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Students face uncertain job market

Career Center offers guidance amid economic crisis

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

With millions of jobs lost because of the pandemic, starting a career has become more of a challenge for graduates barely entering the job market.

UTEP's University Career Center has been helping students adapt to

these tough times through guidance on how to become better candidates for job openings.

"The first thing I usually tell students is that this is a good opportunity for you to really assess what your strengths are and what you can bring to your position," said Betsy Castro-Duarte, director of the Career Center. "The next thing I tell them is to use their networks and I tell students if you are not sure who to reach out for help, one easy place is the Career Center."

The pandemic has sent shockwaves throughout the economy, causing an uptick in the

See Job Market page 3

Student entrepreneurs have access to new resource at UTEP

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

Studio G is the first resource of its kind at UTEP and its available for student entrepreneurs who want to start and grow their own businesses.

Because of COVID-19, Studio G has gone completely online but Michael Garcia, the director of UTEP's Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce, said that enthusiasm for this new program has remained strong despite a brief drop in registrations when UTEP shut down in the spring.

Studio G is known as a "business accelerator" and the services it provides are completely free of charge for UTEP students of all majors and recent alumni.

It provides access to mentorship, advising, lectures, networking events and the opportunity to participate in startup workshops and business contests, among other things.

This new entrepreneurship initiative is a partnership between UTEP's Mike Loya Center and the

Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University (NMSU), where Studio G originated.

Studio G first became available at UTEP in early February after UTEP and NMSU officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and presser.

"We're excited to bring NMSU's student business accelerator to UTEP," NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu said at that news conference. "We want all students to share in the benefits of entrepreneurship and business creation, which helps build a stronger economy in our region. Our region is home to individuals whose shared ambitions and commitment to economic development transcend borders."

Studio G was founded at NMSU's Arrowhead Center in 2011 and it has "worked with more than 1,700 student entrepreneurs and has raised more the \$6 million in investments and grants," according to a news release.



Photograph by Claudia Hernandez/The Prospector

Studio G is known as a business accelerator and the services it provides are completely free of charge for UTEP students of all majors and recent alumni.

See Studio G page 3

There’s never been a more important time to be a journalist

Bryan Mena
The Prospector

I never thought that I would one day be leading a newsroom as editor-in-chief during a global public health crisis.

Yet here I am – pandemic and all.

Not to mention that the national economy is still in shambles and that this past summer was a time of nationwide political upheaval because of police brutality and racism.

We’re all living through some of the toughest times in history, which means that there’s never been a more important time to be a journalist.

I’m excited to be The Prospector’s new editor-in-chief for these next two semesters because our publication has a sacred duty to fulfill and it’s truly an honor to lead that charge with the help of some very talented student journalists.

Student journalism matters and it always will. It takes pure grit and resilience to be able to juggle story



assignments, homework, family obligations and in some cases, a full-time job – all at the same time.

But that doesn’t mean we can’t compete with the El Paso Times or El Paso’s various television stations. None of that means that we can’t be of high caliber and top-shelf quality.

During my time as editor, The Prospector will continue to produce unique and original multimedia content around the clock. We will continue to produce groundbreaking enterprise stories and for the first time in its history, The Prospector is going to roll out a business section.

Under my watch, The Prospector

is going to ramp up the amount of meaningful investigative stories it produces because that’s what UTEP’s community deserves.

The Prospector is going to continue to be the phenomenal student publication that it’s always been, but I am going to push our journalists to do even more.

We’re going to do our jobs with pride and excellence because journalism is all about serving the public and we are never going to lose sight of that.

As our valuable reader, I welcome you to give us feedback. Tell us what we need to know about UTEP. I welcome anyone and everyone to send us pitches, columns, letters-to-the-editor, anything. You can reach us at prospector@utep.edu or by sending us a message on social media.

I am more than ready take on this challenge of being The Prospector’s new editor during the most difficult time in recent memory because of my burning passion for journalism.

I have experience covering important business stories for El Paso Inc., like the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the local hotel industry and how ride-share drivers in El Paso with preexisting conditions were faced with the tough decision of quitting their full-time jobs or risking their health by working as COVID spread.

This past summer, I worked full-time for 10 weeks as a reporter intern for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram – one of the largest newspapers in Texas – where my byline regularly made it to the front page.

From COVID-19’s disproportionate impact on Hispanics in Tarrant County to a prestigious medical award that many critics called systemically racist, I worked to uplift so many voices and issues through my body of work at the Star-Telegram.

I joined The Prospector in the fall 2019 and I’m forever grateful and still a bit surprised that I was trusted enough to be hired as entertainment

editor from the get-go.

I’m not majoring in journalism, or anything related, so I will forever be grateful to Valeria Olivares, the former Prospector editor-in-chief, for taking such a gamble on me.

I’ve taken full advantage of that opportunity and it has brought me to where I am today.

I would not have come this far if I had never gotten the Terry Scholarship, which has been fully funding my studies at UTEP.

I went from scrubbing the toilets during my night shift job at Circle K as a community college student to finally pursuing my passion of being a storyteller.

I’ve faced several obstacles in my life like depression, anxiety, self-doubt, abuse, and a few other things.

But I’ve survived all of those challenges and I’m grateful for all the lessons they taught me.

Bryan Mena may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
@bpmena on Twitter

‘It was very dead’: an empty welcoming back for the first day of fall

Paulina Astrid Spencer
The Prospector

Maximiliano Sarmiento is a 24- year old nursing student who’s worked at the information desk in UTEP’s Union East building for a while. He said the Union looks “very dead now.”

“We used to have around 150 students on the second floor at the dining area,” Sarmiento said. “But right now, 20 would be the highest.”

