



# STEM SUMMIT

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

Friday, April 14, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Pecan Campus, Building H & U

# STEM Summit

Friday, April 14, 2023

Pecan Campus Building H & U

## AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

9:00 a.m.

### WELCOME

Dr. Maria Cervantes, Program Chair-Biology Department

9:10 a.m.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Juan M. Flores, Jr.  
Family Physicians Clinic & Valley Night Clinic

10:00 a.m.-  
1:00 p.m.

### INFORMATION TABLES– CLUBS/UNIVERSITIES

Join a club and meet with University Reps! All in the Student Union 1st floor.

10:15 a.m.

### BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (10:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)

11:15 a.m.

### BREAKOUT SESSION 2 (11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

12:00 p.m.

### NETWORKING

Visit with faculty and department chairs from Math & Science Division and chat with clubs and University Reps while you enjoy free Pizza at the Student Union.  
*(while supplies last)*



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

### **Dr. Juan M. Flores Jr.**

*Family Physicians Clinic & Valley Night Clinic*

A native of Starr County, Dr. Juan Flores, graduated from Roma H.S. in 2005. In 2009, he received his Bachelor's in Science from UT-Pan American. The following year, he pursued a career in the medical field while attending the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine culminating in a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine in 2014. Dr. Flores joined the medicine residency program at Medical City Fort Worth, where he was chief resident in his third year of residency. After graduating residency, Dr. Flores decided to give back to the community that raised him and returned to the Valley.



When not working, Dr. Flores enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, and fishing.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 1**

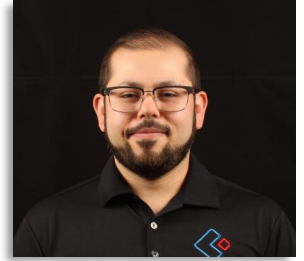
**10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

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### **Mr. Raul Ochoa**

*Creator Solutions Engineer-Zoho Corporation*

Mr. Ochoa attended the University of Texas Pan-American, Western Governors University and Purdue University Global for Mechanical Engineering, Robotics, and Software Engineering. Mr. Ochoa is currently the Robotics Director for CodeRGV, a STEM non-profit organization that focuses greatly on Aerospace Engineering and Software Engineering. Mr. Ochoa loves to code in multiple languages such as C++, JavaScript, Java, PHP, Deluge and develop applications on Low-Code platforms like Zoho Creator. Mr. Ochoa also loves to teach and collaborate on STEM related topics.



**Building H-126**

### **Yuriko Garcia, MPAS, PA-C**

*Board-Certified Physician Assistant*

Yuriko Garcia is a Board Certified Physician Assistant with experience as an internal medicine primary care provider. She currently works at Abreu Adult Clinic in Mission, Texas. Yuriko began her career as a DEMSA student at South Texas College where she earned her Associate's degree in Biology. She completed her Bachelor's of Science in Allied Health and Neuroscience from Texas A&M University College Station, Texas. She then earned her Master's of Physician Studies at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. Mrs. Garcia is a current member of the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA) and the Rio Grande Valley PA Society. She is certified by the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

**Building H-216**



# BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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## Dr. David De Sousa

*Associate Director-Engineering Academies Texas A&M University*

Dr. David De Sousa serves as the Associate Director for the Engineering Academy program. This is the first engineering transition program of its kind in the United States. Unlike traditional transfer programs, students admitted into an Academy are admitted to Texas A&M Engineering and begin earning Texas A&M transcribed credit from semester one. A large percentage of these students begin their Aggie engineering degree close to home, maximize the benefits of the community college including lower tuition and fees, take advantage of smaller class sizes and make progress towards their reengineering bachelor's degree.

## Building U-West



## SSA Arthur R. Aragon

*FBI Digital Evidence Field Operations (DEFO)-West  
Operational Technology Division (OTD)*

FBI Special Agent (SA) Arthur R. Aragon entered on duty with the FBI in 2010 and was assigned to the Los Angeles Field Office to investigate cyber-crimes. While in LA he was trained in digital forensics and certified as a Digital Forensic Examiner in 2014. In 2015, he transferred to the McAllen field office where he continued to work as a Digital Forensic Examiner and Expert Witness on FBI cases in the Rio Grande Valley. In 2018, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent in the Operational Technology Division of FBI Headquarters where he currently helps manage the FBI's digital forensics program. SA Aragon graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1996 with Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and earned Master of Science degree in Computer Science from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 2001. He served on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1996 until 2005 and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. SA Aragon is a native of El Paso, Texas.

