

ROBERT S. NELSEN

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Chicago** **1989**
Committee on Social Thought (Fields: Modern Literature, Modern Philosophy,
Modern Political Theory)
- M.A., Brigham Young University** **1979**
Political Science (Fields: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Science)
- B.A., Brigham Young University** **1978**
Political Science (Minor in English)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- The University of Texas System** **2014-present**
Special Advisor to Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Advise Executive Vice Chancellor on South Texas governmental relations
- Advise Executive Vice Chancellor on South Texas community relations
- Advise Executive Vice Chancellor on South Texas medical school implementation
- Advise Executive Vice Chancellor on South Texas P-16 initiatives
- Advise Executive Vice Chancellor on South Texas community college collaborations
- Fundraise for new university and for medical school

- The University of Texas-Pan American** **2010-2014**
President
Professor of English

Significant Achievements:

- Increased total enrollment by 9.4%, first-time, full-time freshmen by 21.4%, and first-time entering transfer students by 35.6%
- Increased six-year graduation rates from 38.7% in 2009 to 46.4% according to the most updated information on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's website
- Improved the annual financial condition of the University, despite a 5% and then a subsequent additional 17.76% budget cut in state appropriations from FY10-FY12.
 - Produced a balanced budget and a 3% merit pool for FY 2014 (2013)
 - Improved the Composite Financial Index from 2.0 in 2009 to 4.7 in 2012 (Strategic decisions to budget the 3% merit pool and to move forward with several much-needed construction/renovation projects will drop the CFI to 2.8 for 2013, but projected enrollment growth next year should return it to the 3 to 4% range.)

- Improved the Operating Expense Coverage Ratio from 3.1 months in 2009 to 5.5 months in 2012
 - Decreased administrative costs by 2.3%
- Changed the perception of the University by the community from a negative 47% to a positive 76% through community engagement and marketing initiatives
- UT Pan American elevated to from “comprehensive masters” status to “doctoral serving university” classification (2013)
- UT Pan American named “College of the Year” by the National Hispanic Institute at its Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas (2013)
- Excelencia in Education named UT Pan American’s Cooperative Pharmacy Program (CPP) as America’s top program for increasing achievement for Latino students at the graduate level at the Excelencia Celebration Gala, Washington D.C. (2013)
- Stabilized athletics budget and moved from NCAA Division I independent status into the Western Athletic Conference in all sports (after having received NCAA accreditation for the next 10 years without requiring site visit) (2013)
- Approved the creation of Women’s Soccer team (to begin in 2014)
- Re-established South Texas P-16 Network, bringing together over 30 superintendents, 3 community college presidents, and 2 university presidents at least quarterly to improve college readiness of high school students and to simplify their transition to college
- Established the University College to house all undeclared majors, to centralize the first two years of advising, and to provide opportunities for service and experiential learning as well as study abroad (2013)
- Provided oversight to planning and construction of new buildings and major renovations:
 - Academic and Performing Arts Center – a new 1,100-seat venue (to be completed in 2014)
 - University College (to be completed in 2014)
 - Student Academic Center – total renovation, including Dean of Students’ offices, disability office, counseling offices, and veterans’ office (2014)
 - University and Financial Services Building – a fully converted title company building (2013)
 - Student Union – a total renovation and addition of a second floor 2013
 - Community Engagement and Student Services Building – a fully converted former clothing manufacturing plant (2012)
 - Visual Arts Building – a fully converted former Walmart building; complete with a foundry (2012)
 - Alumni Center – a fully converted former McDonald’s restaurant (2011)
 - The University of Texas-Pan American at Starr County Complex – three classroom buildings and a library (2011)
- Upgraded Administrative Information System from Oracle R-11 to Oracle R-12, on time and \$700,000 under budget
- Initiated new online degree programs: Master of Business Administration (2012), Master of Public Administration (2012), Master’s in Special Education (Fall 2013), RN to BSN (Fall 2014)

