The Rio Grande Valley (RGV) has been at the forefront of education innovation for many years. RGV FOCUS is releasing the first community report of its kind in order to ensure that the region has a unified voice for sharing our successes and measuring progress. A collective impact initiative, RGV FOCUS, mobilizes individuals from public, private, and community-based organizations to strengthen the education system from cradle to career.

Over 40 organizations and 100+ individuals are currently working together on the RGV FOCUS Collective Impact effort.

Sources:
Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 2012; Texas FAFSA completion rate from My Degree Counts based on data from TG, 2012
Texas Education Agency, Completion, Graduation, and Dropouts Data Reports, 2011-2012
Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Reports, 2011-2012
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Higher Education Accountability System, 2012
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Higher Education Accountability System, 2013
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Education the Following Fall by High School County, School District, High School, 2011-2012
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2012

Our Vision
All RGV learners will achieve a degree or credential that leads to a meaningful career.
The Rio Grande Valley’s four counties, Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron, are home to 1.3 million people spread across 43,000 square miles. Ninety percent are of Latino heritage and the majority are fluent in both Spanish and English. The area is also strikingly young with a median age of 30. The RGV has one of the fastest growing economies in the state and the nation, but despite the growth, the region has higher unemployment, lower educational achievement, and lower median income than the state overall.

A strong history of innovative and collaborative education strategies has positioned the region to serve as a model for the rest of the country. The RGV’s thirty-nine school districts are responsible for educating over 340,000 students each year. An additional 70,000 students enroll in our colleges and universities. The five institutions of higher education include: The University of Texas—Pan American, The University of Texas at Brownsville, South Texas College, Texas Southmost College, and Texas State Technical College.

### Our Region

### Our Students

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### Annual Degrees and Credentials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>RGV</th>
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<th>US</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
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<td>Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificates and other completers</td>
<td>3,884</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Our Community Measuring Progress

The Valley leads the state on 6 of the 9 key indicators.

- **FAFSA Completion** – Complete by March 15th to improve chances of receiving financial aid.
- **Advanced Placement and Dual Credit** – Get a head start to college by earning college credit in high school.
- **Higher Education Enrollment** – Increase your chances of earning a degree on time by immediately enrolling in college.
- **Higher Education Graduates (2-year College)** – Complete an associates degree to increase earning potential.
- **Graduates Employed or Enrolled (2-year Colleges), Graduates Employed or Enrolled (4-year Universities)** – Increase your chances of being fully employed in one of the fastest growing occupations which require a college degree.

The Valley is working to surpass the state on 3 indicators.

- **Four-year High School Graduation** – Take the first step to becoming a college graduate by earning your high school diploma.
- **College Readiness** – Become college ready by performing well on state exams, ACT, or SAT.
- **Higher Education Graduates (4-year Universities)** – Complete a bachelor’s degree to double earning potential, compared to a high school graduate.
4 Counties. 1 Community.

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