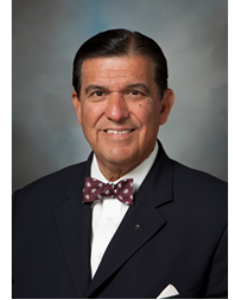




**STATE SENATOR  
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.  
DISTRICT 27**



Austin Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
512-463-0127

Cameron County office  
7 North Park Plaza  
Brownsville, TX 78521  
956-548-0227

Hidalgo County office  
1210 W. Interstate 2, Suite 10  
Pharr, Texas 78577  
956-787-5227

December 12, 2013

**Senator Lucio statement on University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

**AUSTIN** - Today (Thursday), Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) releases the following statement on the occasion of the University of Texas System Board of Regents' vote to name the new System university The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley:

"Today is an important day for the people of the Rio Grande Valley and for the entire state of Texas. The new university, the creation of which was our delegation's highest priority during the 2013 legislative Session, finally has a name. Our entire region stands united behind the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

"I would like thank the University of Texas System for its ongoing contributions to the people of the Rio Grande Valley. Specifically, thank you to the System for recognizing the emotional investment our residents place in a name, for appropriately involving the entire region in the deliberative process, and finally for selecting a name which is widely inclusive of all people who will live, work, and study under the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley banner.

"Forever more the profile of the Valley is elevated. And so we must now challenge ourselves every day. Today, we tell the rest of the state and country that our region is undergoing a radical transformation. The Rio Grande Valley will soon stand for global excellence in teaching, research, healthcare, and industry. The name The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley does more than simply state where we are; it tells the entire world that Texas values the Valley as an integral part of the state's future.

"Today, The University of Texas System and the people of Rio Grande Valley are embarking on an unprecedented journey. I am proud to join my constituents on that journey, and look forward to representing the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the Texas Senate."

###