- Completed a new Campus Master Plan with planning team of Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek (BGK) Architects of Austin, Texas, and Michael Dennis & Associates of Boston, Massachusetts (2012-2013)
- Submitted Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Fifth Year Report, with only two minor findings (2013)
- Hosted the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Education Tour, honoring Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (2013)
- Established the Mexican American Center and solidified the bachelor's degree (2012)
- Initiated student days at the Texas Capitol during the legislative sessions
 - Inaugural UT Pan American Day at the Capitol (2011)
 - RGV Higher Education Day at the Capitol with both UT Pan American and UT Brownsville participating to support the creation of a new university with a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley (2013)
- Completed Articulation Agreements with South Texas College – 97% of all degree programs now have articulation agreements (2012)
- Launched “Bronc Country: The Engaged University,” The University of Texas-Pan American's Strategic Plan (2011), and appointed two presidential fellows to implement and continuously update the plan (2012)
- Celebrated the University's 85th Anniversary, which included a Founder's Day Picnic and Sapphire Year Celebration (November 3, 2012)
- Helped plan and participated in three VistaSummits, meetings with potential funders of initiatives in the Rio Grande Valley, bringing in national funders including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina, the Ford Foundation, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and the Greater Texas Foundation to hear local and national educators and health experts – over 600 attendees at each event
 - VistaSummit: Transforming the Rio Grande Valley (October 2011)
 - VistaSummit: Health (November 2011)
 - VistaSummit: Education (April 2012)
- Centralized student advising and implemented DegreeWorks, an online degree planning software (2012)
- Established a Student Employment Office that puts priority on student employment on campus over direct wage employees (2012)
- Increased alumni participation and giving to 3.24% – vs. peers at 2.7% – through initiatives such as Broncs at Work, new Alumni Chapters throughout the state, Count Me In campaign, and electronic data bases (2012)
- Established the first-ever Development Board at the University and hired State Representative Veronica Gonzales as the Vice President for University Advancement to oversee marketing and fundraising (2012)
- Awarded Emerging Technology Fund grant of \$3.65 Million (2010)
- With George Reynolds (Northrup Grumman) and Tom Seitz (MIT), initiated an ongoing LEAN initiative on campus, beginning with Accounts Payable (2010)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of English, College of Liberal Arts

2008-2009

Administrative Responsibilities:

- ***Oversight of:***
 - Academic Affairs' Budget Preparation
 - Implementation of Business Incubator and Liaison with City and County Government
 - Undergraduate Program Reviews and Coordination of Graduate Program Reviews with Graduate Dean
 - Adjunct Faculty Policies and Procedures
 - Undergraduate and Graduate University Catalogue Production (Reviews and Updates)
 - Upward Evaluation of Administrators
 - Office of International Education and University Internationalization Initiatives;
 - E-learning Initiatives (including WebCT and LMS)
 - Distance & Distributed Education
 - New Program Development
 - Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Rules and Procedures
 - Faculty Handbook Policies
 - Subject Matter Expert for Texas A&M System Policies and Regulations
 - Center for Academic Athletic Success
 - Faculty Merit Pay and Equity Reviews and Recommendations
- ***Academic Affairs' Liaison with:***
 - Office of the Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration
 - Associate Vice President for Enrollment to Streamline and Enhance Enrollment Management
 - Texas A&M System Office, Office of General Counsel, and Board of Regents on Academic Matters
 - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on Academic Matters
 - Library Director on Library Enhancement
 - Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness for Academic Assessment
 - SACS Reaccreditation Team and QEP Committee
 - Faculty Senate
 - English as a Second Language Institute
 - NCAA Athletic Oversight Committee
- ***Community Engagement:***
 - Worked with City of Corpus Christi leaders to implement the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, a technology incubator for which was eventually gifted \$3,000,000 plus a building to house the incubator
 - Worked closely with the local economic development corporation in establishing relations with Tianjin, China and TPCO, a Chinese stainless steel pipe company that is building a three billion dollar plant in the area.

The University of Texas at Dallas
Vice Provost, 2007-2008
Associate Provost, 2006-2007

1990-2008

Professor, Literary and Aesthetic Studies, School of Arts & Humanities, 2008

Associate Professor, 1996-2008

Assistant Professor, 1990-1996

Director of Creative Writing, 1996-2006

Administrative Responsibilities:

- ***Oversight of:***
 - Hiring and Evaluating Faculty and Academic Staff
 - Faculty Review Processes, *e.g.*, Annual Reviews, Third-year Reviews for Reappointment, Sixth-year Reviews for Tenure and Promotion, Promotion to the Rank of Professor, and Periodic Post-tenure Reviews
 - Reviews of Academic Programs and Academic Administrators
 - SACS Liaison for SACS Reaffirmation, including Quality Enhancement Plan Oversight
 - Orientation of New Faculty and Periodic Training of Current Faculty and Administrators
 - Awards for Special Faculty Development Assignments
 - Management of the Office of the Provost Personnel
 - Management of Faculty Grievances and Offenses
 - Management and Approval of Faculty, Staff, and TA Credentialing
 - Eugene McDermott Library
 - Office of International Education
 - Center for US-Mexico Studies
 - Office of Educational Enhancement and Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
 - Distance Education
- ***Academic Affairs' Liaison with:***
 - Communications between the Office of the Provost and the UTD Faculty Governance System
 - Communications between the Office of the Provost and the Offices of Business Affairs and Student Affairs
 - Communications between the Office of the Provost and the UT System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- ***Approval Authority and Oversight for:***
 - Overseas Travel of Faculty and Administrative Officers
 - Requests to Serve Alcohol at University Functions
 - Faculty Consulting and Dual Employment
 - Conflict of Interest Issues
 - Use of Self-authored Textbooks
 - Professional Services Contracts
 - Off-campus Use of University Equipment
 - Employment of Foreign Nationals

