



Young Entrepreneurs of the RGV Challenge

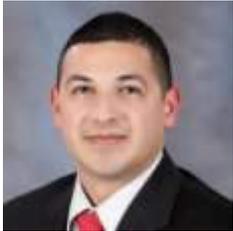
BUSINESS MENTOR VOLUNTEERS

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| <p>Rene Capistran Noble Texas Builders</p>  | <p>Rene Capistran is President/CEO of Noble Texas Builders, LLC, a construction company serving Central and South Texas. Capistran has over 23 years of large commercial construction experience, and his leadership reflects his long-standing reputation of integrity and dependability. He has been a volunteer leader of many organizations and currently serves on the RGV LEAD Board of Directors, which he chaired for several years.</p> <p>Capistran has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Business Leader of the Year award from the UT Brownsville School of Business, Outstanding Community Leadership award from the Career and Technology Education Association of Texas, and others. In 2010, Capistran was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame.</p> |
| <p>Anabell Cardona Valley Grande Institute</p>  | <p>Anabell Cardona President/CEO of Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies, has served on the boards of Knapp Medical Center, Weslaco Parks and Recreation, Make a Wish Foundation, and others. She has served as board chair for the Weslaco Chamber of Commerce and most recently, the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, where she currently serves as Vice-Chairwoman.</p> <p>Cardona also serves on the RGV LEAD Executive Board and has served the Weslaco community and the entire Rio Grande Valley in numerous volunteer capacities. In 2016, the Weslaco Chamber of Commerce honored Cardona, who is herself a lifelong resident of Weslaco, as Weslaco's 2016 Woman of the Year.</p> |

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| <p>Deborah Cordova Walsh, McGurk, Cordova, Nixon</p>  | <p>Deborah Cordova is an attorney at the McAllen law firm of Walsh, McGurk, Cordova, and Nixon. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Accounting and received her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 2002. She is licensed to practice law in Texas and has chaired the State Bar of Texas Women and the Law Council.</p> <p>Cordova has served her community in numerous volunteer capacities, including Habitat for Humanity, Leadership McAllen, Boys and Girls Club of Mission, Foundation of Mission Regional Medical Center, and others. She currently serves as Secretary of the RGV Partnership Board of Directors.</p> |
| <p>Sergio Contreras Rio Grande Valley Partnership</p>  | <p>Sergio Contreras is President/CEO of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, a position he has occupied since 2016. The RGV Partnership promotes the economic and strategic strength of the Rio Grande Valley as one region in South Texas. The Partnership, the region's influential business organization, strategically advocates for its community-minded members to make the region a better place to live and work.</p> <p>Before assuming his current position, Contreras served as Executive Director and Director of External Affairs for the Pharr Economic Development Corporation, City of Pharr, and as Regional Manager of External Affairs for AT&T. Contreras has BA and MBA degrees in business administration, internal business, and human services. He is passionate about helping the Valley's young entrepreneurs develop their skills and experience success.</p> |



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| <p>Arlene Garza Gulf Aviation</p>  | <p>Arlene Garza is President of Gulf Aviation, a position she has held since 2014. She has a BBA degree in Business Administration and Management, as well as an MBA in International/Global Studies.</p> <p>Garza is knowledgeable about aviation, aerospace, marketing, business planning, operations management, program management, and public relations. She has volunteered for community service with numerous organizations, including her current service as Vice-Chairwoman of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership and hosting educator-externs at the Gulf Aviation offices in collaboration with RGV LEAD.</p> |
| <p>Ramiro Garza RG Economic Advisors</p>  | <p>Ramiro Garza is President of RG Economic Advisors, Inc., which provides strategic support to business, industry and government in a range of practice areas including real estate economic development, and business development. Garza has served as City Manager of Edinburg, Executive Director of the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation, and other leadership positions. He was a candidate for the US Congress in 2011-2012.</p> <p>Garza is committed to community service and has served his community through work on numerous boards and collaboration with multiple nonprofit organizations.</p> |
| <p>Danny Gurwitz Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez</p>  | <p>Danny Gurwitz is an attorney at the Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez law firm in McAllen. He earned a Doctor of Law (JD) degree from The University of Texas at Austin and is knowledgeable in multiple areas of law, including but not limited to trial practice, product liability, patent litigation, and intellectual property.</p> <p>Gurwitz is committed to community service, having served in various volunteer capacities. He currently serves as Immediate Past Chairman of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership Board of Directors.</p> |

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| <p>Atanacio (Tachi) Hinojosa Magic Valley Electric Cooperative</p>  | <p>Tachi Hinojosa is Western Division Manager of Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, a position he has occupied since 2014. He is a member of Magic Valley’s senior management team and currently oversees customer service, call center, engineering, and operations departments for the upper Valley territory of MVEC. He has also served as Magic Valley’s Business & Employee Development Division Manager, where he was responsible for managing key accounts, developing marketing programs, promoting economic development, and public relationships.</p> <p>Hinojosa has a BBA degree in management, as well as an MBA degree. He is skilled in strategic planning and multiple areas and serves his community in numerous ways, including but not limited to his current service as Vice Chairman of the RGV Partnership Board of Directors.</p> |
| <p>Jerry Sanchez ImageHouse Media</p>  | <p>Jerry Sanchez, owner of ImageHouse Media in McAllen, is an experienced marketing executive with a successful track record of building profitable advertising campaigns. He is skilled in digital advertising, media management, marketing strategy, graphic design, video production, and sales. Sanchez has a bachelor’s degree in marketing and a certification focused in negotiations from the Harvard Extension School.</p> <p>Sanchez is passionate about entrepreneurship and is eager to help future entrepreneurs of the Rio Grande Valley succeed.</p> |