UTEP welcomed only a few people back to campus, Aug. 24. With new safety guidelines in place because of the coronavirus pandemic, the university saw low traffic on the first day of classes.

From the parking lots to the hallways and stairways, there weren’t many people at UTEP on the first day of the fall semester. The Union buildings and library, which would have been usually packed around that time, were almost empty and silent.

Cut-outs of Paydirt Pete wearing a mask were everywhere at UTEP. There were numerous signs plastered on almost every wall informing people on campus of UTEP’s new safety rules – to wear a mask at all times and to practice social distancing, among other rules.

Earlier this month, UTEP President Heather Wilson announced the university’s plan to



Photograph by Maria Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

Professor Thomas Birkner listening to one of his students during his Painting class 3301 outside the Cotton building at The University of Texas at El Paso in El Paso Monday Aug 24.

move forward with the university’s recovery status, opening campus under “low-density operations”. This means that only essential personnel can remain on campus while others operate remotely. Groups must be restricted to less than 10 people at a

time with a mandatory separation of six-feet and the use of face coverings.

As UTEP shifted to remote learning, most classes are now being offered online or in hybrid mode which is a mixture of online and in-person. Only about 100 courses

are being offered in person this fall, while over 2,500 courses are being offered exclusively online.

Sarmiento said all employees received training prior to the re-opening of the campus, and the start of the new semester.

“We had a training for sanitizing everything and getting to know the steps of customer service,” Sarmiento said. “We have to keep a six-feet distance and we are always wearing a face mask and always using hand sanitizer.”

Kayla Kuhajda, 20, a first year UTEP dance student, said this was not what she expected her first semester at college would be, but is still excited to start classes. She attended her first virtual classes at the library and said she was content with the outcome so far.

“It’s really different but the teachers really made an effort,” Kuhajda said. “For me, the classes today, they really tried to interact with the students as much as they could. Especially with the other students, we met each other even through online, so it was really good.”

Aside from requiring face coverings and social distancing, to promote the health and well-being of everyone, UTEP is offering a free coronavirus testing program for those who qualify. For more information about testing, visit their website at: consent.utep.edu.

Paulina Astrid Spencer may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
@paulinaaspen on Twitter

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOLUME 106, NO. 2

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Job Market from cover page unemployment rate.

According to the United States Department of Labor, the unemployment rate skyrocketed from four percent in January 2020 to 15% in April 2020.

A silver lining is that the national unemployment rate has steadily decreased to 10%, data from the Department of Labor shows.

“We’ve had people come to us and tell us they have lost their jobs and besides networking we suggest simple tools such as LinkedIn, which is a professional network,” Castro-Duarte said. “If you got furloughed or maybe the project you were working on got canceled, this is the time for you to connect with UTEP alumni and maximize your affiliation to the university.”

In the early stages of the pandemic, Market Watch indicates that more than 22 million jobs were lost and so far, less than half of those people have returned to their jobs.

According to Workforce Solutions

“We’re still talking to employers online every single day and we are offering our services virtually and we’ve been able to adapt to this new way of doing things using the tools we have.”

**-BestyCastro-Duarte,
Director of the Career Center**

Borderplex, which analyzes data from the El Paso-region labor market, 4,655 unemployment claims were made from Aug. 1 through Aug. 23.

Castro-Duarte said the Career Center has been serving UTEP students through several virtual events like its new “Career

Conversation Café” that takes place at 10 a.m. every Thursday on Instagram.

The Career Conversation Café covers several vital topics related to career success; from tips on how to research a company to how to answer illegal interview questions.

How certain industries conduct

their hiring processes is another obstacle that students may face, Castro-Duarte said. She explained that due to the large volume of applications that employers usually receive, virtual interviews may sometimes be cut short.

“A couple of students told me that they were really surprised that they only got like 10 seconds to talk to somebody,” Castro-Duarte said. “It’s because they have so many people to talk to in one day virtually, but that is why it is important to have your resume ready and be ready for questions.”

The Career Center regularly helps students through career fairs like the virtual one it held on Sept. 2 where many employers accepted applications for jobs and internships.

“We’re still talking to employers online every single day and we are offering our services virtually and we’ve been able to adapt to this new way of doing things using the tools we have,” Castro-Duarte said. “We do encourage students to get on the

career fair platform early because those time frames are getting eaten up by other students.”

Through the Career Fair Plus platform, the Career Center will also be hosting its Career Expo, taking place at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 18, where local and national employers will be looking to hire full-time professionals and interns.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
@_IsaiahRamirez1 on Twitter

Instagram:

@utepcareers

Twitter:

@UTEPcareers

Facebook:

@UTEP Career Center

Studio G from cover page

300 people were hired by Studio G entrepreneurs in 2019, the release says.

Garcia told The Prospector that Studio G at UTEP was established through a gift of \$17,000 by the Hunt Family Foundation.

The business accelerator currently has two people on-staff – Omar Delgado, who is the full-time resource coordinator, and Mia Gomez, who is the part-time student assistant.

According to Garcia, this kind of close-knit collaboration between

UTEP and NMSU has never been done before.

“I couldn’t believe it when I heard that,” Garcia said. “Dr. Arvizu, the chancellor of NMSU, and President Wilson were so elated about this. The universities have never collaborated like this before so I’m hoping this will lead to more collaboration.”

Garcia said Studio G started out with “a steadily increasing rise of registrations” before spring break of this year.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

“There was a big dive in registrations during that time,” he said.

Studio G had to move all its operation online, which was challenging to figure out at first, but Garcia said the transition has gone smoothly so far.

