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News and People

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Fifteen sites to be considered for new UTRGV headquarters

Facility would house about 100 employees, executives of new university



With an inaugural president already chosen for the new University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), attention has now turned to where the administrative offices of the university will be located. More than a dozen cities and companies already have thrown their collective hats into the ring seeking to be the administrative home of the university.

By action of the UT System Board of Regents, the talent, assets and resources of UT Brownsville and UT Pan American are being combined to form UTRGV, which will

also include a medical school. The new university is expected to welcome its inaugural class of students in fall 2015, with the medical school opening a year later.

"What is going on here in the Rio Grande Valley is unique in the country," said newly named UTRGV President Guy Bailey when he visited the UT Brownsville campus recently. "This is the first major university formed in the 21st century. If we do it right, what happens in the Valley will radiate all over the state and the nation."

Between now and August, System officials will discuss where the site for the new administrative offices will be located. System officials this week released a list of the 15 cities and companies seeking to house those offices. Those entities responded to a request for proposals (RFP) in March regarding the gifting or sale of land or land and a facility in the Rio Grande Valley that would be the site of the UTRGV administration building.

Responding to the RFP with their proposals are the cities of Brownsville, McAllen, Edinburg, Harlingen, San Benito, San Juan, Weslaco and Mercedes. Cielo Reality Partners, Roberto S. Zamora, Cadence Commercial Real Estate, D&M Ventures LLC, the economic Development Corporation of Weslaco, S.E.R.R. Properties LLC and MVP Partnership Ltd.



Inaugural UTRGV President Guy Bailey speaks to the media during a recent visit to UT Brownsville. (UTB photo)

The new administration facility will house approximately 100 UTRGV employees and executive personnel. The System's regents will be responsible for choosing the site from the proposals submitted. In the meantime, System officials have already announced two proposed new buildings for the new university. A \$54 million, 140,000-square-foot academic building is planned for the current UT Brownsville campus and a 163,000-square-foot, \$70 million new science building is planned for the Edinburg campus.

Bailey also this week announced his 13-member transition team, including six administrators from UTPA, four from UTB, two from the UT System and Francisco Fernandez, dean of the UTRGV Medical School. The team includes: Dr. Janna Arney, Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs at UTB; Marty Baylor, Vice President for Business Affairs at IITPA; Liza Benson, Assistant Director of Change Management for

Wanta' be an entrepreneur in residence?

By Mary Scott Nabers, CEO of Strategic Partnerships, Inc.



The face of government is changing and the re-invention process is being led by innovation. A big game-changer is occurring as millennial professionals focus on innovation and collaboration to make things happen in government.

Many city halls today have an Entrepreneur in Residence. Some also have a Chief Data Officer and others may employ a Chief Innovation Officer. Governmental organizations throughout America are not only hiring new types of talent, they are adjusting to extremely new ways of accomplishing objectives.

Probably now here is innovation and creativity more evident than in the growing trend to hire Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIRs). The EIR programs involve reaching out to private industry for help, and collaboration, to accomplish all kinds of objectives.

Texas law makers passed a statute that approves EIR programs for state agencies. The programs are designed to facilitate communication and interaction between the business community and the agency. Legislators hope these programs will encourage collaboration and make government more transparent and responsive to citizen needs.

In California, state legislation was filed to add at least 10 entrepreneurs to state agencies, departments and commissions. The primary motivation was to improve outreach and collaboration with small businesses. Elected leaders in California are encouraging businesses to point out wasteful and duplicative state programs and to help public

Vice President for Business Affairs at UTSA; Lisa Schorn, Assistant Director of Change Management for UT System; Dr. Martha Cantu, Vice President for Student Affairs at UTPA; Irv Downing, Vice President for Economic Development and Community Services at UTB; Veronica Gonzales, Vice President for University Advancement at UTPA; Letty Fernandez, Director of News and Information at UTB; Dr. Maggie Hinojosa, Senior Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services at UTPA; Dr. Julio Leon, Special Advisor for UT System's Office of Academic Affairs; Ben Reyna, Assistant Provost for Governmental Relations at UTB; Dr. Havidan Rodriguez, Vice President for Academic Affairs at UTPA; Dr. Sadiq Shah, Vice Provost for Research and Sponsored Projects at UTPA; and Dr. Fernandez of the Medical School.

