

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Dean, College of Sciences

Position Profile





The Opportunity

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) invited nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the College of Sciences (COS). Reporting directly to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean will be responsible for setting strategic, operational, and financial direction for the COS and will fully embrace UTRGV's mission to receive R1 "very high research activity" distinction by the Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education. The university seeks an experienced, dynamic, visionary, and transformational leader who will work in concert with faculty, staff, and students to promote a culture of excellence and create and carry out a vision that leads the college to greater prominence in the Rio Grande Valley, across Texas, and beyond.



Role of the Dean

The Dean of the College of Sciences is expected to:

- › Serve as the chief academic and administrative leader for the COS.
- › Provide leadership and oversight of the college, including budget, faculty and student productivity and development, research, external relations, and multi-disciplinary collaborations within the university.
- › Oversee the college's academic and scholarly activities, working with faculty to articulate a shared vision of excellence, and focusing on developing, expanding, and strengthening academic programs in the college and developing policies governing its academic programs.
- › Inspire and support faculty, staff, and students and foster an environment of collegiality, transparency, teamwork, and respect.
- › Collaborate with all stakeholders to determine the priorities and direction of the college and facilitate efforts to develop and implement the college's strategic plan.
- › Support the expansion of the research capabilities of the college, focusing on externally funded faculty research to address local and global challenges and improve life in the Rio Grande Valley area and beyond, while maintaining departmental excellence in teaching.
- › Advocate for the COS and ensure that it is aligned with the priorities of UTRGV.
- › Maintain a physical presence at all campuses and locations.
- › Fully embrace UTRGV's mission to receive R1 "very high research activity" distinction by the Carnegie Classifications of Higher Education Institutions.
- › Support UTRGV's vision of becoming the preeminent bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate university.
- › Foster student success and satisfaction by providing fundamental scientific, mathematical, and statistical literacy.
- › Pursue revenue growth through development, grants and contracts, and professional development programs for the advancement of college resources.
- › Expand and strengthen liaisons with domestic and international educational institutions to assess, develop, and manage innovative academic programs and curriculum development.
- › Further the mission of the university by expanding external resources, strengthening regional, national, and global connections and nurturing collaboration amongst colleges across the university.

Required Qualifications

- › Terminal degree in an appropriate field.
- › Minimum of five (5) years of administrative experience at the chair level or above.
- › Established record of scholarship, teaching, and service that qualifies the candidate for a senior level faculty appointment in one of the college's disciplines.
- › Evidence of past effectiveness in responding to the educational needs of an urban, multicultural population.
- › Demonstrated ability to secure grants and external funding.
- › Demonstrated commitment to shared governance and shared decision making.
- › Demonstrated ability to lead with integrity and transparency and communicate effectively with all stakeholders.

Preferred Qualifications

- › Experience at a R2 Doctoral University "high research activity" or higher.
- › Experience and/or knowledge of distributed campus models.
- › Experience in multidisciplinary ventures.



About the College of Sciences

The College of Sciences is one of the largest colleges at UTRGV with over 200 faculty and 3,000 students and is home to the department of Physics and Astronomy and the schools of Integrative Biological and Chemical Sciences, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, and Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, with each offering a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs. The college also houses several state-of-the-art programs and centers such as Agroecology, Annual Research Conference, Center for Excellence in STEM Education, Coastal Studies Laboratory, South Texas Space Science Institute, High School Scholars Program, USDA IFSEEN Program, and UTeach, with facilities located in Brownsville, Edinburg, McAllen, Port Isabel, South Padre Island, and Boca Chica Beach. These facilities offer unique research experiences for students at all levels – undergraduate to post doctorate. The college takes pride in preparing students for diverse careers including medical and health professions (pre-med, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy), emphasizes hands-on experimental learning, community-engaged research and learning, and developing innovative solutions for local and global challenges. The college runs the Nation's largest UTeach program which prepares Math and Science majors for secondary education. More than half of their students are first-generation college students with exceptionally diverse backgrounds. The college continually works to understand the challenges of students who are traditionally underrepresented in the sciences and to successfully help them overcome these challenges and achieve their dreams.