Once the dust settled, Garcia says Studio G saw a “big surprise” in June with an uptick of 79 registrations.

Before the pandemic, students were able to physically drop by at the Mike Loya Center to do the intake process, but now they can just log on to my.utep.edu and click on the

Studio G icon on their dashboard to fill out the application or learn more.

One of the things that Studio G entrepreneurs have been doing since the program went completely online is their virtual “Coffee Hour” where they can network with each other and ask staff members any questions.

Garcia said it’s going to take about a year or two before Studio G can boast about any success stories because “it takes a while for ideas to be formed and businesses to be developed.”

“Then after that, you’re going to have this steady stream of ventures

that eventually become successful,” Garcia said. “We’re envisioning that these ventures will become viable components of the economy here in El Paso region, and they’ll hopefully become sources of employment for UTEP graduates.”

He said that Studio G has already forged partnerships with entities like the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and El Paso County’s Economic Development office.

Bryan Mena may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
@bpmena on Twitter



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Your grant will help The Prospector continue to train student journalists by providing the tools and training to better prepare them for their future careers as well as improve our student publications.

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STUDENT MEDIA
AND PUBLICATIONS

The Prospector
prospector@utep.edu



@utep_prospector

UTEP estimates loss of more than \$17 million amid COVID-19

Sven Kline
The Prospector

UTEP is projecting a loss of \$17.2 million for the 2020 fiscal year, but officials say funding from the federal Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, has provided some relief to the institution and its students.

The university was authorized more than \$12.4 million in CARES Act funds for student grants and another \$12.4 million that went to the institution.

The University of Texas System (UT) Board of Regents met all throughout last week to discuss the economic impact to its various institutions which has totaled millions of dollars in losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other things.

In May, UTEP projected an adjusted loss of \$11.7 million, which is part of the estimated year-end loss of \$17.2 million that also takes into account depreciation.

According to the financial reports discussed during the UT regents' meetings, UTEP's estimated loss is due to an increase in payroll-related costs, a decrease in auxiliary revenue because of the pandemic, a decrease in Conference USA income, and a decrease in sports games guarantees.

Mark McGurk, UTEP's vice president for business affairs, told The Prospector that the amount of student refunds issued during the spring semester totals to about \$803,000, but he said that loss has been made up by the CARES Act.

In May, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott asked state-funded universities and institutions to reduce their operating budgets by five percent for two fiscal years, including the current one, but Victor Arreola of University Communications told The Prospector that UTEP officials said this budget reduction for the upcoming budget year is instead going to be by 10% because "the request was made late into FY 2020, (so) we could not make significant changes to this fiscal year's budget."

"Because our state revenue is spent on salaries during the academic year, which has now ended, a 5% reduction in biennium revenue is effectively a budget reduction of 10% in the 2021 fiscal year," UTEP President Heather Wilson wrote to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott June 15.

Wilson told Abbott in March, when all staff and students left campus, a "flexible hiring freeze" was also implemented as a way to reduce expenditures, enabling only hiring positions of "mission critical positions" to be allowed.

As of May, UTEP spent \$206.9 million in payroll-related costs which is \$10 million more than the amount spent during that same period in the previous fiscal year, according to what UTEP officials told Arreola.

Many services will remain in place, but they'll be significantly scaled back, such as UTEP's shuttle service, which will be cut down to only one bus due to a lack of parking permit purchases for the fall semester.



Photograph by Claudia Hernandez/The Prospector

Mark McGurk, UTEP's vice president for business affairs, told The Prospector that the amount of student refunds issued during the spring semester totals to about \$803,000, he said that loss has been made up by the CARES Act.

Aside from being funded by student fees, UTEP is also funded biannually by the Texas legislature which accounts for 23% of the university's operating budget.

"The University will also save expenses by curtailing travel and we are managing utilities, buildings and projects to reduce operational expenses... Because we cannot use state funds for our auxiliary enterprises like housing, sports, and student affairs," Wilson wrote. "Because UTEP has done more than most universities to keep the cost of college down for our students, these

reductions will have (an) impact on our mission."

Auxiliary services such as the shuttles and student housing produce independent funding through student payments. The shuttles are funded through parking fee revenue, just like how student housing has its own stream of revenue.

"We are going to end up cutting services," McGurk said. "There's only going to be one shuttle from Miner Canyon housing area to campus and that's it."

McGurk stressed that these numbers are estimates until UTEP

completes its financial statements that will reflect the actual numbers. The 2020 fiscal year officially ended Aug.31.

"We understand that this is a very difficult time for families that it will require difficult decisions by our elected leaders," Wilson said in her letter from March. "We are determined to do the best we can for the students we serve so that we keep opportunity open for all students and remain an important engine of economic growth in West Texas."

Sven Kline may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
@SvenKline on Twitter

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ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

EDITOR PAULINA ASTRID SPENCER, 747-5161

‘Ayúdame, Por Favor’

Student filmmaker will exhibit film in Independent Shorts Awards in Los Angeles

Exodis Ward
The Prospector

When UTEP digital media major Sergio Muñoz started writing the script for his short film “Ayúdame, Por Favor”, he dreamed of the best-case scenario: it would be well-received and win awards. When he finished filming, his dream came true.

“I was in my hometown and I was trying to see what I could do with what I had. From there I started writing,” Muñoz said.

The short film is an 80’s inspired thriller written, shot and directed entirely by Muñoz in his hometown of Delicias, Mexico. In 14 minutes and 12 seconds, the short film takes audience members alongside the young main character as she roams around town, looking for adventure. When he stumbles upon a house with its front door open, he decides to explore what’s inside.

