline for Latina/o students. She has collaborated with Family and Consumer Sciences focusing on first-generation college student's parental perceptions of their child's education. Previously, Dr. Marquez worked as a research analyst for the HSI STEM Impact Program at Texas State University. Dr. Marquez has extensive experience working with the US Department of Education Title III Grants as well as the LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research NASA and National Science Foundation Grants. As a result of her research, Dr. Marquez has presented her research at the American Chemical Society, Texas Academy of Science, American Educational Research Association, University Council for Educational Administrators, and American Educational Studies Association. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Tetrahedron Letters*, *Asian Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, *Association of Mexican American Educators*, *Teachers College Record*, *Journal of Latinos in Education*, *Educational Administration Quarterly*, and *Education and Urban Society*. Dr. Marquez is also a former high school science teacher in the Rio Grande Valley.
- **Dr. Marquez completed a Post-Doctoral research fellowship with the NSF E-communities STEM Grant at Howard University [Howard University Education](#)**



Dr. Samuel Garcia, Jr.

Education Specialist, NASA Kennedy Space Center

Dr. Garcia currently provides evaluation expertise along with content development, website development, and STEM teacher professional development. Dr. Garcia graduated with a doctoral degree in School Improvement from Texas State University in May 2017. His dissertation focused on transformative professional development among a cohort of teachers in the Central Texas area.

- **For the past 9 years, Dr. Garcia has been a researcher in STEM teacher professional development**, qualitative research, action-research, and culturally-responsive engagement with the NASA Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) STEM Engagement Educator Professional Development Collaborative (STEM EPDC).
- **Dr. Garcia currently serves as an [Education Specialist for NASA's Education Professional Development Collaborative \(EPDC\)](#) with Texas State University, assigned to NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida** and serves as NASA's Education representative for the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) region covering Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, consistently leading efforts focused on providing authentic NASA STEM engagement.
- **Dr. Garcia currently supports KSC regional initiatives** integrating leadership, project management, planning and initiating supporting on behalf of Exploration Ground Systems (EGS) and Commercial Crew Program (CCP) Mission Directorates.
- **Dr. Garcia currently maintains expert knowledge of national, regional and state education standards, provides expertise, guidance, management and communication between local, state, and national partners and collaborators for outreach initiatives, provides customized professional development (PD) to in-service, pre-service, and informal educators** especially Museums and Science Centers across the region in NASA's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines through educational workshops, classroom lesson modeling, and face-to-face. Dr. Garcia travels to school districts, colleges and universities, science centers, and museums to enhance students' and teachers' literacy of NASA's instructional technologies, research, exploration, and discovery.