cooperative state programs and to help public officials reduce costs. And, in Boston, the city is encouraging community input as they strive to make a digital outreach site for citizens as "human" as possible. A chief digital officer (CDO) will direct the digital outreach by using the city's Web site, its television station and social media interaction with citizens. The objective is to make the Web portal as friendly as talking to a person.

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Obama to nominate Castro as HUD Secretary in D.C. today



San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro (pictured) will be nominated by President Barack Obama to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today, Friday. A White House official confirmed that the nomination will be made in a White House ceremony this afternoon, with Castro attending.

Speculation has swirled all week over the impending nomination, which will require confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Castro would replace current HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, whom Obama will name today as his choice for head of the Office of Management and Budget.

"The president believes that Mayor Castro is the right person to build on his critical work at HUD based on his work in San Antonio," the White House official said. "He has been a leader among mayors in terms of implementing housing and economic development programs and under his leadership, San Antonio has been highly successful at lifting educational attainment and spurring job creation... The President is excited about the Mayor bringing his practical, on-the-ground success to scale at the federal level," the official said.

Castro is a third-term mayor of the Alamo City and has one year left on his current term. Castro is the twin brother of U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, also from San Antonio.



Weber names two more to his leadership team at TxDOT

Pair of military veterans to hold chief of staff, strategy/innovation positions

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will have a few more faces from the ranks of the military in its leadership team, as new Executive Director Joe Weber, who retired from the U.S. Marines with the rank of lieutenant general, has named two other military veterans to key positions on his staff.



Weber this week announced retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. Richard C. McMonagle as his chief of staff and retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Darran I. Anderson as the agency's new chief strategy and innovation officer. The two will start work at the agency in June.

McMonagle comes to TxDOT from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he has been director of the Infrastructure Division for nearly six years and was responsible for sustainable planning, design, construction and support services for the department. He is a 25-year Marine Corps veteran. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and two master's degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College.

Anderson is currently a senior program manager for Trideum Corp. in Huntsville, Alabama, where he provides expert support for the planning, integration and development of the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate. He also is a former senior analyst for the Battle Command Training Support Program at Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Virginia.

Irving picks Hillman as lone finalist for city manager

Surprise, Arizona, City Manager Chris Hillman (pictured) will be pulling up stakes and heading to Texas soon, after being named the lone finalist for the post of Irving city manager. Hillman beat out two other finalists, both connected to the city of Surprise - former city manager Randy Oliver and former public works director James Nichols.



Hillman has been serving as the Surprise city manager since May 2011. Before moving to Surprise, he was the city manager of Clearfield, Utah, and was city administrator of Eagle Mountain, Utah. He also was previously an assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer of Sandy City, Utah.

Hillman earned a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's degree in public administration from Brigham Young University.

Brenham approves \$4 million to renovate library, build shelter

Brenham City Council members recently agreed to issue \$4 million in certificates of obligation to pay for renovating the library, building a new animal shelter and buying two new fire trucks.

The city was able to obtain an interest rate under 3 percent, which saved about \$335,000 over a 10-year period on the debt city officials had estimated would carry a 3.5 percent interest rate, said Gary Kimball, a

Strategic Partnerships salutes Texas' Lone Stars

Peter Bond, Assistant Vice President for Procurement Management, The University of Texas at Dallas

Career highlights and education: Bachelor of Arts from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Certified as a Certified Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.), Certified Purchasing Card Professional (CPCP) and Transactional LEAN Facilitator. Former president of local NIGP Purchasing and regional NAEP Purchasing