## Building U-East



## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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### Mr. Marc Ramirez, P.E.

*Utility Engineer-McAllen Public Utility*

### Building H-126

Mr. Ramirez currently serves as a Utility Engineer for the McAllen Public Utility. In his capacity with MPU, Mr. Ramirez is charged with planning, budgeting, and managing the water and wastewater infrastructure needs of today and for the future of the City of McAllen. Mr. Ramirez has nearly 20 years of experience in the Water Resources and Environmental practice of Civil Engineering. Spending the first 15 years of his career in the private sector working for consulting engineering firms before venturing into his current role in the public sector. Mr. Ramirez started his career as a Project Resident inspector, where he gained a wealth of knowledge and field experience before transitioning to Designer and Project Management. From a modest migrant family, Marco was fortunate to be exposed to various communities with different socioeconomical aspects that were fundamental in his development. He grew up in the City of Edinburg where he attended Edinburg North High School. Wanting to pursue a higher education, he attended South Texas Community College (STCC), now STC where he earned an Associates of Science in Engineering. Afterwards he transferred to Texas A&M-Kingsville where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.



### Sem M. Garza, PharmD

*Owner and Pharmacist of The Other Guys Pharmacy*

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Sem M. Garza is the current owner and pharmacist in charge of The Other Guys Pharmacy. He has over 17 years of experience in pharmacy (4 as a pharmacy technician, 4 as a pharmacist intern, and 9 as a pharmacist). He is a first generation Mexican American, born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley and first of his family to graduate college. He received his associate's degree in Chemistry from STC in 2008 and PharmD from TSU in 2014.

As a student he has increased his knowledge by being accepted into the Target Corporation Pharmacy Internship Program where he learned valuable lessons in leading teams, running a successful business and developing talent. This experience prepared him to take on the role of pharmacy manager soon after graduation and provided a solid foundation to start and run his own profitable pharmacy in 2018.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 2 cont.**

**11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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### **Christine Hoskinson**

*Assistant Director for the Veterinary Technology Program  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville*

Christine received her B.S. in Biology (Wildlife) from St. Lawrence University in 2003, and went on to participate in various field research projects including prairie dog, swift fox and white tail deer projects. In 2008, she received an A.S. in Veterinary Technology from Medaille College and began her work in the veterinary technology field. She was a veterinary technologist and hospital manager at the Birmingham Zoo in Alabama for 5 years. During that time, she participated in a lorikeet research project and started a black bear serology research project in conjunction with MS State University and the Birmingham Zoo. She joined the Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Department of Animal Science and Veterinary Technology staff in July 2014 as an instructor in the new Veterinary Technology (VET) Program. While teaching a variety of courses including introduction to veterinary technology, clinical pathology and office management, Christine completed her Master's degree in Range & Wildlife Management in 2017.

In 2018, Christine was promoted to Assistant Director of Veterinary Technology and along with her teaching responsibilities, now assists in the direction and development of the VET Program.



**Building U-West**

### **David Hicks, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Marine and Coastal Science, UTRGV*

Dr. David Hicks is a professor at UTRGV School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences and is the Director of the UTRGV Coastal Studies Laboratory on South Padre Island, TX. He also is the institutional principal investigator for the UTRGV Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems II, a cooperative science center funded by the NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions with the goal to recruit, educate, train, and graduate a new generation of scientists, particularly from underrepresented communities, in NOAA-mission aligned STEM disciplines. Dr. Hicks' research interests include the biology, ecology, physiological ecology and environmental biology of estuarine and marine invertebrates, particularly of mollusks and corals. His current research projects range from the restoration of Bahia Grande in the lower Rio Grande Valley, to monitoring invertebrate and fish communities in natural and artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico.



**Building U-East**



## INFORMATION TABLES

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Student Union 1st Floor

- ◆ Texas A&M University Engineering Academy
- ◆ Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- ◆ University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley
- ◆ University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley  
Marine Biology and Environmental Science B.S. Programs
- ◆ Biology Club
- ◆ Chemistry Club
- ◆ Girls Discovering STEM Club
- ◆ Math & Science Guided Pathway Specialist

## EXTRA CREDIT CHECKLIST:

*Please have each section stamped to receive extra credit from your instructor. You should have a total of 4 stamps. \*Please note that not all instructors are offering extra-credit for attending.\**

**Keynote Session:**

**Breakout Session 1:**

**Breakout Session 2 :**

**Information Table:** *(Meet with a Guided Pathway Specialist to get stamped.)*



Scan here to provide feedback for next year's STEM Summit:



Thank you for attending!