



October 4, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

We have embarked on an important journey that will benefit our students, the Rio Grande Valley, the State of Texas, and beyond. We are in the process of creating a new university that will result from the consolidation of UT Brownsville and UT Pan American, and will include a medical school. Planning for the academic programming of the new university is one of the most important tasks we face and one of the most exciting. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to envision the academic programs for our new university, an emerging research institution of “the first class.”

We appreciate your willingness to join us in this exciting venture through your participation in one of the thirteen academic program working groups tasked with considering how the various disciplines should be represented in the new university. Each working group has equal faculty representation from UTB and UTPA and is charged with making recommendations on the types of academic programs the new university will offer when it begins in Fall 2015. A key goal of these working groups is to propose academic programs that directly address, and have as a strong foundation, the guiding principles of the new university. *This is an opportunity to dream of new academic programs and to be innovative and creative in developing academic programs that will serve the needs of our students and our community, especially programs that are trans-disciplinary and reflect the bicultural and bilingual principles of the new university.*

We look forward to working with you in this challenging, exciting, and transformational process. We understand you have very busy schedules and other commitments and we appreciate the time and energy you are devoting to this new and vital task.

Sincerely,

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