Muñoz didn’t plan for the film to be a thriller, but films such as “The Goonies”, “Stand by me” and “The Lost Boys” inspired his writing.

The final cut of the film is up to Muñoz’s standard, but there were minor hiccups that occurred along the way, starting with the lead actor in the film, Santiago Muñoz. Santiago, Muñoz’s younger brother, was inexperienced and needed a lot of direction.

“I was in my hometown and I was trying to see what I can do with what I had.”

-Sergio Muñoz
Senior, digital media

“I told him what to do, in which manner, which kind of face to put; whether to smile or be scared. It’s actually unprofessional to say, ‘can you do this face or scream in this way?’” Muñoz said. “I think that’s the fact that he was very obedient, and he paid attention to every instruction I gave him. That’s how he learned how to act and get directed.”

Lighting was a different type of hurdle.

“Every time I watch the film, I wish I had some better lighting in the scene. I just had my camera, and I didn’t have my cinematographer, so I had to be my own director of photography,” Muñoz said. “I know what I’m doing but I’m not an expert.”

Even though Muñoz didn’t have the equipment he would have preferred, “Ayúdame, Por Favor” is a success.

It was chosen to be showcased at the 2020 Independent Shorts Awards in Los Angeles, California and the El Paso Film Festival.

Santiago went on to receive the gold award for Best Young Actor.

“This was his first time acting, he told me previously that he wanted to act but he was kind of scared,” Muñoz said. “It was big news and I’m happy for him.”

Muñoz has always wanted to make films, but it wasn’t until Spring 2020 that he took the plunge.

“I started a short film with my roommates because one roommate wanted to be an actor and I have a friend who always wanted to be a cinematographer,” Muñoz said. “We filmed a short film that’s running now at a festival, but we did that short film just to do something.”

Over a period of three months, Muñoz shot his first short film, “Josefina.” Despite being his first short film, it was selected as a semi-finalist at the New York Latino Film Festival and will be featured at the Indie Short Fest in LA.

Muñoz is off to a strong start in his career. While in El Paso, he interned at PBS as the editor of the show “High Q” and a production assistant at Double Scope Films.



Photo courtesy of Sergio Muñoz

The short film is an 1980s inspired thriller written, shot and directed entirely by Munoz in his hometown of Delicias, Mexico.

Last semester, he interned in New York with ABC News and The Walt Disney Company.

Following the success of his past two short films, Muñoz said that he’ll work “to improve little by little.” Currently, he’s working on a short film called “Another Day at the End of the World.” The film follows a man and captures what he does in his apartment one day before the end of the world.

Muñoz hopes to continue pre-production work with the film

company Saeta in Mexico, once the COVID-19 pandemic improves. He also would like to go back to ABC News to focus on documentaries.

“Two years ago, I was a volunteer at the (El Paso) film festival and right now, they’ve selected my film,” Muñoz said with a chuckle as he reflected on his hard work. “I feel like I’ve accomplished something.”

Exodis Ward may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
@alexodislee on Twitter

Theatre and Dance presents ‘Creating and Connecting in Quarantine’

Exodis Ward
The Prospector

UTEP’s Department of Theatre and Dance presents “Creating and Connecting in Quarantine” for the fall 2020 season. From radio shows to virtual book readings, the department’s new plan provides opportunities for students while keeping the community engaged through the arts.

With safety standards in mind, the fall production schedule has been adapted for audiences to enjoy while they social distance amid the coronavirus pandemic

KTER, the NPR station for the southwest, will host ReUnión rEvolución Radio, a partnership between the station’s State of the Arts radio show and UTEP’s Department of Theatre and Dance. The program, which will air throughout September, and is set to celebrate the work of local and national Latinx voices while investigating the “frontera”, or the border.

Another event includes, the College of Liberal Arts’ “Dean’s Speaker Series”, which will feature several speakers from across the country to discuss representation in the performing arts using Zoom.

The speakers include Anne Garcia-Romero of Notre Dame, Gregory Ramos of University of Redlands, Virginia Grise of Cara Mira Theatre, Julia Sosa of Cleveland Playhouse and Andre Sianez-De la O, a Huntington playwrighting fellow.



The Zoom links will be shared to the public on the college’s social media accounts

The National Endowment for the Arts’(NEA) “Big Read”, a program partnered with the Arts Midwest, is another scheduled virtual event that will take place during October to celebrate “Into the Beautiful North”, a story directed by Melissa Crespo. The story centers around

young protagonist, Nayeli, noticing the lack of law enforcement and men in her town. Wanting to protect her hometown from bandidos, she takes a trip up north to collect the Magnificent Seven, a group of seven men that will become the Tres Camarones’ warriors.

The Texas Dance Improvisation Festival (TDIF), an annual event that invites dancers to take part in classes

with renowned artists through dance sessions and performances, will be conducted virtually on TDIF’s website Oct.10.

Later in the semester, dance capstone performances will also be held online Nov. 6-7. This event features performances that are choreographed by UTEP senior dance majors.

A fan-favorite for many in the last two years, “A Christmas Carol en la Frontera” will be formatted to be radio friendly. The play puts a borderland twist to the classic tale “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. The original story takes place in the 1800’s and features Ebenezer Scrooge’s journey to redemption guided by spirits from Christmas past, present and future.

UTEP theatre’s current director, Adriana Dominguez, and previous director, Jay Stratton, are reworking the script to better suit the new medium. This version will be directed by Greg Thompson, a lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

“Our goals are to provide opportunities for students to continue to develop their craft, both in performance and on the design and technical side of things. We also aim to provide an opportunity to connect with our community,” said Rafael Perez, the department’s director of audience development and Box office manager. “During these incredibly tough times, we want to find ways to still be able to share stories because it is necessary.”

