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Valley storms state capitol for RGV Day

Hundreds of community, business & government leaders attend event

RIO GRANDE VALLEY – It was a first for the Rio Grande Valley.

Hundreds of Rio Grande Valley community, business and government leaders visited the state capitol together to advocate on the region's behalf on RGV Day. It was the first time in the RGV's history that cities and counties visited Austin together and pushed a regional agenda.

The RGV Partnership joined forces with the cities of Edinburg, Harlingen, McAllen, Mission, Weslaco, Pharr, Brownsville and Hidalgo and Cameron counties and many others to bring RGV Day to fruition. UTRGV, South Texas College & others also joined in. On Tuesday February 10, the RGV Partnership also included its leadership class, RGV Leadership – as part of its learning curriculum – in on the event.

"This was a phenomenal effort that displayed regional unity and focus to our legislative delegation and to the entire Legislature at the capitol," said RGV President and CEO Julian Alvarez. "We were so pleased to see the mayors and elected leaders from so many cities and leadership from education and healthcare involved. RGV Day was an unqualified success, and we look forward doing this again."

Alvarez added the unity showed Austin leaders that Valley entities can work together to achieve goals despite thoughts to the contrary. Recently the RGV has come together to land some major game changers such as the University of Texas Medical School, Space X, Interstate 2 and others.

RGV Partnership Chairman Atanacio Hinojosa also joined the 200-plus leaders from the Valley that attended the 84th Legislature House & Senate sessions to see the Valley get recognized by resolution in both chambers. Assisted by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce, the delegation also heard from Sen. Eddie Lucio at a special luncheon attended by all the RGV's lawmakers.

The group then divided up in teams and visited the office of every legislator at the capitol to advocate on the Valley's behalf and leave some parting gifts behind for lawmakers and staff. It was a busy, exhausting day for those involved, but well worth it to bring the RGV greater recognition and to advocate its behalf. The Partnership is also very appreciated for the RGV legislative delegation.



RGV Day at Texas State Capitol, L-R: Sen. Lucio, Jr., Lt. Gov. Patrick, Harlingen Mayor Boswell, McAllen Mayor Darling, UTRGV President Bailey, UT Regent Aliseda, Hidalgo Co. Judge Garcia, Sen. Zaffirini, Sen. Hinojosa. Photo courtesy of RGV Guardian.