Vision

The vision of the College of Sciences is to advance scientific knowledge through innovative discoveries, develop sustainable solutions to local and global grand challenges through community engaged scholarship and learning, and train future scientists and professionals who are academically competent, socially-aware, globally engaged, career ready, and ethical leaders.

Mission

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.

Schools & Departments

- › **Department of Physics & Astronomy:** The Department of Physics & Astronomy offers Bachelor's (B.S.) and Masters (M.S.) programs in Physics. In addition, a cooperative Ph.D. in Physics program is offered with the University of Texas at Arlington. Under this program, students enrolled in the UT Arlington Cooperative Ph.D. Physics program have the option to reside in Brownsville/Edinburg and conduct their research under the direction of a graduate faculty member of the UTRGV Physics department. All requirements for the program including graduation requirements are the same as those established for the UTA Ph.D. Physics program.
- › **School of Earth, Environmental, & Marine Sciences:** The mission of the School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences is to provide students a unique integrative educational and training experience that prepares them to meet the challenges and opportunities in the multiple dimensions of contemporary Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. This experience includes providing cutting-edge research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students that generates new knowledge and formulates effective solutions for a sustainable Rio Grande Valley and beyond.
- › **School of Integrative Biological & Chemical Sciences:** The School of Integrative Biology and Chemical Sciences is comprised of all Biology and Chemistry programs at UTRGV. The school offers full degrees on both Brownsville and Edinburg campuses. They offer a diverse number of flexible degrees that prepare students for a multitude of careers. They also prepare students interested in matriculating to professional health programs (MD, Pharmacy, Vet, Dental, Optometry, and Nursing).
- › **School of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences:** The School of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences offers Bachelor's degrees (B.S.) in Mathematics, Statistics, and Interdisciplinary Studies in Middle School Mathematics with UTeach Certification; an accelerated Bachelor's and Master's (4+1); Master's degrees (M.S.) in Mathematics and Applied Statistics and Data Science; and a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) in Mathematics and Statistics with Interdisciplinary Applications.



Programs & Centers

- › **Agroecology:** The Agroecology program at UTRGV combines student-centered research, education, and community engagement in various projects to address locally relevant issues that affect agroecosystems in South Texas, including sustainable agriculture, community-supported agriculture, urban forestry, and sustainable food systems.
- › **Annual Research Conference:** The Annual Research Conference serves as a forum for the dissemination of new scientific knowledge and discussion of scholarly ideas to foster interaction among students, faculty, and the local industry and community.
- › **Center for Excellence in STEM Education:** The Center for Excellence in STEM Education builds a community of faculty who are leaders in Challenge-Based Instruction and student programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields.
- › **Coastal Studies Laboratory:** The Coastal Studies Laboratory located on South Padre Island was established in 1973 and is dedicated to providing educational opportunities, enhancing research, engaging in public services, and providing community outreach related to coastal and marine concerns in the Gulf of Mexico with special emphasis on the South Texas region.
- › **South Texas Space Institute:** The South Texas Space Institute is an interdisciplinary space science institute that spans multiple departments within UTRGV. They encompass two internationally recognized research centers – the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy (CGWA) and the Center for Advance Radio Astronomy (CARA).
- › **UTRGV High School Scholars Program:** The COS at UTRGV has established an exciting program to engage high school students from the Rio Grande Valley in research projects being conducted by the university faculty at UTRGV's Brownsville and Edinburg campuses. The goal of this 9-week summer reserach program is to promote student interest in STEM by engaging students in "real time" laboratory or field research projects.
- › **Integrating Food Science/Engineering and Education Network (IFSEEN) USDA Protgram:** The goal of the IFSEEN consortium is to create an educational program to address the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) areas (i.e. Curricula Design and Materials Development, Student Experiential Learning, and Student Recruitment and Retention) through collaboration among four major HSIs in Texas and New Mexico.
- › **UTeach:** UTeach UTRGV is a secondary teacher preparation program for science and math majors. The purpose of the program is to prepare highly qualified science and mathematics teachers according to the UTeach model developed at the University of Texas at Austin. During its five-year period as a replication grant, UTRGV UTeach graduated 92 students and in its fifth year surpassed all UTeach programs in the nation with an active enrollment of 485 students.



About The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Innovation. Opportunity. Purpose. 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.