University of Illinois at Chicago
Lecturer, Department of English

1989-1990

Wolfgang Goethe Universität der Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
Guest Research Associate in the Social and Human Sciences

1987

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Board Member, Advocacy Alliance Center of Texas (a voter registration/get out the vote organization), McAllen, Texas, 2011-present

Board Member, South Texas World Affairs Council, Corpus Christi, Texas, 2008-present

Member, International Advisory Board, Christopher Isherwood Foundation, Santa Monica, California, 2002-present

Vice Chair, Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors, Austin, Texas, 2012-2014

Board Member, Western Athletic Conference, Denver, Colorado, 2013-2014

Board Member, Co-Director, Collective Impact, Rio Grande Valley, Funded by the Ford Foundation, 2011-2014

Board Member, Hispanic Educational Technology Services (HETS), San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2011-2014

Chair, The North American Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education Initiative, Rio Grande Valley, Texas, 2010-2014

State Representative, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, 2010-2014

Member, Grants Resource Center Committee, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, 2010-2014

Member, Distance Education Advisory Group, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, 2010-2014

Member, Committee on Policies and Purposes, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, 2010-2014

Member, Executive Advisory Committee, *Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2010-2014

Board Member, Executive Committee, Texas International Education Consortium, Austin, Texas, 2010-2014

Councilor, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, Texas, 2010-2014

Board Member, Vice Chair, Executive Committee, Great West Athletic Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 2010-2013

Board Member, Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, McAllen, Texas, 2011-2012

Member, Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas Future Directions Workgroup, Austin, Texas, 2012

Member, Rio South Texas Economic Council, Edinburg, Texas, 2011

Board Member, Texas Business Education Coalition (TBEC) Joint Board of Directors and Coordinating Committee, Austin, Texas, 2010-2011

SELECTED TESTIMONY

“The Implications of HB5 on Higher Education,” State Board of Education, Austin, Texas,

November 21, 2013

- “Higher Education Impact of Senate Bill 24,” Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Committee on Academic and Workforce Success, Austin, Texas, March 27, 2013**
- “Senate Bill 24, The New University in Rio Grande Valley,” Texas Senate Higher Education Committee, Austin, Texas, March 6, 2013**
- “2014-2015 Budget,” Texas Senate Finance Committee, Austin, Texas, January 28, 2013**
- “2014-2015 Budget,” Texas House Appropriations Committee, Austin, Texas, February 12, 2013**
- “HB 1000, The New University in Rio Grande Valley,” Texas House Higher Education Committee, Austin, Texas, February 20, 2013**
- “Increasing Manufacturing in Texas,” Texas House Higher Education Committee, Austin, Texas, April 24, 2012**
- “Affordable Higher Education,” White House, Department of Education, Washington, D.C., March 23, 2012 (as a State Representative with AASCU)**
- “U.S./Mexico Border Issues,” Texas House Border and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Austin, Texas, February 28, 2011**
- “Budget Reductions,” Texas House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Austin, Texas, February 15, 2011**
- “2012-2013 Budget,” Texas Senate Finance Committee, Austin, Texas, February 15, 2011**

SELECTED TEXAS STATEWIDE ACADEMIC AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES

- Member, TEA STAAR – State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness End of Course (EOC) Policy Committee Meeting, February 1, 2012**
- Representative for Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors, 2011 Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal in Higher Education Committee, Austin, Texas, 2011**
- Member, Texas Learning Object Repository Committee (Chair, Peer Review Subcommittee), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2008-2010**
- Member, Participated in Region One Education Service Center – Regional Planning for Transition to STAAR, 2010**
- Member, Graduate Education Advisory Committee, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2004-2008**
- Member, Study Abroad Task Force, Texas A&M University System, 2008-2010**
- Member, Academic Leadership Taskforce, The University of Texas System, 2006-2008**
- Member, Graduate Education Taskforce, The University of Texas System, 2006-2008**
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity in Graduate Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2005-2008**
- Member, Advisory Committee for the Academic Course Guide Manual, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2000-2007**
- Member, Executive Committee, Faculty Advisory Council, The University of Texas System, 1999-2006**
- Member, Faculty Advisory Council, The University of Texas System, 1997-2006**
- Member, Accountability Working Group, The University of Texas System, 2002-2006**
- Member, Texas Council of Faculty Senates, 1998-2002, 2003-2006**
- Vice President, Texas Association of College Teachers, 2003-2004**
- Chair, Faculty Advisory Council, The University of Texas System, 2001-2003 (Past Chair, 2003-**