Further event information and dates for “Creating and Connecting in Quarantine” can be found using the Department of Theatre and Dance’s social media handles on Facebook and Instagram at:

@uteptheatredance.

Exodis Ward may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
@alexodislee on Twitter

‘Immigration Nation’: A look inside a broken system

Victoria Almaguer
The Prospector

Immigration Nation is a six-part Netflix documentary series featuring footage filmed from 2017 to 2020 of the United States’ Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during President Donald Trump’s administration.

The documentary, directed by Christina Clusiau and Shaul Schwarz, started by focusing on ICE agents and eventually shifted to the testimonies of migrants and U.S. veterans trying to fix their illegal status or escaping death threats from their country of origin.

Clusiau and Schwarz, faced legal threats from ICE to delay the documentary until the 2020 presidential election had passed. Released Aug. 3, the series followed ICE agents during their raids and showed the testimonies of many migrants crossing illegally.

Some scenes seen on the documentary were filmed at the El Paso and Ciudad Juarez border and depicted the brutality and emotional distraught that comes from families who are separated. Not far from El Paso, the Tornillo facility was met with various protests to be closed back in 2018. Although the facility no longer stands, the emotional trauma parents and children will



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

A deep look at the state of U.S. immigration, utilizing unprecedented access to ICE operations.

carry, is a heavy weight on the immigration system.

According to data published from the Pew Research Center, the El Paso region saw a 477% surge in migrant apprehensions in the fiscal year of

2019 compared to 2018. The city ranked number two in apprehensions in the Rio Grande sector. People traveling in families accounted for most apprehensions in the fiscal year of 2019.

After the Trump administration enforced the zero-tolerance policy in 2018, which resulted in the separation of thousands of families, it is unclear how families that have been separated will be united.

The series also shows a scene, where ICE officers enter a home seeking a certain individual, only to “hit the jackpot” and arrest everyone in the apartment who is undocumented. This was explained to be a process that helped meet demands to arrest “collaterals,” a term the department uses to refer to the arrest of undocumented immigrants who are not their intended targets, have not committed any crimes and are typically caught unaware. The scene demonstrates how officers lie their way into a target’s home and mocks them after their arrest.

The intimidation and mockery that is portrayed as being used to arrest people further demonstrate the true horror that goes behind ICE’s arrests. The power of truth the documentary holds has the potential to impact the El Paso/Juarez border region due to its demographic and the strong cultural bond both cities share. It is a series that should be seen by everyone in order to inspect and understand how we should move forward as a community and allow others to do the same.

Victoria Almaguer may be reached at prospector@utep.edu or @victoriaalmagu9 on Twitter

Finding a job during the pandemic made easy through this app

Sven Kline
The Prospector

This year’s annual career fair was made virtual due to the social-distancing guidelines being enforced at UTEP amid the coronavirus pandemic. Going virtual provided safer access for UTEP students seeking their desired profession to get in contact with employers.

Though many things have changed due to the pandemic, social distancing shouldn’t interfere when wishing to progress in your career paths. Developed by UTEP’s Career Center (CC), “Career Fair Plus” (CFP) bridges the gap between students and potential employers through their mobile application.

Released through student email, students received directions on how to install the platform onto their smartphones via a YouTube tutorial link for quick and easy installation. The phone application gave students access to virtual meeting media.

Although innovative, this is not the CC’s first time using virtual platforms. Director of the Career Center, Betsy Castro-Duarte, spoke about the event. “Virtual career

fair platforms have existed, and we are experienced with chat-based platforms, but finding a platform that has video capabilities and getting everyone educated in a very short period of time has been a bit of a challenge,” Castro-Duarte said.

Once students download the CFP app and complete their CFP profile, they are then able to access various scheduled meetings with several employers at multiple given times under the “employers” tab.

As such, the application offers five different home tabs including the “employers” tab, the “event info,” “meetings,” “fair map,” and the “more” tabs. Each providing help for students in getting a handle on snagging their next job.

Adjusting to online classes and virtual events and meeting has become the new norm for people everywhere, and ways of searching and finding employment is also changing.

“This new ‘normal’ has allowed us to reframe past limitations to physically spaces being available on campus, tight travel budgets, and recruiter availability,” Duarte said. “This new reality has really helped

us all to be more open to ways that we can still communicate with each other.”

It’s to be noted the CFP app’s main downside is only being available for mobile download. The app could benefit by being supported on computer for easier accessibility. Although the app was made to be installed with simplicity and guide, a desktop version would be a plus and great asset for students trying to land their next job.

Though it faces this con, The CFP app is not that different from a conventional experience of a face-to-face interview.

“Aside from the platform, nothing else has changed in the way (of) students needing to prepare in advance for a job fair- reviewing job vacancies in advance, researching the organization, looking presentable, and being ready for an “on-the-spot interview” is all part of the experience,” Castro-Duarte said.

But what options do students have? Students can easily access the “employers” tab or log in to their Job Mine accounts to view potential employers to evaluate their options.

“We invite hundreds of employers to recruit at UTEP each year. They each have their own strategy to recruit at schools across the U.S. Some employers prefer to host information sessions and interviews and not participate in the career fair; while other use the career fair candidates to drive their interview schedules,” Duarte said.

The future will always be shrouded in mystery as to what will happen next and what will change, but students can remain assured there will still be ways to apply for their future careers through UTEP’s Career Center.

Sven Kline can be reached at prospector@utep.edu or @SvenKline on Twitter.

