

Changing Tomorrows: Strategic Plan 2024-2029



UNIVERSITY OF
RIO GRANDE
AND RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Changing Tomorrows:

Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Introduction

The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College (Rio) proudly presents “Changing Tomorrows,” our comprehensive strategic plan for the years 2024 to 2029. Rio has been successfully building for the future, seeing annual increases in enrollment, finalizing the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) program, adding additional academic programs, and finalizing construction on a new residence hall that will house 186 students. This visionary blueprint outlines our continued commitment to elevating our institution to new heights and fostering an environment of excellence in academics, student success, enrollment, and facilities. Through this plan, we aim to empower our community, provide innovative educational experiences, and strengthen our position as a leader in higher education.

Goal
1

Academics

Objective: New Programs

The University commits to fostering academic evolution by introducing new programs that align with emerging industry demands. A dedicated task force will be established to identify and implement cutting-edge courses.

Objective: Offsite Locations

To expand our reach and accessibility, the University aims to establish offsite locations strategically placed to serve diverse communities. This initiative will enable a broader demographic to access quality education.

Objective: Gateway Math & English

Foundational skills are paramount. We will implement targeted programs and interventions to enhance math and English proficiency among students, ensuring they enter their chosen fields well-prepared.

Objective: Early Alert System

Proactive intervention is key to student success. Enhancements to our Early Alert System will enable timely identification and support for students facing academic challenges.

Objective: Short-Term Certificates

Recognizing the demand for quick and specialized education, the University will expand short-term certificate programs, making them more widely available and accessible.

Objective: Innovative Teaching

A commitment to fostering innovative teaching methods will be at the core of our strategy, ensuring that our educators are equipped to deliver content in engaging and effective ways.

Objective: Enhance Onboarding and Support for Adjunct Faculty

We recognize the invaluable contributions of our adjunct faculty members. To ensure their success and enhance their impact on our students, we will develop and implement comprehensive onboarding programs that provide the necessary tools, resources, and support for effective teaching and mentorship.

Objective: Document and Publicize Faculty Scholarship and Service

Our dedicated faculty continually engage in research and community service. We commit to capturing and showcasing their scholarly achievements and service contributions, both internally and externally, to celebrate their excellence and inspire future endeavors.

Objective: Expand Undergraduate Scholarship Participation in RISE

To foster a culture of academic excellence, we will expand opportunities for undergraduate students to join with faculty to participate in the Research, Innovation, Scholarship, and Engagement (RISE) program. This initiative will empower students to engage in meaningful research projects and develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Goal

2

Student Success

Objective: Prioritize Tuition Affordability

We understand the importance of making higher education accessible to all. We will develop innovative financial strategies to improve tuition affordability.

Objective: Enhance Student Retention and Fulfillment

Our commitment to student success extends to successful retention and supporting students to find fulfillment in their college experience. We will implement comprehensive support services, academic advising, personalized learning pathways, student clubs and organizations, and musical groups to ensure every student's journey is both successful and personally fulfilling.

Objective: Facilitate Job Placement, Including Internships

To prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow, we will establish robust internship programs, connecting students with real-world experiences. Additionally, we will strengthen our career services to enhance job placement opportunities for our graduates.

Objective: Strengthen Student Onboarding Process

We will revamp our student onboarding process to provide a seamless transition into our community, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose from day one.

Objective: Develop Initiatives for Commuter and Adult Students

Understanding the diverse needs of our student body, we will develop tailored initiatives for commuter and adult students, ensuring they have the support and resources required to succeed.

Objective: Adopt CAS Professional Standards

We commit to adopting the Council for the Advancement of Standards for Higher Education Professional Standards (CAS) to benchmark and improve our institutional performance, further promoting student success.



Goal

3

Enrollment



Objective: Increase Enrollment Through Growth in Athletic Opportunities

We recognize the role of athletics in attracting and retaining students. We will invest in expanding athletic programs and facilities, enticing a broader range of students to join our community.

Objective: Know Our Market

Through market research and analysis, we will gain a deeper understanding of our target demographics, enabling us to refine our recruitment strategies and better serve our students' needs.

Objective: Increase Partnerships and Service to the Community

We will actively seek out partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and educational institutions, providing students with expanded areas of study and unique opportunities for experiential learning while contributing to the growth and development of our community.

Objective: Build Additional Bilateral Agreements with Career and Technical Schools

To offer a wider array of educational pathways, we will establish bilateral agreements with career and technical schools, allowing for seamless credit transfers and enhanced educational opportunities.

Goal
4

Facilities

Objective: Provide Quality Facilities

We are committed to maintaining and upgrading our campus facilities to provide a top-notch learning and living environment for our students, faculty, and staff.

Objective: Establish Clear Priorities for Deferred Maintenance, Building Renovations, New Buildings

Our facility investments will prioritize addressing deferred maintenance, renovating existing structures, and constructing new buildings that align with our academic priorities.

Objective: Evaluate Space Utilization and Technology

We will optimize space utilization across our campuses and integrate cutting-edge technology into our facilities to support innovative teaching and learning methods.



Conclusion

“Changing Tomorrows” is more than a strategic plan; it’s a promise to our community, students, and faculty. It’s a commitment to evolving, adapting, and delivering on our mission to provide exceptional education and service. Together, we will continue to shape the future, one student at a time, and leave an indelible mark on the world. Rio is ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the years ahead, forging a path toward a brighter future for all.