2004)
Member, Board of Regents' Committee on Student, Faculty, and Staff Campus Life, The University of Texas System, 2002-2003
Chair, Governance Committee, Faculty Advisory Council, The University of Texas System, 1999-2001

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Chair, Audit Committee, The University of Texas-Pan American, 2010-2014
Chair, Compliance Committee, The University of Texas-Pan American, 2010-2014
Member, Task Force on Employee/Student Relationships, The University of Texas System, 2013
Member, Task Force on Productivity and Excellence, The University of Texas System, 2011-2012
Chair, Distance Education Development Task Force, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2008-2010
Member, Quality Enhancement Plan Steering Committee, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2008-2010
Co-Chair, SACS Steering Committee, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2008-2010
Co-Chair, International Task Force, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2008-2009
Member, Retention Task Force, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2008-2010
Member, Athletic Oversight Committee, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2008-2010
Co-chair, University of Texas at Dallas Committee on Strategic Planning, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2004-2006
Member, Commencement Committee, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2004-2006 (Chair, 1998-2002)
Member, Mercury Advisory Board (Student Newspaper), The University of Texas at Dallas, 2001-2003, 2004-2008
Faculty Advisor, Sojourn, School of Arts and Humanities, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1999-2006
Faculty Advisor, Graduate Student Association, School of Arts Humanities, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1991-2006
Speaker of the Faculty, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2004-2006
Secretary of the Faculty, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2003-2004
Member, The University of Texas at Dallas Institutional Compliance Working Committee, 1998-2006
Member, The University of Texas at Dallas Ad Hoc Recycling Committee, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2005-2006
Member, Presidential Search Committee, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2003-2005
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Tuition and Fees, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2004-2005
Member, The University of Texas at Dallas Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Summer Teaching, 2003
Member, Senate Committee on Tenure for Part-Time Faculty, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2004-2005
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for the Reorganization of Academic Structure at The University of Texas at Dallas, 2000-2002
Speaker of the Faculty, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1998-2001

Member, Academic Council, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1997-2001
Chair, University of Texas at Dallas Senate Ad Hoc Committee for Procedures for Public Events, 1997-98
Senator, The University of Texas at Dallas Academic Senate, 1996-2001
Member, SACS Self-Study Editorial Committee, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1996-1997
Member, The University of Texas at Dallas Senate Ad Hoc Task Force on Post-Tenure Review, 1996-1997
Chair, Committee on Teaching, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Texas at Dallas, 1995-1999
Chair, Committee on Effective Teaching, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1995-1997
Member, Library Services Committee, School of Arts and Humanities, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1993-1996
Member, Course and Curriculum Committee, School of Arts and Humanities, The University of Texas at Dallas, 1990-1993, 1994-1999

HONORS AND AWARDS

Citation of Honor, Texas Society of Architects, *Texas Architect Magazine*, Austin, Texas, August 8, 2014
Equal Voice Peoples' Advocate Award, Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network, Edinburg, Texas, July 16, 2014
Leading with Excellence Award, Rio Grande Valley National Hispanic Professional Organization, Mission, Texas, June 7, 2014
Urban Council Leadership Award, 2014 Urban Leadership Council, South Padre Island, Texas. April 11, 2014
The Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame Inductee, State Farm Arena, Hidalgo, Texas, March 5, 2014
Golden Eagle Award: Man of the Year, Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Noche de Gala, McAllen, Texas, March 1, 2014
Super Leadership Award, India Association of the Rio Grande Valley, McAllen, Texas, January 26, 2014
Man of the Year Award, Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, Edinburg, Texas, October 24, 2013
Good Samaritan Community Services Award, Good Samaritan Community Services, Pharr, Texas, August 7, 2013
Edinburg Rotary Leadership Award, Edinburg, Texas, June 26, 2013
Community Literacy Champion, South Texas Literacy Coalition, Edinburg, Texas, September, 22, 2012
Liberty Bell Award, Hidalgo County Bar Association, Law Day Gala, Edinburg, Texas, May 5, 2011
Literacy Champion Award, South Texas Literacy Coalition, *Historias de la Vida* 3rd Annual Gala, Palmhurst, Texas, September 24, 2011
Chancellor's Council Award for Outstanding Teaching, The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas, 2004-2005
Special Faculty Development Award, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2003-2004
Victor Worsfold Teacher of the Year, Arts and Humanities, University of Texas at Dallas, 2002

Best Journal in Humanities, Social Studies, and Social Sciences, 1993, *Common Knowledge*, The American Association of Publishers, January 1994

