

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™



Invites Applications and Nominations for the
Position of:

Department of Chemistry Chair

Greenwood/Asher
& ASSOCIATES, LLC

The Opportunity

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) invites nominations and applications for the position of chair of the Department of Chemistry. Reporting directly to the dean of the College of Sciences, the chair will be responsible for setting strategic, operational, and financial direction for the chemistry department. The college seeks a dynamic leader who will work in concert with faculty, staff, and students to promote a culture of collaboration. The chair shall create and carry out a vision that leads the department to greater prominence in the Valley and beyond.

UTRGV is the second largest Hispanic Serving Institution in the United States in a growing region on the border with Mexico, where the majority of the students are bilingual and bicultural, and their sights are set on the coveted R1 status “very high research activity” distinction by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. The Department of Chemistry provides a path to a better life through a comprehensive education for student success delivered by accomplished and passionate scholars supported by professional and caring staff. The department serves its students and the Rio Grande Valley community through innovative academic programs, community outreach, and impactful research. It strives to be the leading chemistry program in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond by offering outstanding opportunities to students, faculty, and staff through excellent teaching, innovative



research, creative scholarly activity, professional development and community engagement, and by cultivating scholars who will become leaders in the local and global communities. The Department of Chemistry’s core values are professionalism, respect, teamwork, integrity, empathy, student success, and research.

UTRGV campuses, strategically located throughout the Valley, offer a unique opportunity to lead the Department of Chemistry on two main campuses – Edinburg and Brownsville. The chair is expected to establish a visionary process for program development and enhancement that utilizes the expertise and resources available on the two campuses.

The Role of the Department of Chemistry Chair

The Department of Chemistry chair is expected to inspire and support faculty, staff, and the predominantly Hispanic student population; foster an environment of collegiality, transparency, teamwork, respect, inclusion, and diversity; interact with all stakeholders to determine the priorities and direction of the department; support the expansion of the research capabilities of the department while maintaining excellence in teaching; increase the regional recognition of the departmental programs; and advocate for the department within the College of Sciences and UTRGV as a whole.

The chair will oversee the department; faculty and student productivity and development; research; external relations; and multi-disciplinary collaborations within the university. The chemistry chair will recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff, and students. As a faculty member, the chair will also be expected to teach a reduced load and participate in research and service activities.

The department currently has 20 tenured/tenure-track faculty members and 13 lecturers distributed over its two main campuses in Brownsville



and Edinburg. Faculty research programs include all traditional areas of chemistry, as well as interdisciplinary work in medicinal chemistry and materials science with the aspiration to expand into additional interdisciplinary collaborations. The department is currently home to nearly 220 undergraduates and 30 graduate students pursuing B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemistry, a B.S. in Chemistry leading to teacher certification, and also offers minors in Chemistry and Biochemistry. Department faculty are also active participants in a new M.S. program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. These research and teaching activities are generously supported by an internal endowment and by a long-standing departmental grant from the Robert A. Welch Foundation.



The Department of Chemistry is seeking a chair who is a skilled, visionary leader with an established track record of research and administrative success. The successful candidate will lead the department to be the premiere chemistry program in the Rio Grande Valley with a world-class reputation earned by delivering an outstanding educational experience, offering cutting-edge research training to students, and providing opportunities for professional growth and community engagement to all members of the department.

Qualifications

The successful candidate must possess an earned terminal degree (Ph.D.) in chemistry or a related field and have demonstrated leadership abilities in administration, personnel management, and budgeting. Also, the successful candidate must meet the requirements for tenure and appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or above and have an excellent track record in research and teaching.

The ideal candidate will also be able to demonstrate these preferred qualifications:

- Meet the requirement for tenure and appointment at the rank of Professor.
- Committed to transparency and to enhancing cultural diversity amongst students, faculty, and staff with a proven ability to integrate and unify multiple programs.
- Able to communicate effectively in a pragmatic and collegial way.
- Have excellent people skills and an administrative philosophy grounded in the belief that diversification and shared governance are foundations for academic success.
- Effective in encouraging, building, implementing, and sustaining undergraduate and graduate degree offerings.
- Success in growing enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate level.
- Experience working with and mentoring students from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Commitment to embracing the Hispanic culture and bilingualism.

