RGV FOCUS WORKS CONTIGO TO UNITE LEADERS TO CHANGE LIVES

Working side by side with community partners to serve as connector, organizer and supporter, the RGV FOCUS staff, known as the Backbone, creates equitable ideas and actions to achieve our shared goals:

- **COLLEGE READINESS**
  All students will graduate from high school college-ready

- **TIMELY TRANSITION**
  All high-school graduates will transition to higher education within one year

- **ACHIEVEMENT**
  All higher-education graduates will achieve a degree or credential

- **EMPLOYMENT**
  All higher-education graduates will be employed within six months of graduation

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**OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to transform college readiness, access and success in the four counties of the Rio Grande Valley: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy.

**OUR VISION**

Our vision is for all RGV learners to achieve a degree or credential that leads to a meaningful career.

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**WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS WHO WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH US TO SUPPORT OUR WORK AND HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS**

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s P-16 Community Investment initiative and Civil Rights and Equity Organizations (CREO) initiative
- Lumina Foundation’s Talent Hub initiative
- Backbone support from the Greater Texas Foundation and the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation
- RGV FOCUS is honored to have received ongoing support from our valued funding partners, including:
2019-2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

The RGV FOCUS Leadership Team works side by side with the RGV FOCUS Backbone staff and other community partners. Many thanks to the leaders who represent the organizations below for their dedication to the vision and mission of RGV FOCUS.

PRE-K THROUGH 12

![Logos of various Pre-K through 12 organizations]

HIGHER EDUCATION

![Logos of various higher education institutions]

COMMUNITY-BASED

![Logos of various community-based organizations]

BUSINESS

![Logos of various businesses]

### RGV BY THE NUMBERS

- **1.36m** people call the Rio Grande Valley Home
- **30** of the population in the Rio Grande Valley is Latino
- **92%** of RGV students attend “A” or “B” rated campuses
- **87%** of RGV residents 25 years old and older have bachelor’s degrees or higher, compared to **29%** in that age group in the state and **32%** in the United States

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<th>RGV Baseline****</th>
<th>STAAR 8TH GRADE MATH</th>
<th>FAFSA COMPLETION**</th>
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<td>54%</td>
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<td>Baseline</td>
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<th>STAAR 3RD GRADE READING</th>
<th>4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE*</th>
<th>COLLEGE-READY GRADUATES*</th>
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*RGV Data is for Graduating Class of 2018 | **RGV Data is for Graduating Class of 2019 | ***Due to the consolidation of 4-year institutions of higher education in the RGV, a 4-year standard baseline is not applicable | ****2015 Baseline for Higher Ed. Graduates Employed/Enrolled 4-year, 2011-2012 Baseline for all other indicators
### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH ELEMENTARY
- Improve quality of education through grade-level literacy in reading and math, pre-K through third grade

#### SECONDARY THROUGH POSTSECONDARY
- Decrease remediation/developmental education
- Re-engage individuals with significant college credits to complete a degree or credential
- Increase immediate enrollment to postsecondary after graduation from high school
- Increase accessibility of resources about college for parents and families

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL
- Ensure successful completion of four years of an intentional and rigorous math pathway with emphasis on 8th Grade Math

#### TEACHING EXCELLENCE
- Improve educator preparation through coordinated efforts between the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Education, Rio Grande Valley school districts and charter schools

#### WORKFORCE
- Create regional youth workplace-based experience and models
- Support employer-led educational partnership models in IT, health care and education

### AP/DUAL CREDIT COMPLETION*
- 51%
- 32%

### PUBLIC HIGHER ED. GRADUATION RATE 2-YEAR
- 29%
- 17%

### HIGHER ED. GRADUATES EMPLOYED/ENROLLED 2-YEAR
- 89%
- 92%

### HIGHER ED. IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT RATE*
- 57%
- 56%

### PUBLIC HIGHER ED. GRADUATION RATE 4-YEAR***
- 25%
- ---

### HIGHER ED. GRADUATES EMPLOYED/ENROLLED 4-YEAR
- 80%
- 78%

*Matches or exceeds state performance

*For additional data, sources and information on our Equity Framework visit [RGVFOCUS.ORG/SCORECARD](RGVFOCUS.ORG/SCORECARD)
CONTIGO

The Rio Grande Valley is a place where language and culture are celebrated in our communities, in our homes, in our schools, and on college and university campuses.

Here, community and business leaders are working side by side with education leaders and parents to give our children the academic foundation they need to succeed in the classroom, in their careers and in life.

In Spanish, this idea of working “side by side” is expressed by the word contigo — with you. Contigo is what RGV FOCUS is all about.

To learn more and read stories about our work with our partners, visit RGVFOCUS.ORG

THREE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO BE A PART OF THIS WORK

1. TALENT
   Join our collective impact team

2. TIME
   Engage in an action network through RGV FOCUS

3. TREASURE
   Support regional collaboration

RGV FOCUS BACKBONE TEAM

DR. RODNEY H. RODRIGUEZ, SENIOR DIRECTOR
KATHERINE DÍAZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GERALD GONZALES, JR., DEPUTY DIRECTOR
VANESSA ALFARO, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

ABOUT EDUCATE TEXAS AND COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

In 2012, Educate Texas and Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) partnered with Valley-based leaders to establish RGV FOCUS. Educate Texas is proud to be an initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas and, together, we are building thriving communities and a thriving education system for all Texas students. Trusted as a change agent in Texas education, Educate Texas works side by side with partners through programs and policies to empower students to realize their dreams and fuel a thriving Texas.