Ten Best Journals, *Common Knowledge*, May 1, 1993, *Library Journal*

The Pushcart Prize

- **Best of the Small Presses: Distinguished Stories Award, 1991:**
"Ronnie Big Wolf Tooth" and "Two Points of a Blue Star"
- **Finalist Nominee:** 1996, 1995, 1990, 1989 (eight stories)

OP-EDS

"Keep America DREAMING," *Latino Magazine*, Spring 2014

"Let's Be More Compassionate," *The Monitor*, September 22, 2013

"The New University," *The Monitor*, March 2013

"The New University in the Rio Grande Valley," *Latino Magazine*, February 2013

"Projects: Degree Completion," *Public Purpose*, 2013 (AASCU's magazine)

"Why the Valley Needs a Research University," *The Monitor*, December 16, 2012

"Campus Safety," *The Monitor*, October 21, 2012

"The Rapid Response Manufacturing Center," *The Monitor*, August 17, 2012

"Importance of Voting," *Kings, Queens, and Scholars*, August 2012

"Ignite the Possibilities," *Latino Magazine*, July 2012

"The Next Ten Years: The Engaged University," *The Monitor*, June 17, 2012

"Reducing the Time to Degree," *The Monitor*, April 22, 2012

"American Cuentos," *Latino Magazine*, April 2012

"HESTEC: 10 Years of Success," *Latino Magazine*, November 2011

"College Campuses Aren't the Place to 'Pack Heat,'" *The Monitor*, February 27, 2011

"Dream Act should be more than a Dream for Students at UT Pan American," *The Monitor*, November 14, 2010

SELECTED SPEECHES AND LECTURES

"UTRGV: The Medical School and Beyond," Rio Grande Valley National Hispanic Professional Organization, Mission, Texas, June 7, 2014

"The Future of the Rio Grande Valley – UT-TBD," Keynote Speaker, Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Luncheon, Edinburg, Texas, August 13, 2013

"Juneteenth," Juneteenth Memorial Service, Edinburg, Texas, June 15, 2013

"The New University – Senate Bill 24's Effects on the Valley," Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce Buenas Tardes Luncheon, Mission, Texas, March 10, 2013

"Shared Governance and Faculty Leadership," Keynote Speaker: Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting, Austin, Texas, March 1, 2013

"Leadership and Volunteerism," Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation Banquet, Edinburg, Texas, November 3, 2012

"Latino Student Success from the Texas-Mexico Border," Grant Makers for Education Conference, New York, New York, October 25, 2012

"What a College Degree Will Mean For You," Commencement Speaker: Santa Maria High School

- Graduation, Santa Maria, Texas, June 1, 2012
- “The Engaged University – Pan Am’s Strategic Plan,”** RGV Partnership Board Meetings, Weslaco, Texas, February 23, 2012
- “The Dream Act,”** 2nd Annual Interfaith Convocation on Immigration Reform, Edinburg, Texas, January 19, 2012
- “Bilingual Immersion vs. English as a Second Language Instruction,”** Texas Association for Bilingual Education, McAllen, Texas, October 19, 2011
- “How Do Presidents Think?,”** Welcome Remarks: UTS Legal Conference, Austin, Texas November 4, 2010
- “From the Faculty to the Presidency,”** Keynote Speaker: Texas Association of College Teachers, Texas Conference/American Association of University Professors/Texas Council of Faculty Senates, Austin, Texas, October 29, 2010
- “The Coordinating Board’s Strategic Plan for Graduate Education in Texas,”** Association of Texas Graduate Schools 2010 Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas, October 14, 2010
- “The Role of the University in Creating Jobs in South Texas,”** Workforce Solutions Board of Directors Meeting, McAllen, Texas, August 25, 2010
- “Careers in STEM Mean Dollars in Pockets,”** TexPrep-Texas Pre-freshmen Engineering Program, 25th Anniversary, Edinburg, Texas, July 23, 2010
- “What Is College Really Like,”** Keynote Speaker: RGV Partnership’s Valley Proud Honors Banquet, Mercedes, Texas, May 26, 2010
- “The University’s Role in Creating Jobs,”** Small Business Week Awards Banquet, Edinburg, Texas, April 22, 2010
- “Exito y La Universidad,”** Consulado de Mexico en McAllen & BDI-Business Development and Innovation Group Reception, McAllen, Texas, March 11, 2010
- “Achieving the Dream: Success by Design,”** South Texas College Summit on College Readiness, McAllen, Texas, February 22, 2010
- “Rapid Response Manufacturing,”** McAllen Economic Development Corporation, Board of Directors Meeting, McAllen, Texas, January 21, 2010
- “Collaborations between the University and the Maquiladoras,”** Reynosa Maquiladora and Manufactures’ Association, Mission, Texas, January 10, 2010
- “Assessment and Accreditation: Making the Bitter Pill Sweet,”** Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, November 19, 2008
- “Innovations in Student Learning and the GEMS Initiative,”** Leadership Richardson, Richardson, Texas, April 4, 2008
- “Strategic Planning and the Future of the University,”** The Institute of Academic Studies, The University of Texas at Dallas, November 11, 2007
- “The Future of the Arts in the Small Community,”** North Texas Business, Culture, and Arts, McKinney, Texas April 21, 2007
- “The Value of Graduate Education: When You Become the Teacher,”** Commencement Speech, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, May 18, 2007