UTRGV 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 most of the students are bilingual and bicultural. The University of Texas system offers a competitive [benefits package](#) including health insurance, a state pension, and fertility insurance.

Mission Statement*

To transform the Rio Grande Valley and beyond via an innovative and unique multicultural education dedicated to student access and success. By championing leading research, healthcare, and application of University discoveries, we support sustainable development, community engagement, and well-being.

**Pending approval by The University of Texas System Board of Regents.*

Vision

Drawing on our unique identity as the leading Hispanic Serving Institution in a bilingual and bicultural environment, UTRGV will promote student access and success by building from strength in education and creating a vibrant campus experience. By 2027, we will accelerate transformation in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond by driving meaningful advancements in research and creative works, expanding access to high-quality and affordable healthcare, and fostering authentic community engagement and integration.

Core Values

Excellence: We commit to cultivating the best academic, cultural, and service-oriented experience for all members of the UTRGV community.

Diversity, Access, and Inclusion: We cultivate a multicultural and welcoming environment that grants all members of our community ample opportunities to thrive.

Inquiry, Discovery, and Creativity: We push boundaries in research and scholarship, welcome diverse perspectives, and value creative problem-solving.

Shared Leadership and Accountability: We commit to our responsibility as leaders on our campuses and in our community and we take ownership for our actions and our results.

Student-centricity: We recognize that students are central to our mission, and we provide valuable and diverse opportunities from them to learn, lead, and serve.

Collaboration: We encourage a spirit of collegiality and mutual respect among all members of our community in pursuit of our shared goals.

Adaptability: We commit to being flexible and agile and maintaining a positive mindset to change.

UTRGV Quick Facts

Enrollment: 32,441

Accrediting Body: SACSCOC

President: Guy Bailey, Ph.D.

Provost: Luis Zayas, Ph.D.

Athletics: Western Athletic
Conference

Alumni: 50,000+

Rankings & Milestones:

- › #1 University in Texas (60th Nationally) – *Washington Monthly, 2023*
- › #1 University in Texas for Social Mobility – *Washington Monthly, 2023*
- › #1 University in Texas (2nd Nationally) for Performance of Pell Grant Students – *Washington Monthly, 2023*
- › #1 Lowest Net Price of Attendance – *Washington Monthly, 2023*
- › #1 Public University in Texas (7th Nationally) – *Degree Choices, 2023*
- › #1 Large University in Texas (6th Nationally) – *Third Way, 2023*
- › #1 University in Texas for Social Mobility – *US News & World Report, 2023*
- › #1 Public University in Texas (3rd Nationally) for lowest student debt upon graduation – *US News & World Report, 2023*
- › #1 Fastest-Growing Doctoral Public University in Texas (3rd Nationally) between 2011–2021 – *Chronicle of Higher Education*
- › Seal of [Excelencia](#) certification – *Excelencia in Education, 2021*

About the Rio Grande Valley

UTRGV extends throughout the Rio Grande Valley, from Starr County to South Padre Island, and ranks as one of the most beautiful campuses in the state of Texas. It's home to state-of-the-art facilities and classic structures that make UTRGV unique.

The Rio Grande Valley is located in 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.

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, 9 World Birding Centers, 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

Compensation

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualification and experience.

How to Apply

Greenwood Asher & Associates® is assisting the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be directed to Greenwood Asher & Associates®. Application materials should include a:

- › Letter of interest that clearly states the applicant's qualifications for the position
- › Current résumé/curriculum vitae

We strongly encourage submitting application materials as PDF attachments. 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:

Kyle Pybus-Jerome

Senior Executive Search Consultant

kylepybusjerome@greenwoodsearch.com

Tracey Weldon

Vice President of Executive Search

traceyweldon@greenwoodsearch.com

Greenwood Asher & Associates

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The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. UTRGV promotes and ensures 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. Our University is committed to complying with all government requirements and ensures nondiscrimination in our education programs and activities, including employment. An eligible veteran, surviving spouse of a veteran, or an orphan of a veteran is entitled to preference in the selection process over other applicants who do not have greater qualifications. Further, we grant an employment preference to former foster youth who were in the permanent managing conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services on the day preceding the individual's 18th birthday over other applicants for the same position who do not have a greater qualification. We encourage women, minorities, and differently-abled persons to apply for employment positions of interest.

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