

11-2021

## The Prospector, November 2, 2021

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# THE PROSPECTOR

VOL. 107, NO. 6  
NOVEMBER 2, 2021

Assayer of Student Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

theprospectordaily.com

# All about UTEP Basketball

## Women's basketball all in for the win

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ  
The Prospector

The women's basketball team has been putting in plenty of work this offseason to prepare for their upcoming season that officially begins Nov. 7 under the guidance of head coach Kevin Baker.

"We've done a lot of things, and it's really helped us because we are indeed prepared for the season," said coach Baker in a post-practice interview Oct. 29.

"I think we need a couple more weeks to fine tune some things and we'll be ready for our opener."

Baker is the eighth head coach in UTEP women's basketball history as of April 2017. He is the only coach in UTEP history to guide the Miners to have three winning seasons in their first four years, including a pair of 17-win campaigns.

Last season, Baker successfully guided the Miners to a 17-8 record and led them to the semifinals of the 2021 C-USA Championship. This marked the Miners' first appearance in the semifinals of the tournament in 5 years.

Miners point guard Katia Gallegos was one of the 20-point guards listed as a candidate for the 2022 Nancy Lieberman Award, announced by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Oct. 25. This is the second year in a row she has made this list.

Gallegos has also been named to the C-USA preseason team and the Miners were predicted to finish third in the preseason



PHOTO BY ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/THE PROSPECTOR

Guard Katia Gallegos calls out a play during practice on Oct. 28

poll, as announced by the league office Oct. 28. This is her second year being selected as a preseason honoree.

"It means a lot to me that I'm being recognized and especially since a lot of work is put into it, all the way from my teammates to the coaches," Gallegos said in a post-practice interview Oct. 29.

"Everybody makes me a better player, and I'm just hoping I'm making them a better player too."

Gallegos led the Miners last season in scoring with 13.8 points per game, field goals made with 127, 3-pointers made with 38, defensive rebounds with 92, and minutes played per game with 32.4. Gallegos became the second best in school history with an assist average of 5.0 and became the fourth highest among UTEP sophomores all time with her scoring an average of 13.8 points.

The Miners have been putting in work since July when their new players arrived. They have some big goals and are looking to do more than they've already done.

"We want to win a championship here. We want to win Conference USA, and we've made no bones about that since the day they all got here," said Baker in an Oct. 29 post-practice interview. "That's been our goal, and that's what we're going to try to do this year."

These players are showing a lot of dedication and desire to be the best players they can be in order to compete at the highest level possible.

"I think that's going to be a big difference this year, just the fact that we want to be in the gym, we want to practice, we want to do this. And it's just a want that's going to get us better," Gallegos said.

The women's basketball team

officially kick off their season at 1 p.m., Nov. 7, at the Don Haskins Center against St. Mary's University. The Miners play their first five games of the season at the Don Haskins Center and are encouraging the people of El Paso to come out and support them.

Fans can call the Eisenberg Family Ticket Office at (915) 747-UTEP, email tickets@utep.edu, visit www.UTEPMiners.com/Tickets or stop by in person (Brumbelow Building on UTEP campus, 201 Glory Road) Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All stats provided with the help of UTEP Athletics.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the sports editor at The Prospector and can be reached at eavelasquez@utep.edu; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.

## Men's basketball shoots for the top

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ  
The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball team has been putting in a lot of hard work in preparation for the upcoming season that officially kicks off on Nov. 9 with the help of their new head coach Joe Golding.

Golding was recently at Abilene Christian University where he led the Wildcats to the past two NCAA tournaments. This is season 11 of Golding's career as a collegiate head coach and his first season here at UTEP. Golding's record as a head coach is 158-144.

"I'm humbled. I'm honored to be the head coach of UTEP. I think there's a lot of work to do but I think the timing is right," Golding said in a post-practice interview on Oct. 27.

UTEP has four stars returning to the team that include forward Jamari Sibley, guard Souley Boum, guard Keonte Kennedy and forward Tydus Verhoeven, with eight lettermen in total. Some other returning lettermen include guard Christian Agnew, guard Cam Clardy, forward Gilles Dekoninck and forward Ze'Rik Onyema.

The practices have been intense and full of energy in order to improve themselves as a unit every day to be the best team possible. The Redshirt junior Souley Boum was named preseason all-conference honoree, the league office announced on Thursday, Oct. 21.

see **MEN BASKETBALL** on page 7



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# Opinion

Julian Herrera, editor in chief

## The epidemic of school shootings in America

**ITZEL GIRON**  
The Prospector

For years, the United States have dealt with hundreds of mass shootings in schools, from the Columbine High School shooting in 1999 to more recently at Timberview High School Oct. 6.

Shootings seems to inevitably happen every year, either in a school or shopping center, they have become “normal” in our lives as Americans. Each year we hear of a new and devastating shooting that rocks the nation, yet as a country we allow these acts to be repeated.

