



University
University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
Center Director
Laurie G. Simmons

Center Location
Centrally located in
the City of Weslaco

Center Activities

- **Entrepreneurial coaching and workshops**
- **Networking events**
- **Business idea plan competitions**
- **Mentor Support**
- **Professional Services**
- **Access to capital**

Clients

- **Entrepreneurs and Innovators**
- **Small Businesses**
- **Start-ups**
- **Students, Faculty, Staff, & Community**

Contact Info

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The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Centrally located in the city of Weslaco, the Center for Innovation and Commercialization (CIC) is transforming the Rio Grande Valley by serving as the regional entrepreneurial hub for both the Lower and Upper Valley. By providing the necessary resources and support systems for our community, the CIC is committed to helping entrepreneurs create successful “scalable enterprises” that have the potential to reach national and/or international markets.

Innovation Center

The CIC assists aspiring, early stage, and/or existing entrepreneurs in the ideation, development, and acceleration of new business ventures by providing a range of business development services including access to capital.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Our efforts to assist early stage entrepreneurs and startups have expanded through partnerships and collaborations within UTRGV and local organizations. By collaborating with over 20 organizations, the CIC has been able to expand its offerings by leveraging the resources of our partners. Since its inception, the CIC has assisted 119 startups, with over \$2 million in investment, and has a database of 1,051 people through our all-in-one entrepreneurship platform.

Activities

Funding from the University Center grant allows the CIC to advance high growth entrepreneurship and cultivate innovation, resulting in the creation and promotion of new business enterprises and jobs.

The CIC is the regional hub of innovation in the Rio Grande Valley, as it provides entrepreneurs with:

- **Co-Working Space**
- **Ideation Programs**
- **Networking Events**
- **Business and Idea Competitions**
- **Business Plan Assistance**
- **STEM Programs for tech based products/services**
- **Pitch Training**
- **Financial & Legal Services**
- **Mentor Program**



Center for Innovation
and Commercialization