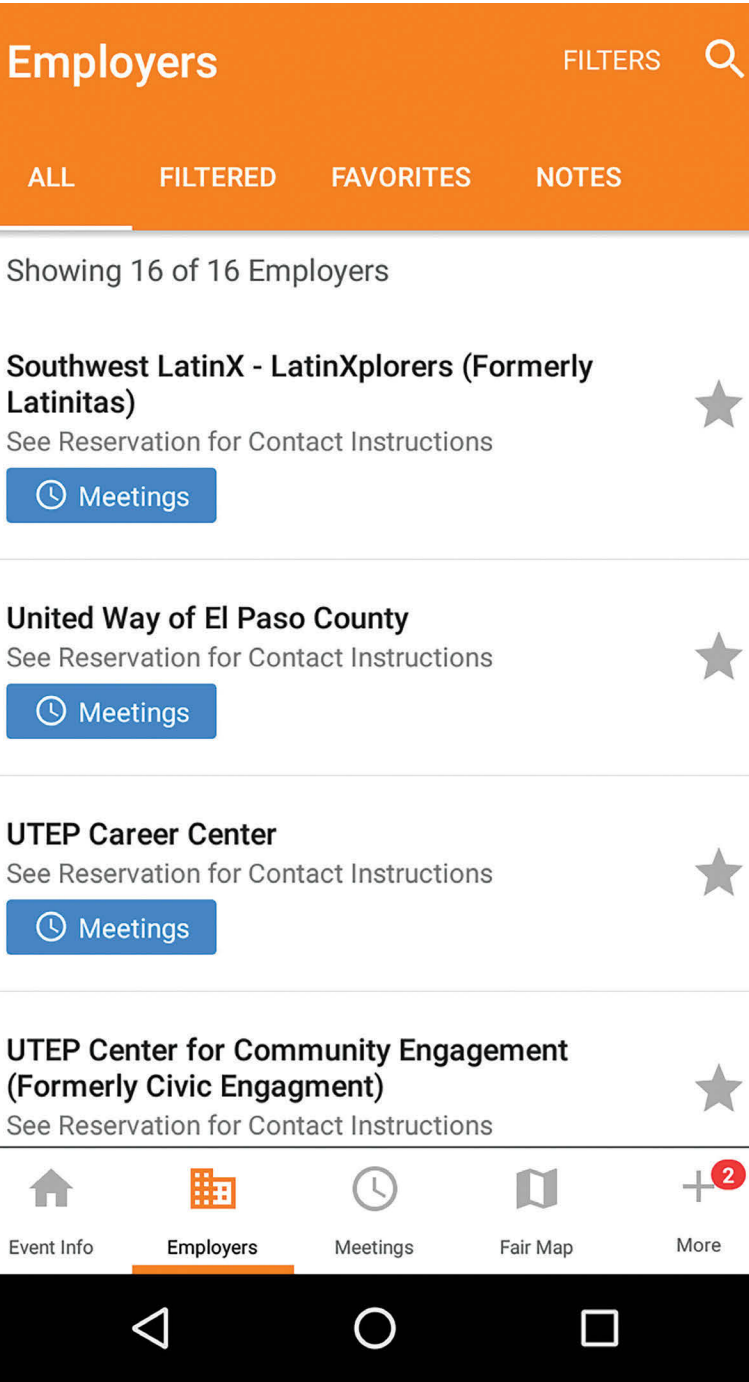


Photo by Sven Kline

In the “Employers” tab students are able to scroll through and select various different employers and setup times to meet and greet.



Photo courtesy of UTEP

The 2020 virtual career fair looks to connect students with employers looking to fill job openings across the U.S.

SPORTS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

EDITOR MICHAEL CUVIELLO, 747-5161

Season opener win over Stephen F. Austin

Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

For the first time more than a year the UTEP football team earned a victory as it defeated Stephen F. Austin 24-14 in front of a restricted capacity crowd in the Sun Bowl. The Miners last win came in its season opener last season against Houston Baptist Aug. 31 2019.

UTEP has now won its season opener in back-to back seasons for the first time since the 2010-2011 campaigns.

The official attendance was announced at 6,047 for the season opener as capacity restrictions were set in place due to the pandemic as a max capacity of 18% was allowed which meant 8,600 people could attend the Sun Bowl.

Health protocols were clear throughout the Sun Bowl as masks were required throughout the stadium and seats were reserved as no general admission seating was available with fans seated with distance between each other.

Behind solid performances from its young offense trio in redshirt shophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowing, the Miners offense as a unit put up 364 yards to Stephen F. Austin's 230.

Cowing who is coming off an impressive freshman campaign where he led the Miners in receiving yards a season ago, had 116 receiving yards with seven receptions against the Lumberjacks.

Hardison made his first collegiate start after playing in two games last season and threw for 212 yards, for 17 completions and one touchdown. "I thought the guys around me did

"That's the most physical I've watched a guy run in a long time even all my years in the Big 12."

-Dana Dimel
Head coach

really great with the o-line opening things around me and the skilled position guys played great," Hardison said.

Hankins delivered a standout performance for the miners as the backup running back to senior back Quadraiz Wadley and may have put a case as to why he could be the starting running back. El Paso's all time leading rusher hailing from Parkland High School met the end zone for the first time in his career with a rushing touchdown with 20 seconds remaining in the first half to the Miners ahead of the Lumberjacks 17-14.

Hankins would go on to lead all running backs with 113 rushing yards and tacked on another touchdown for the night.

Today definitely exceeded my expectations and the whole day I was just visualizing myself breaking out for runs," Hankins said.



Photo courtesy of UTEP/Ruben Ramirez
UTEP sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowing goes up high for catch against Stephen F. Austin Saturday Sept. 5, 2020.v

"That's the most physical I've watched a guy run in a long time even all my years in the Big 12," Head Coach Dana Dimel said.

