

# The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Invites Applications and Nominations for the Position of:

## Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Greenwood/Asher  
& ASSOCIATES, LLC

## The Opportunity

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) invites nominations and applications for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. As a critical member of the President's leadership team, the Provost works with the senior leadership in the common effort to continuously enhance the opportunities for student growth and achievement.

## The Role of the Provost

Reporting to [President Guy Bailey](#), the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs serves as the Chief Academic Officer for UTRGV providing vision, leadership and strategic oversight for Academic Affairs. Some of the duties in this role include:

- › Working with the faculty to set a vision for the future of the general academic enterprise that establishes the priorities for strategic academic leadership for the university's academic endeavors, and shaping the academic culture at UTRGV;
- › Representing the institution as the Chief Academic Officer, providing leadership and assuring coordination and accountability of the Council of Deans and all academic policies, functions, and support services;
- › Leading the conceptualization, development, implementation, and continuous improvement of academic programs and services;
- › Facilitating the development of the strategic agenda for the institution's education mission and presenting the proposed agenda and plans to institutional leadership;
- › Providing leadership to the academic colleges;
- › Facilitating the development and maintenance of academic agreements and accreditation processes for educational programs, in collaboration with appropriate members of the institutional executive team;
- › Providing leadership through effective processes and programs that support the deans and faculty committees on faculty hiring, evaluation, promotion and tenure, and playing a central role in the recruitment and leadership of the faculty;
- › Promoting the educational mandate at UTRGV, ensuring that students, faculty, and the curriculum are of the highest quality;
- › Representing the university in the community on matters related to academic affairs;
- › In partnership with the appropriate leadership, promoting the continuing development of the university's research programs, and championing the highest academic standards in faculty appointments, research contributions, tenure, and promotion.

## Qualifications

- › Ph.D. or other terminal degree from an accredited university;
- › Ten years of university leadership experience with progressive responsibility, including experience as a faculty member;
- › Fluency in Spanish, preferred.

## 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 the 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.

UTRGV is the second largest Hispanic Serving Institution in the United States in a growing region on the border with Mexico, where 80% of the nearly 1.5 million inhabitants speak Spanish and the majority of the students are bilingual and bicultural.

Fourteen [colleges and schools](#) form the academic foundation for UTRGV. The university's sights are set on the coveted R1 status "very high research activity" distinction by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

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.

### Mission

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.

### Vision

#### 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

- Recognized on *Forbes* Top Colleges List 2022: Top 25 Lowest Debt. To read more: [click here](#)
- #1 in Texas and #12 nationally for social mobility
- #2 top national public university among Texas public universities (#45 nationally)
- #1 among Texas public universities for net price of attendance (#2 nationally)

by *Washington Monthly*  
(2022)

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.

## Values

### ❖ **Excellence**

- Transforming the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world requires *weaving excellence throughout the fabric of the university and into the core of everything we do.*

### ❖ **Diversity, Access, and Inclusion**

- Establishing an accessible educational environment requires that we *cultivate and enhance the diverse, multicultural, and linguistic assets* of our university and the Rio Grande Valley. UTRGV also promotes *access, inclusion, and lifelong learning* to ensure that all members of the university community have opportunities to succeed.

### ❖ **Inquiry, Discovery, and Creativity**

- *Igniting, illuminating, and enhancing* the talents and passions of the university community *for open inquiry, discovery, and creativity* inspire generations of lifelong scholars and artists who impact the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

### ❖ **Engagement and Impact**

- Seeking to be a catalyst for transformation, the university *integrates social justice, civic responsibility, innovation, and sustainable development* in its endeavors. Such change is best undertaken through *interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches* across the university and with *community, government, business, and non-profit partners.*

### ❖ **Shared Governance**

- *Participating in decision-making processes with integrity, trust, and respect* is a responsibility of all UTRGV stakeholders. This requires an environment of *shared governance, academic freedom, accountability and transparency, and open and honest communication.*

### ❖ **Leadership**

- *Instilling a sense of value and empowerment* in all members of the university community is a fundamental responsibility of leaders at all levels and involves *facilitating professional, intellectual, cultural, and personal growth.*

### ❖ **Health and Well-being**

- Recognizing that our *success is integrally related to the condition of our community,* UTRGV strives to *promote the health and well-being* of its students, faculty, and staff, and *create a healthy, equitable, and resilient community.*

## Institutional Priorities

### Student Success

***When it comes to helping low-income students achieve economic success, it turns out that the most successful colleges are not the nation's elite universities like Stanford, Duke or those in the Ivy League. Instead, they are schools like UTRGV — public, Hispanic-Serving Institutions which provide the most economic mobility for students.***

**-Forbes**

Built upon the pillars of access, affordability, and support, UTRGV has designed a financial model that discourages debt financing of education. Tuition and mandatory fees are keyed to Pell and Texas Grants. Four-year tuition and mandatory fees are guaranteed. And tuition and fees are capped at 12 credit hours per semester, while students are incentivized to take 15 hours. The hourly rate for student employees has also been increased from \$8 to \$12 per hour.

The success of this model is evident in the numbers. UTRGV is approaching the national average in both four-year and six-year graduation rates. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, the university ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for least student debt among public universities. ThirdWay.org places it among the top five schools that offer the most economic mobility. And WashingtonMonthly.com ranks UTRGV #1 among Texas public universities for performance of Pell Grant students (#4 nationally), net price of attendance (#2 nationally), and social mobility (#12 nationally) and #2 among top Texas public universities (#45 nationally) and “Best Bang for the Buck” southern public universities.