SELECTED PANELS, ROUNDTABLES, AND PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, CASE District IV, “Behind the Big Desk: A President’s Perspective,” Marketing and

Communications' Track, (With Panelist Dr. Mark Escamilla, President Del Mar College), South Padre Island, Texas, August 1, 2014

Panelist, Valley Interfaith 30th Anniversary Assembly, “Celebrating Our Past; Investing in Our Future,” (Panelists included State Representative René Oliveira, Bishop Daniel Flores, Father Jerry Frank, Father Alfonso Guevara, Reverend Javier Leyva), Pharr, Texas, October 27, 2013

Panelist, Congressional Roundtable on Science Literacy, HESTEC Educator Day, (Panelists included Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15); Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33); Ms. Alejandra Ceja, Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; Brig. Gen. Orlando Salinas, Deputy Commanding General, US Army; Rear Admiral Annie B. Andrews, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, U.S. Navy; Dr. Roosevelt Y. Johnson, Deputy Associate Administrator for Education, NASA; Ms. Laura Gump, Vice President Border Region, H-E-B; Mr. David Laguna Aponte, Economist, Shell Exploration and Production; Ms. Pilar Montoya, Chief Executive Officer at Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; Dr. James Ponce, Superintendent, McAllen ISD) Edinburg, Texas, October 7, 2013

Panelist, Texas Tribune Festival, “Non-Flagship Colleges” (Panelists included Dr. Phil Castille of University of Houston-Victoria, Dr. Dana Gibson of Sam Houston State University, Dr. George Wright of Texas A&M University Prairie View), Austin, Texas, September 28, 2013.

Panelist, White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanics, 2013 Texas Back to School Tour (Panelists included Alejandra Ceja, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics; Marco Davis, Deputy Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics), Edinburg, Texas, September 4, 2013

Panelist, AASCU Summer Session, Keynote Panel–Topic “Leading Change in the Academy. (Panelists included Mary Cullinan, President of Southern Oregon University, and George E. Ross, President of Central Michigan University.) Annapolis, Maryland, July 14, 2013

Panelist, South Texas Mayors Summit, “Education Panel.” (Panelists included Mayor Julián Castro, San Antonio; State Representative Mary González, District 75; Robert Carreon, Teach for America.) Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance, Edinburg Texas, March 23, 2013

Panelist, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund (NALEO), “Developing a National Research University: A Multi-Sector Initiative for the Rio Grande Valley.” (Panelists included Veronica Gonzalez, Vice President for University Advancement, The University of Texas-Pan American, and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Texas State Senator) NALEO Education Leadership Initiative: Texas Statewide Policy Institute on Higher Education, San Antonio, Texas, February 23, 2013

Presenter, VistaSummit – Healthcare, “Medical Care and Health Insurance in the Rio Grande Valley,” The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, November 28, 2012

Panelist, AASCU Concurrent Session – Topic “Presidential Leadership & Regional Development (Panelists included Linda L. M. Bennett, President of University of Southern Indiana, and Nish Acharya, Director of Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.) New Orleans, Louisiana, October 30, 2012

Panelist, Congressional Roundtable on Science Literacy, HESTEC Educator Day (Panelists included U.S. Congressman Rubén Hinojosa; Admiral Mark Ferguson, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; Dr. Subra Suresh, Director of National Science Foundation; Ms. Janet Clark, Chief Financial Officer of Marathon Oil; Mr. Hector Pineda, Associate General