With the familiar feeling of devastation, heartbreak and distress, it has increasingly created the feeling of anger and confusion for many. The question always lingers whether nothing will change or if this might be the one shooting that can change the course of our future.

Though the earliest school shooting is dated back to July 26, 1764, the most infamous school shooting in U.S. history has been Columbine and unfortunately it has been the blueprint for so many other offenders across the country.



**ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR**

From the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, each shooter idolized and were inspired by the two shooters in Columbine. The disturbing similarity is something that could have been prevented, if only something was done after the shooting in 1999.

Other similarities found in each situation include how easily each perpetrator can bring a weapon onto school grounds, even with the increasing changes in security. From

metal detectors to the increased security presence on school grounds, mass shootings continue to happen across the nation and not just in a school setting.

It has continuously been shown that guns find their way into the hands of the wrong people and damage the lives of the innocent. Whether purchased legally or illegally, guns should not be in the hands of those not mentally capable of handling them responsibly. A process must be put in place to not get rid of guns completely, but limit the opportunities for guns to be put in the wrong hands.

Since 1999, there have been over 256,000 students exposed to gun violence across the nation, not including misfires or thwarted attempts. Even with no school shootings happening during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that for most of the 2020-year students completed the school year virtually, there have been 24 school shootings in 2021, with the last one being recorded Oct. 12.

School shootings, as these statistics show, are not a rare occurrence

in the United States.

For the past 20 years, the families of each victim of various massacres have fought and continue to fight for gun control. Whether it be for complete banning of firearms or limiting access to them, they have not given up hope for a better future.

More recently, students from across the country have come together to help stop the epidemic of school shootings. Though this fight began back in 1999 after Columbine, students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas have organized the March for Our Lives movement back in 2018 — a small step taken in hopes that school shootings be prevented and that not another innocent student should die due to unnecessary gunfire.

March for Our Lives and other organizations like Sandy Hook Promise and Protect Our Schools have dedicated their time to bringing both Republicans and Democrats together to combat the issues that lead to gun violence and particularly school shootings. The possibility of a shooting occurring

could end if everyone set aside political beliefs and remembered that another child should not have to die for us to realize something needs to change. Instead of picking sides, we should come together to accept firearms do not belong to schools and to protect current and future generations of students.

As a nation we must remember that it is not normal for a 20-year-old to remember school shooting drills based off experience; no person should have to deal with that trauma at any age, let alone at the age of 6 or 7 years old.

To put it simply, school shootings in America happen because guns are easily accessible to those not mentally capable nor qualified to handle them. As a country we must realize that we cannot stand aside and let these massacres to be repeated. Rather, we must unite and accept that no student should be put in a situation like that ever again.

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## New sports editor to spotlight all athletics equally

**EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ**  
The Prospector

Sports are impactful all around the world and athletes everywhere make a difference every day, both on the field and off. As someone who loves sports, I understand the importance of sports media, which is why I am both excited and honored to be given the opportunity to work at The Prospector this fall.

I was overjoyed when I was informed that I was chosen as the new sports editor for this semester, and I am excited to help contribute to both this section and this paper's success in whatever capacity possible.

I am a multimedia journalism major with a minor in rhetoric writing here at UTEP. I am also a freelance photographer and videographer on the weekends when given the time and opportunity.

As the new sports editor, there are a couple of goals that I hope to accomplish in my time with The Prospector.

One of my main goals is to do my absolute best to make sure every sport is both included and heard. I want to make sure I can get coverage for every sport possible and try to make sure that not only are the more popular sports included in The Prospector, but also the ones that don't receive the same amount of attention.

Another goal of mine is to do more feature stories rather than just game recaps or previews. I hope to explore deeper stories that are yet to be told or discovered. My goal is to help uncover stories that remind people of why sports are so important to some.

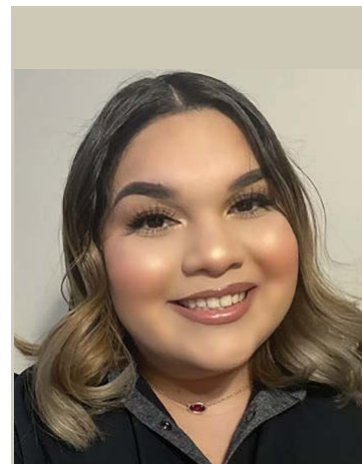
I love sports, and the only thing that has brought me closer to it has

been my love for sports journalism. It's one thing to watch from the crowd, but getting to experience sports through a lens or doing your best to recreate those big moments through words is an experience that is unlike any other.

I hope that after I graduate next December that I can continue to work in sports journalism as it is a long-awaited dream of mine. This dream is possible because of the amazing people I have in my life.

I come from one of the most amazing support systems there is. My family, friends and mentors have been very supportive and influential, and I am so grateful for all the love and support they've shown me while on this journey.