### **Expanded Educational Opportunities**

Since 2015, the university has developed 8 Certificates, 11 Bachelor's, 13 Master's, 4 Doctoral, and 4 Professional degree programs. And the educational expansion has continued over the course of the pandemic, with over 80 new faculty hires (41 Tenure Track; 42 Non-Tenure Track) since 2021, 15 new programs since 2020, and an additional 10 new programs currently under development:

#### **❖ 2020**

- › MS Applied Statistics and Data Science
- › BS American Sign Language Interpretation
- › BS Cybersecurity
- › BFA Graphic Design

#### **❖ 2021**

- › Doctor of Occupational Therapy
- › Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (First in Texas)
- › PhD Mathematics and Statistics with Interdisciplinary Applications
- › MS Dietetics
- › MS Global Commerce
- › BS Integrated Health Science

#### **❖ 2022**

- › Doctor of Nursing Practice
- › PhD Human Genetics

- > PhD Physics
- > MA Higher Education Administration
- > BA Human Dimensions of Organization

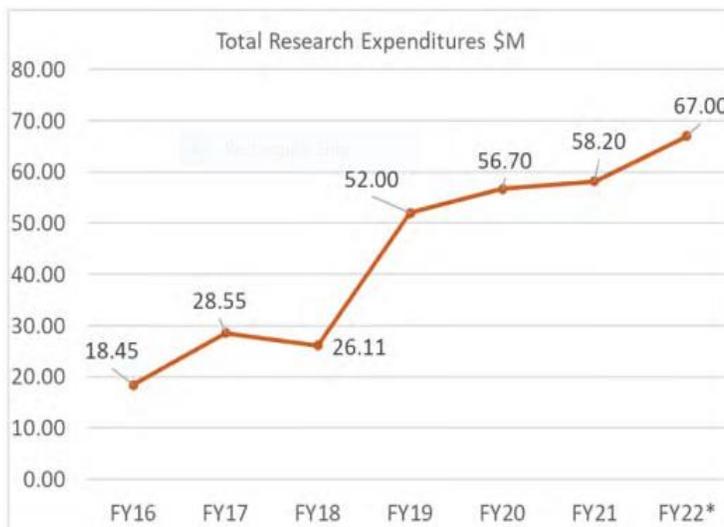
❖ **Currently Under Development**

- > Doctor of Audiology
- > Doctor of Pharmacy
- > Doctor of Physical Therapy
- > PhD Computer Science
- > PhD Materials Science
- > MA Art Education
- > MS Biomedical Engineering
- > MS Computer Engineering
- > MS Human Resources
- > MS Medical Sciences

**Enhanced Research on the Rio Grande Valley and Beyond**

The [Division of Research](#) at UTRGV contributes to top priorities outlined in the university’s [Strategic Plan](#), currently under revision. Among those priorities are maximizing student success, expanding educational opportunity, and supporting research that will impact the RGV and beyond. Its mission is to identify and maximize institutional resources to create synergies and a culture that is conducive to research and scholarship, technology development and commercialization, innovations in academic and professional education, workforce and economic development, and a sustainable future for the region and the world.

Pursuant to its R1 aspirations, UTRGV is home to 1,789 ranked faculty, \$35M in grants funded, and 147 research awards. The university has increased its research expenditures from \$18M in FY 2016 to \$67M this year.



\*As of 8.31.22, without year-end adjustments; includes uncollected Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs, following NSF HERD reporting guidelines.

Significant increases in total external grant funding, total research expenditure, and restricted research expenditure are critical for UTRGV's national recognition, and in its quest for the Emerging Research University status. The Provost will, therefore, be expected to work closely with the [UTRGV Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College](#) to increase graduate enrollment and faculty research productivity.

## Improved Health Care and Medical Education



The university is also home to a rapidly growing [School of Medicine](#), with 222 medical students, 249 residents and fellows, 170 faculty members, and 56 PhD Scientists. Through innovative medical education programs, advanced research, and high-quality clinical services, UTRGV and the SOM are transforming the health of the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

## Increased Community Engagement

UTRGV is leading the way as a global innovator in education, health, biomedical research and emerging technology. Through expansive research and opportunity, it is:

- > **Addressing** public health concerns like diabetes and obesity
- > **Exploring** the ecology of the coast and wetlands
- > **Improving** manufacturing processes
- > **Advancing** space exploration
- > **Educating** the physicians of tomorrow and increasing access to healthcare services
- > **Providing** students with fulfilling, dynamic experiences and educational opportunities that will shape them into leaders and successful professionals.

UTRGV is also engaging the Rio Grande Valley community through [UTRGV Arts](#), with a rich array of visual and performance art events in Theatre, Dance, Music, and Art & Design.

These priorities, programs, and research will change the region for the better. But state funding is not enough. UTRGV also relies heavily on the generosity of the community, business partners, alumni, and staff. (See [UTRGV Giving Stories](#)).

Since FY 2010, Private Philanthropy has experienced a steady increase, reaching a peak of \$71.6M in FY2021.

## 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 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.



*Edinburg City Hall*

The Valley has some of the richest history and tradition



*Brownsville Market Square*

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.

## 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, 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.

**Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:**

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*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.*