

# SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS: ARE OUR STUDENTS READY?

This generation of students is our future!

## REGIONAL MEETING OF P-16 COUNCIL WITH REGIONAL COUNSELORS' NETWORK

Virtual - Zoom  
9 AM – 11 AM, May 5, 2021

### A G E N D A

**9:00 AM**

**Welcome/Opening Remarks and RGV LEAD Update...Dr. Gonzalo Salazar**  
 Los Fresnos CISD, Superintendent  
**Luis Rodriguez**  
 Executive Director, RGV LEAD

**9:10 AM.**

**Texas Workforce Education, Reskilling and Upskilling .....Julian Alvarez III**  
 Commissioner Representing Labor  
 Texas Workforce Commission

**9:45 AM.**

**Work-Based Learning & Career Exploration.....Bernard Chu**  
 TRANSFRVR

**10:15 AM.**

**Counselors' Network Update:**  
**Meet TSC .....Judy Moreno**  
 Student Recruitment Specialist, TSC

**10:45 AM.**

**Feedback/Announcements ..... Luis Rodriguez**  
**Other Business, If Any ..... P-16 Chairs**  
**Plans for Next Meeting; Adjourn**





## LEADERS OF THE MEETING

### **Gonzalo Salazar, Ed.D. – Co-Chair**

Dr. Gonzalo Salazar has been Superintendent of Los Fresnos CISD since June 2006. He has over 20 years of successful experience in education. He most recently has led Los Fresnos CISD in achieving many accomplishments, such as being one of 26 districts in Texas that received the Post-Secondary Readiness Distinction and other awards. Dr. Salazar has served on the RGV LEAD Board of Directors for many years, currently serving on the RGV LEAD Executive Board and P-16 Chair representing Secondary Education.

### **Cynthia (Cindy) Valdez – Co-Chair**

Cindy Valdez is the Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, a part of the University of Texas System with campuses located throughout the region. Ms. Valdez oversees a variety of student educational outreach initiatives at UTRGV. She joined the RGV LEAD board in January 2018, serving on the RGV LEAD Executive Board as P-16 Chair representing Higher Education.

### **Luis Rodriguez**

Luis Rodriguez is the Executive Director of RGV LEAD, a position he has occupied since April 1, 2020. A native of Brownsville, Rodriguez left the Valley and was an area director of the Boy Scouts of America for 12 years—particularly appropriate since Rodriguez became an Eagle Scout at age 13. Rodriguez returned to the Valley in Boy Scout leadership in July of 2019 but now brings his experience to RGV LEAD.

### **Julian Alvarez III**

Julian Alvarez III is the Commissioner Representing Labor of the Texas Workforce Commission. Gov. Greg Abbott reappointed him to the three-member Commission on March 7, 2017. His Commission appointment expires February 1, 2023. As Labor Commissioner, Julian Alvarez represents the interests of more than 14 million Texas workers with respect to TWC services and ensures that their concerns are considered in all Commission actions. Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Alvarez served as President and CEO of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, fostering relationships, and coordinating programs to advance regional economic development and employment opportunities. He also served as the Texas Regional Director for U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, advising on legislative and policy issues related to South Texas. Before that, Alvarez served on the South Texas Drug Task Force as a State Trooper for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). After his service with DPS, Alvarez inspired stewardship and leadership as the Director of College Information for Texas State Technical College in Harlingen.

### **Bernard Chu**

Bernard Chu is a graduate of The University of Florida with a B.S. degree in Finance. His career has focused on sales, but this new opportunity with TRANSFRVR has been great. He loves the fact that he is helping close the workforce gap.

### **Judy Moreno**

Judy has 17 years of experience in higher education at community colleges and universities. Having worked as an Assistant to the Dean of Student Services at Lone Star College Montgomery, in Financial Aid Departments at Lone Star College Montgomery and Sam Houston State University, as an Academic Liaison for the Learning Center at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. With her background TSC brought Judy on board in 2016 as a recruiter for Texas Southmost College.