The next chair will be a tireless advocate for the Department of Chemistry and must be nimble and innovative in their approach to articulating the value and relevance of the department's mission to a wide range of audiences.

The College of Sciences

The College of Sciences houses the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and Astronomy,



the School of the Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, and the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, with each offering a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs. The college is also home to several research, education, and outreach centers including Advanced Radio Astronomy, Gravitational Wave Astronomy, STEM Education, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Advancement, Urban Ecology, and Vector Borne Disease, with facilities located in Brownsville, Edinburg, McAllen, Port Isabel, South Padre Island, and Boca Chica Beach.

With over 210 faculty and 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students, it is one of the largest colleges in the university. The college takes pride in preparing students for diverse careers including medical and health professions (pre-med, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy) and graduate schools, emphasizes hands-on experiential learning, community-engaged research and learning, advancing the frontiers of science from electrons to ecosystems, and developing innovative solutions for local and global grand challenges. The college is on a growth trajectory with several new B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. programs forthcoming to better serve our constituents.

The mission of the College of Sciences is:

- To advance the frontiers of science from electrons to ecosystems through discovery in the life, mathematical, physical, and statistical sciences;
- To partner with the community to address local and global grand challenges through basic and applied research to improve the quality of life in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond;
- To prepare the next generation of educators, mathematicians, scientists, and statisticians who are academically competent, socially aware, globally engaged, and ethical leaders;
- To provide students with fundamental scientific, mathematical, and statistical literacy; and
- To enhance the quality of the region's mathematics, statistics, and science education.

The College of Sciences has a strong and diverse faculty – many of whom are leading experts in the fields of biology, chemistry, physical sciences, and mathematics. In addition to active research and dedication to student success, the College of Sciences has state-of-the-art facilities and research centers in the fields of gravitational wave astronomy, radio astronomy, and marine and coastal studies. These offer unique research experiences for students at all levels, from undergraduate to post doctorate.

More than half of the College of Sciences students are first-generation college students with exceptionally diverse backgrounds. The faculty and staff understand the challenges of students who are traditionally underrepresented in the sciences and the primary focus is to successfully help them overcome these challenges and achieve their dreams.

Selected Chemistry Department Lab Equipment

- Gas Chromatograph
- Gas Chromatograph - Mass Spectrometer
- Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer
- Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy
- Infrared Spectroscopy
- RAMAN Microscope
- Thermogravimetric Analyzer
- Differential Scanning Calorimeter
- High Performance Liquid Chromatograph
- UV-Visible Spectroscopy
- Surface Area and Porosity Analyzer
- NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) Spectrometer



About the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Innovation. Opportunity. Purpose. Careers. That's what the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is about. With campuses throughout the Valley, UTRGV empowers successful futures, enhances daily life, and lets our region shine as a global innovator in higher education, bilingual education, health education, biomedical research, and emerging technology that inspires positive change.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was created by the Texas Legislature in 2013 as the first major public university of the 21st century in Texas. This transformative initiative provided the opportunity to expand educational opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley, including a new School of Medicine, and made it possible for residents of the region to benefit from the Permanent University Fund – a public endowment contributing support to the University of Texas System and other institutions.

Our mission is to transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world through an innovative and accessible educational environment that promotes student success, research, creative works, health and well-being, community engagement, sustainable development, and commercialization of university discoveries. UTRGV's vision is to be one of the nation's leaders in higher education, its premier Hispanic-serving institution, and a highly engaged bilingual university, with exceptional educational, research, and creative opportunities that serve as catalysts for transformation in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond. Our core priorities are Student Success; Educational Opportunities; Health and Medical Education; Research Impacting the Rio Grande Valley and Beyond; and Community Engagement.

UTRGV has campuses and off-campus research and teaching sites throughout the Rio Grande Valley including in Boca Chica Beach, Brownsville (formerly The University of Texas at Brownsville campus), Edinburg (formerly The University of Texas-Pan American campus), Harlingen, McAllen, Port Isabel, Rio Grande City, and South Padre Island. UTRGV, a comprehensive academic institution, enrolled its first class in the fall of 2015, and the School of Medicine welcomed its first class in the summer of 2016.