- Counsel of Onshore for Shell's Upstream Americas Organization; Ms. Natalie Saiz, Director of Human Resources at NASA-Johnson Space Center; Mr. Armando Garza, Plant Manager of Coca-Cola Refreshments; Ms. Rafaela Schwan, Director of Development, Hispanic Scholarship Fund; and Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Edinburg CISD.) The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, September 24, 2012
- Presenter, The North American Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education Initiative/Rio South Texas University and Innovation Alliance Workshop**, Laredo, Texas, May 24, 2012
- Presenter, VistaSummit – Education**, “Four Year Master’s and Bachelor’s Degree,” The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, April 17, 2012
- Panelist, FESTIBA Congressional Roundtable on Reading** (Panelists included Congressman Rubén Hinojosa; Dr. Judy B. Cheatham, Vice President of Literacy Services, Reading Is Fundamental; Dr. Francisco Jimenez, Award-winning Author of *The Circuit* and *La Mariposa*, Professor of Santa Clara University; Dr. Robert Jimenez, Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Tony Plana, Actor, Director, Co-founder and Executive Artistic Director of the East LA Classic Theatre.) The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, March 30, 2012
- Presenter, “Success Strategies for Students,”** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference, Austin, Texas, November 9, 2011
- Presenter, The North American Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education Initiative Workshop**, Edinburg, Texas, October 20, 2011
- Panelist, Milken Institute Financial Innovations Workshop**, Edinburg, Texas, October 7, 2011
- Panelist, VistaSummit**, “Transforming the RGV through Investment in Education. (Panelists included Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, Chancellor of UT System, and Dr. Juliet V. Garcia, President of UT Brownsville.) The University of Texas, Brownsville, Brownsville, Texas, October 6, 2011
- Panelist, Roundtable: Fair Funding Now! Excellent Schools for All Texas Students**, The University of Texas-Pan American Leadership Alliance/Superintendents’ Meeting, Edinburg, Texas, October 29, 2011
- Panelist, Congressional Roundtable on Science Literacy, HESTEC Educator Day.** (Panelists included U.S. Congressman Rubén Hinojosa; Former Astronaut and Deputy Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center Dr. Ellen Ochoa; Jesse Saldivar, Senior Adviser, U.S. Business Affairs at Shell; James Pitts, President of Electronics Systems at Northrop Grumman; and Thomas K. Sneed, Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Marathon Oil Corporation.) The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, September 26, 2012
- Panelist, FESTIBA Congressional Roundtable on Hispanic Literacy.** (Panelists included U.S. Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (Texas-15); U.S. Congressman Blake Farenthold (TX-27); Dr. Judy Cheatham, Vice President, Reading is Fundamental; Rita Haecker, President, Texas State Teachers Association; Jennifer Peters, LSTA/Texas Reads Grants Administrator, Texas State Library and Archives; Matthew Gollub, Children's Book Author.) The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, March 28, 2011
- Presenter, The North American Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education Initiative Workshop**, Laredo, Texas, March 8, 2011
- Panelist**, “From Access to Completion at 4-Year Hispanic Serving Institutions,” MSI Funders Meeting: South Texas Hispanic Serving Institutions. (Panelists included Dr. Juliet V. Garcia,

- President of UTB/TSC, and Dr. Ray Keck, President of Texas A&M University.) The University of Texas, Brownsville, Brownsville, Texas, October 18-19, 2010
- Panelist, Workforce Roundtable**, McAllen Economic Development Corporation, McAllen Business/Industry leaders, UTPA, South Texas College, TSTC-Harlingen, and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, McAllen, Texas, October 14, 2010
- Panelist, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board – Regional Higher Education Roundtable**-South Texas Region, “UT Pan American Success Initiatives,” South Texas, College, McAllen, Texas, October 6, 2010
- Panelist, STEM Careers and the Future of the Hispanic Community, HESTEC Educator Day.** (Panelists included US Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (Texas-15); US Congressman Henry Cuellar (Texas-28); US Congressman Silvestre Reyes (Texas-16); Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Deputy Director for Johnson Space Center, NASA; Dr. Rosalinda Barrera, Assistance Deputy Secretary of Education.) University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, September 27, 2010
- Presenter, “Filling the STEM Pipeline,”** Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C., April 19, 2010
- Panelist, FESTIBA Congressional Roundtable on Hispanic Literacy.** (Panelists included U.S. Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (Texas-15); U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah (PA-2); Peter Reynolds, Children’s Author; Manlio Argueta, Salvadorean Novelist; Carol Rasco, President and CEO of Reading is Fundamental.) The University of Texas-Pan American, March 22, 2010
- Presenter, “Assessment and Accountability in Student Affairs,”** Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, April 18, 2009
- Presenter, “Internationalizing the Island University,”** NAFSA: Association of International Educators Annual Conference, Merida, Mexico, November 8, 2008
- Presenter, “Characteristics of Texas Public Doctoral Programs,”** Accountability Working Group, The University of Texas System, Austin, Texas, June 27, 2007
- Presenter, “Strategic Goals for Doctoral Education in Texas,”** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Graduate Education Advisory Council, Austin, Texas, June 8, 2007
- Presenter, “Strategic Planning – How to Write a Plan that Is Measurable,”** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Graduate Education Advisory Council, Austin, Texas, September 22, 2006
- Presenter, “Faculty Governance: How to Make It Work,”** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, September 15, 2005
- Presenter, “Texas for Texans Data,”** Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Austin, Texas, February 10, 2005
- Presenter, “The Ramifications of the WAG Report on University of Texas at Dallas’ Future,”** Research Advisory Council, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, November 10, 2004
- Presenter, “The Future of Arts in McKinney,”** McKinney City Council, McKinney, Texas, August 17, 2004
- Presenter, “The University of Texas System Faculty Satisfaction Survey,”** Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, San Antonio, Texas, August 7, 2003