UTEP's defense stepped up in the second half only allowing 83 yards of total offense. The Miners found itself digging out of 14-three first half deficit and would go on to outscore Stephen F. Austin 21-0 the rest of the way

Miner senior safety Dy'Vonne Inyang produced six tackles and one forced fumble for the UTEP defense.

"Lots of learning tools from our team tonight falling behind the way we did and still playing with the same fire we did," Dimel said. "You can see how much more athletic we are defensively and we're still at the stage where we are learning how to win football games."

With a rebuilding program that has now won three games in the last three seasons starting off with a win alongside promising performances from its young talent can only swing this Miner team in the right direction.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
@_IsaiahRamirez1

Locomotive score late to gain victory over New Mexico United 3-2

Heriberto Perez
The Prospector

The El Paso Locomotive (5-2-3) beat New Mexico United (6-3-2) 3-2 with a goal in the 88th minute to secure its first win over the group leader this season. For the second game in a row, the Locomotive played in front of fans, increasing allowed home attendance to 1,519 people inside of the Southwest University Park.

With a very offensive-minded game featuring five goals, the scoring started at the 13-minute when United forward Amando Moreno, on an assist from midfielder David Estrada scored on a great individual play to take the initial lead.

At the 25-minute mark El Paso midfielder Dylan Mares found midfielder Macauley King after a corner kick to tie the game. Unfortunately, King, just before the end of the half, committed a foul which led to a penalty kick goal from United forward Devon Sandavol at the 40-minute mark to take a 2-1 lead.

It was not until the 60-minute mark when the Locomotive tied the match again with a great cross inside of the box by forward Omar Salgado landing a shot off United goalkeeper Austin Yearwood's that resulted in a score.



Photo courtesy of UTEP/ Ruben Ramirez
Locomotive midfielder Dylan Mares attempts a penalty kick versus New Mexico United Sept 5.

As the game was winding down, the Locomotive continued to put pressure on New Mexico deep in its territory. At the 88-minute mark, the

aggressive play by the Locomotive paid off with a score by Mares on a vital assist from Salgado that gave El Paso the lead for good.

For the first time in five games, the Locomotive were able to gain a victory over New Mexico with previous matches ending in two

losses and two ties

"We wanted to win; I think this game was a very good game for all of us," Mares said after the game. "We knew what we needed to do, going out at the game and show that we wanted it more," he added.

The Locomotive lost the possession battle for the night, with 49% compared to 51% for the United. El Paso did take over twice as many shots as New Mexico with 21 compared to eight. Overall neither team was very effective at landing shots on goal with both teams combining for only nine total shots on goal, with El Paso having four and New Mexico five.

"Top two teams of the groups, you wanted to get that advantage on them," Locomotive Head Coach Mark Lowry said. "We won the game in hand and we look strong to get into the first place of the group."

The Locomotive is now two points behind first-place New Mexico with 18 points but with one less game played and are within striking distance of the group leader.

El Paso next plays the Group D leader San Antonio FC (8-0-3) 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at Southwest University Park. San Antonio is the only undefeated team in the United Soccer League and is tied for most points in the league.

Heriberto Perez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
@heriperezlara

Miners travel to Austin as big underdogs to Longhorns

Michael Cuiello

The UTEP Miners coming off a season-opening win over Stephen F. Austin University, will go on the road to play the University of Texas Longhorns Saturday, Sept. 12, for the first time since 2016.

Hoping to improve on the result of the last matchup that resulted in a 41-7 win for the Longhorns, the Miners have a monumental task at hand with the Big 12 opponent. This game will be the first time the Miners will play a Tom Herman coached Longhorn team. Herman has a record of 25-15 at Texas with four bowl wins.

Texas finished the 2019 college football season at 8-5 with a victory over Utah in the Alamo Bowl that left the team as 25th ranked in the Associated Press (The AP) year-end poll. Currently, the Longhorns are ranked 14th in The AP poll.

Offensively the Longhorns will have some new wrinkles with newly hired offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich. Previously the passing game coordinator for a one season at Ohio State and offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State for five years, Yurcich's offense is considered a good fit for the Longhorns and its power spread offense hoping to improve getting players open in space.

Leading the Longhorns at quarterback will be fourth-year starter Sam Ehlinger, who finished as an honorable mention All-Big 12 Conference selection last season. Ehlinger is currently second all-time on the Longhorn passing list with 8,870 yards and 68 touchdowns. Proficient as a runner, Ehlinger has over 1,500 yards rushing in his college career and has improved each season in passing and running.

Finishing last season with over 3,600 yards passing with 32 touchdowns and only 10 interceptions, Ehlinger will be the primary weapon for Texas that UTEP will have to focus on. Devin DuVernay has departed to play in the NFL, leaving a massive hole at wide receiver with his 106 receptions for 1386 yards and nine touchdowns no longer a Longhorn. Texas also lost its second-leading receiver, Colin Johnson.

Junior Brennan Eagles is the top returning receiver for Texas with 32 receptions with 522 yards receiving and six touchdowns. Sophomores

Joshua Moore and Jake Smith move into prominent roles for the Longhorns. Both players were ranked in the top 200 players of its recruiting class.

Returning its top two running backs from last season, the Longhorns have a wealth of talent and experience at the position. Leading rusher junior Keaontay Ingram rushed for 853 yards on 144 carries last season, averaging 5.9 yards a carry. Ingram is also a good receiver out of the backfield with 29 receptions for 242 yards and scored 10 total touchdowns last year. Named a third-team preseason All-Big-12 selection, Ingram is expected to have a big year. At 6-0, 222 pounds, Ingram will provide quite a challenge for the UTEP defense with his versatility.