About the Rio Grande Valley

The Rio Grande Valley is located at the southernmost part of Texas. At the meeting point of Mexico and the USA, the 4-county region called *The Valley* is one of the fastest growing areas of the United States. The northernmost established city, Edinburg, is the region's "college town." It is home to one of the main campuses belonging to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and is the site of the largest arena in the region. To locals, it is regarded as the Gateway City to the Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville is the southernmost port city of the continental U.S. It is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico along with three international bridges that connect Brownsville with its neighboring border town, Matamoros, Mexico. The two major languages you will find in the Valley are Spanish and English. Approximately 80% to 90% of the Valley's population is Mexican American, so a working knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but not necessary.

UTRGV Fast Facts

(Fall 2021)

- Total Enrollment: 31,939
- 84% Undergraduate
- 91% Hispanic enrollment
- 55% First Generation
- Degrees Offered
 - Bachelor's: 68
 - Master's: 61
 - Doctoral: 10
 - Professional: 3
- Degrees Awarded: 7,083

UTRGV Accolades

- #2 in Texas and #36 nationally for social mobility
- #8 top national public university among Texas public universities (#144 nationally)
- #2 among national public universities for least student debt

by U.S. News & World Report
(2021)



Edinburg City Hall

The Valley has some of the richest history and tradition found anywhere in the US. Its culture and identity are based on adaptation to movement and change, perseverance, and resiliency. The Valley is an ideal area in which to live, combining a modern infrastructure, multicultural population, rich history and cultural heritage, and a beautiful natural environment with an excellent quality of life, reasons why UTRGV is becoming a major international education destination. The Valley also enjoys a vigorous and growing economy with a high standard of living that has one of the lowest costs of living in the country. What Winter Texans, Spring Breakers, and families looking for fun in the sun most associate with

our area is one of the best beaches anywhere in the USA: South Padre Island. The Rio Grande Valley encompasses many landmarks that attract tourists. Popular destinations include Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Brazos Island, a SpaceX launch site, and the Port Isabel Lighthouse.

The region offers a wonderful subtropical climate, with sunny weather and warm-to-hot temperatures prevailing all year long, including excellent facilities for sport, leisure and shopping, and a varied nightlife. Plus, the natural beauty of the Valley is one of a kind. Beyond our beautiful beaches and palm trees, there are wildlife preserves that are international hot spots for birders and others who enjoy watching the butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals inhabiting the area. The area supports one of the best sites for deep sea fishing and, for the past 77 years, has hosted the Texas International Fishing Tournament. The region features abundant historical and cultural sites, honoring traditions of military and public service as well as the shared ties with Mexico. The people of the Valley are famous for their warmth and friendly dispositions, making it a welcoming environment for all. Taken together, the hospitality, relaxed pace of life, safe neighborhoods, and emphasis on community involvement, inclusion and education make the Valley a place where life is to be enjoyed and lived to its fullest.



Brownsville Market Square

Nomination and Application Process

Salary

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

How to Apply

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, LLC is assisting the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. For a full application package, please submit a cover letter, CV, and list of five references. Confidential inquiries, nominations and application materials should be directed to Greenwood/Asher & Associates. Submission of application materials as

PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. The search will be conducted with a commitment of confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. For best consideration, applications and nominations should be provided by September 7, 2022.

Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:

Betty Turner Asher, Founder, Greenwood/Asher & Associates
E-mail: bettyasher@greenwoodsearch.com

Julie Schrodtt, Senior Executive Search Consultant
E-mail: julieschrodtt@greenwoodsearch.com

It is the policy of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to promote and ensure equal employment opportunities for all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information or protected veteran status. In accordance with the requirements of Title VII of the civil rights act of 1964, the title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, our University is committed to comply with all government requirements and ensures non-discrimination in its education programs and activities, including employment. We encourage women, minorities, and differently abled persons to apply for employment positions of interest.

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.