

ABSTRACT

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (HEP)

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Edinburg Campus

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Edinburg campus located in the heart of Hidalgo County, Texas will serve **ninety migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families annually** with instructional services for high school equivalency certification, support services for attainment, and activities to make sure they are prepared to succeed and complete a post-secondary goal. The proposed project will be housed in **one site** on the UTRGV Edinburg campus **located** in Edinburg, Texas, in the Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs Division, College Access and K-12 Partnerships Department. We will conduct outreach, identification, and recruitment in four counties, Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron, and Willacy who combined have 13,882 eligible migrant students. Our program will be a commuter and residential project, thus capitalizing on the familial support of shared appreciation for education, and quality family time. The project has **five measurable goals and objectives** for the funding cycle. Through the following activities and services namely daily instruction and tutoring, academic and career counseling, college campus and cultural tours, Life Skills classes, Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) workshops, and financial support, we will ensure **1)** to recruit, identify, and select in the Rio Grande Valley region **90** qualifying farmworkers or their families to participate in the program each year; **2) 70%** of participating students will become attainers (GPRA 1); **3) 80%** of graduates placed in post-secondary education, upgraded employment or military service (GPRA 2); **4.1) 100%** of participants will receive accurate information concerning federal financial aid and college application procedures; **4.2) 70%** of graduates file for financial aid; and **5) 100%** of participants will receive exposure to a range of in-demand STEM/CTE careers and will receive instruction connecting to STEM or Career & Technical Education (CTE) skill enhancement.

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