Backup running back, Rochon Johnson is also quite adept at catching passes out of the backfield and had 23 receptions last season. Johnson was third on the team in rushing with 665 yards and seven touchdowns last season.

Adding to the depth at running back is five-star recruit Bijan Robinson, who was the 14th ranked recruit national after three consecutive high school seasons of over 2000 yards. Robinson is the all-time leading rusher in Arizona history with 7036 yards and, like the other backs, is an outstanding all-around player.

On the offensive line, the Longhorns are led by NFL first-round draft prospect Samuel Cosmi at left tackle. Cosmi has started 26 games over his career and was named second team All-Big 12 in 2019 in his first year at left tackle.

Senior Derek Kerstetter anchors the line at center with the most experience of all starters. Kerstetter has started 28 games for the Longhorns and was the highest-ranked pass blocker of all Power Five offensive linemen as ranked by Pro Football Focus in 2019. Like his left tackle teammate, Kerstetter is considered an NFL prospect.

The rest of the line is a talented but inexperienced group that has a significant size advantage over UTEP's linemen.

UTEP will need to limit Texas's big-play ability with its defense. Even getting pressure on Ehlinger will be a challenging proposition due



Photo courtesy of UTEP/ Ruben Ramirez

UTEP redshirt freshman running back Deion Hankins rushed for over 100 yards versus Stephen F. Austin Sept. 5.

to his ability to make plays with his legs. Both of Texas's running backs are dangerous as receivers coming out into the flats, which will test the Miner linebackers and safeties.

Due to its experience and talent in the secondary, the Miners may be able to give Texas's young receiving corps a better challenge than expected in its first game. In Ehlinger, the Miners are facing a very accurate quarterback that does not make many mistakes running a very potent offense that has put up points on top college teams. Lacking its top receivers may change much of that scoring early in the season.

The Miners will need to limit defensive mistakes if the team does not want to get ran out of the stadium due to the talent of the Longhorns. Texas has the speed to make minor errors turn into major scores.

On defense for Texas, new defensive coordinator Chris Ash will be employing a new scheme, moving from a 4-3 alignment from the previous year's 3-4 system. Ash, who was previously a head coach at Rutgers compiling an

8-32-win loss record, has worked with Tom Herman while both were at Ohio State, winning a national championship in 2014 with Urban Meyer.

The defensive line will be a position of strength for Texas with experience and talent to man the trenches. Seniors Marquez Bimage and Taquon Graham both bring excellent athleticism to the line at the end and defensive tackle position. Junior Joseph Ossei is the standup defensive end and will be the star of the line.

Ossai had nine tackles with six for loss and three sacks in the Texas 38-10 bowl victory upset over the University of Utah last season. With that performance, Ossai caught the eye of NFL scouts and could be in line for a tremendous season. Leading the team in tackles with 90, including 13.5 for loss along with five sacks and two interceptions, Ossai will be a crucial player for the Miner's offensive line to stop in the upcoming game. Playing on the line in a new scheme could be a learning experience for Ossai.

With the scheme and coaching change, Texas will rely much less on blitzing and have a very inexperienced linebacking corps that would make it the weakest of the Texas defensive units. But with the scheme change, the mindset is to get pressure up front from four down linemen, especially with Ossai at the jack position of the defense.

In the secondary, the cornerbacks will be led by junior D'Shawn Jamison, who led the team in interceptions last season with three. Junior Jalen green started seven games last season but missed multiple games with injuries. Junior Josh Thompson, sophomore Chris Adimora and freshman Kenyatta Watson II all received significant playing time last season

The strength of the secondary is the safety group, which is loaded with possible NFL prospects. Junior Caden Stearns has started 21 of 22 games in his career. He is on multiple preseason All-American lists as well as the Chuck Bednarik Award watch list awarded annually for defensive player of the year. Joining him at safety is junior B.J. Foster, who has played 22 games in his career while starting 14.

For the Miners to be effective against the Texas defense, the running game will be the key to set up short passes against a somewhat raw group of linebackers. Freshman running back Deion Hankins was very effective against Stephen F. Austin, averaging 6.6 yards per carry. If the Miners can make the defense concentrate on Hankins, it will open up underneath passing routes to exploit versus Texas. Senior Quadraiz Wadley will not be available for the upcoming game due to a recurring injury issue.

Sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison will need to take advantage of his quick release due to the size difference of the offensive versus defensive lines. UTEP may be able to take advantage of a team learning a new scheme that has yet to implement it into a regular-season game condition.

Overall, the Miners receivers acquitted themselves quite well last weekend with both sophomore Jacob Cowing and senior Justin Garret making impressive plays. The tight ends and backs will both need to be used more in the passing game versus Texas to move the chains.

Much like on defense, not being forced into offensive errors will be the key to playing Texas. This challenge should show what precisely the UTEP Miners are made of as a team and give them an idea of where they are at in terms of progression from last season.

With a tall challenge like playing a top-ranked Power Five team with a limited offseason, the Miners are currently not being given much love from Las Vegas as 43-point underdogs to the Longhorns.

If the Miners can stay disciplined, they can stay under that point differential but in the end, I expect a loss by at least four touchdowns. It is tough to overcome the talent discrepancy no matter how well-coached a team is and the lines on both sides have monumental tasks to take on.

Final Prediction: Longhorns 42 Miners 14

Michael Cuiello may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Photo courtesy of UTEP/ Ruben Ramirez

UTEP sophomore quarterback looks downfield for an open receiver in win over Stephen F. Austin Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020.