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant, UNT System Strategic Plan, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2009
Consultant, SMU SACS Reaffirmation, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, 2008-2009
Chair, McKinney Commission on the Arts, McKinney City Council, McKinney, Texas, 2004-2008
Member, Board of Advisors, CONTEXT, Dalkey Archive Press, Normal, Illinois, 2000-2005
Member, Board of Advisors, WordSpace, Dallas, Texas, 1995-2005
Judge, Brazos' Short Story Award, Texas Institute of Letters, 2000
President, Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers, Fairhope, Alabama, 1999-2001
Member, Artists' Advisory Committee, Dallas Artists Research and Exhibition, McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, Texas, 1994-1999
Member, Board of Directors, The Playwrights Project, Dallas, Texas, 1993-1999
Consultant, Ph.D. Program in Creative Writing, Department of English, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1997
Member, Editorial Board, Collegiate Press, Alta Loma, California, 1993-1996
Manuscript Referee, Ohio State University Press, 1995
Consultant, "Texas Bound," Dallas Museum of Art and Southern Methodist University Press, 1995
Consultant, Journal Acquisition (*Postmodern Culture*), Oxford University Press, 1993
Member, Editorial Board, *StoryQuarterly*, Northbrook, Illinois, 1987-1988

PUBLICATIONS

SHORT FICTION: Published stories in *Southwest Review*, *Descant*, *Southwest Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Quarterly West*, *Common Knowledge*, *Chariton Review*, *Fiction of the Eighties*, *The Baffler*, *The North Dakota Quarterly*, and *Other Voices*

PLAY: "**We Bums**," Produced by Extra Virgin Performance Company, Deep Ellum Theater, Dallas, Texas, January 5-28, 1995

CO-EDITED VOLUMES: *Common Knowledge* Volumes 1-7, 1992-1999, Oxford University Press, Co-edited with Jeffrey Perl

BOOK REVIEWS: 42 Book Reviews

COMPLETED MANUSCRIPTS

Orphans, Bums, and Angels (a collection of 12 short stories, 192 pp.)
Spirits Colliding (novel, 375 pp.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Waiting to Die (a novel)

The Art and Structure of the Contemporary Novel
The Art of the Contemporary Short Story

DISSERTATION

"Something Big: Reality, Idealism, Exaggeration, and Epiphanies in Short Stories"

Supervisors: Wayne Booth, Stephen Toulmin, A. K. Ramanujan

M.A. THESIS

"The Galileans vs. the Aristotelians: Another Look at the Battle of Explanation vs. Understanding"

Supervisors: David Bohn and Lewis Midgley

EDITORSHIPS

Contributing Editor, *Common Knowledge*, Duke University Press, 1999-present

Executive Editor, *Common Knowledge*, Oxford University Press, 1992-1999

Senior Editor and Fiction Editor, *Common Knowledge*, Oxford University Press, 1991-1992

Associate Editor, *Common Knowledge*, Oxford University Press, 1990-1991

COURSES TAUGHT

GRADUATE:

The Art of the Novel (Creative)

Recent Trends in Culture (Scholarly)

Recent Trends in the Humanities (Scholarly)

The Art of the Short Story (Creative)

The Limits of Realism in Contemporary American Fiction (Scholarly)

The Art of Playwriting (Creative)

Creativity: Fiction Writing (Creative)

Theory and Practice in Literary Studies: Short Stories (Scholarly)

Advanced Writing Workshop: The Novella (Creative)

Southern Gothic Fiction (Scholarly)

The Contemporary American Novel (Scholarly)

UNDERGRADUATE:

The Short Story – Honors (Creative)

Exploration of Arts (Scholarly/Creative)

The Contemporary Novel (Scholarly)

The Modern American Short Story (Scholarly)
Advanced Writers Workshop (Creative)
Writers Workshop (Creative)
Recent American Literature (Scholarly)
Literature of the American South (Scholarly)
Contemporary American Literature (Scholarly)
Composition (Rhetoric)

GRADUATE SUPERVISION (The University of Texas at Dallas)

DOCTORAL COMMITTEES:

Chair: 22 completed; 1 current
Member of committee: 25 completed

M.A. COMMITTEES:

Chair: 51 completed
Member of Committee: 33 completed

BACHELOR'S HONOR'S THESES:

Chair: 15 completed
Member of Committee: 5 completed

LANGUAGES

Spanish—fluent

French—reading ability