I specifically want to thank my high school yearbook advisor, Mrs. Rivera, as she was my first teacher in sports journalism. I walked in



**PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ**

not knowing anything about it and yet she encouraged me to constantly be working and improving. She encouraged me to apply myself, even when I wasn't sure about it being something I considered for a career.

I would also like to thank Victoria Rivas, our Arts & Culture editor here at The Prospector. She informed me of the open position and encouraged me to apply, and even helped me with the application process. I would not be here without her help and support, and I am so lucky to call her not only my colleague, but also my friend.

The Prospector staff have been extremely welcoming and inclusive. I am so proud of the work we have already done, and I'm so excited to see what we do from here.

I hope that I will see students, faculty, and staff follow us along our journey with The Prospector by picking up copies and following us on our website and social media platforms.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the sports editor and may be reached at [eavelasquez@utep.edu](mailto:eavelasquez@utep.edu); @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.

## THE PROSPECTOR VOL. 107, No. 6 November 2, 2021

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The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at [www.theprospectordaily.com](http://www.theprospectordaily.com).

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# Safety first: Rising cases of STDs in El Paso

ITZEL GIRON  
The Prospector

For about a year and a half of being separated from everyone, one thing most can agree on is the lack of human touch. Whether it be physically or sexually, people across the globe were forced to be alone without knowing when the next time they would get to see, let alone touch, someone else. That deprivation of touch paired with the return of normal life has led to an intense spike in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Data collected by the El Paso Public Health Department showed a spike in cases of both STDs and STIs. From January to August, there has been at least a 100 case increase compared to statistics from this time the previous year.

"Given the restrictions put in place to slow down the spread of COVID-19, we understand many individuals might have chosen to forego annual STI testing," said Angela Mora, director for the Department of Public Health. "For this reason, we believe many STIs went undiagnosed/unreported and transmitted to others who

later sought medical attention as life slowly started going back to normal."

With the rise in cases focused in range of 20-29-year-olds, according to Mora, it is similar to a rise that the city of El Paso experienced back in 2019. However, in efforts to lower and prevent cases, services are available to everyone across the city in search of testing or help after being infected.

Across the city or closer to school, students and faculty can find help anywhere, even a few blocks down from the school campus.

"Though there are many clinics around El Paso, you can always stop by UMC check in and get a quick STD workup for your own peace of mind," said UMC nurse Kayla Del Rasso. "We have higher cases because people aren't taking care of themselves; it's OK to live your life, but your actions have consequences."

For students at UTEP, educating yourself on the severity of STDs and STIs is just as important as using protection. With a taboo subject like sex, students must not hide from the idea of safe sex.

"Being tested and being honest with your partner is the right



PHOTO BY CONNOR MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Contraception options are available at the Student Health Center inside the Union building thing to do," Mora said.

"Communication is the key; we encourage all sexually active individuals to openly discuss with their partners what prevention methods are best for them," said Mora. "Routine testing also prevents spread of disease and early treatment, as living with one STI increases the risk of becoming infected to HIV and other STIs."

Students are encouraged by other students to not be embarrassed by getting tested or wanting more information on STIs and STDs. UTEP nursing student Clarissa Raya knows it can be scary to be so open over something so sensitive.

"People can always learn the signs and symptoms and get tested," said

Raya. "It's better to be safe than sorry; I'm sure others are scared, too, but you want to stop it before it gets too serious."

Even with testing and treatment after any infections, students are encouraged to follow safe sex practices, so they are not exposed to STDs or STIs.

"We highly encourage our community to engage in safe sexual practices to prevent acquiring an STI; routine STI testing as part of their annual health checkup is highly recommended, especially when it comes to knowing their HIV status," Mora said. "Condom usage, PrEP, using lube when engaging in anal sex and being honest about one's sexuality all help reduce

the risk of contracting an STI."

Even if you believe you are practicing safe sex, being tested should no longer be taboo but rather a part of our normal lives and trying to remain healthy. Just like any health concern, take this one seriously and protect not only yourself, but others.

Numerous clinics throughout the city offer free and/or reduced cost STI testing, for more information, please contact the El Paso Community Care center at 915-212-0200 Option 5 or call 2-1-1 for referrals to community health clinics.

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## UTEP announces new Institute for Hispanic Student Success

EDUARDO A. FLORES  
The Prospector

UTEP President Dr. Emerita Diana Natalicio was remembered among her family, friends, coworkers and the UTEP family at the Centennial Plaza of the University of Texas at El Paso during a Celebration of Life ceremony on Oct. 24.

During the event, current UTEP president Heather Wilson announced the establishment of the Diana Natalicio Institute for Hispanic Student Success to continue her legacy.

"Dr. Natalicio was a leader of great conviction," Wilson said. "She led a team of people who built a university that defined inclusive excellence for Texas and for the nation. We continue to build on that foundation today."

The announcement of the new Institute for Hispanic Student Success has received support from state



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Paydirt Pete lights a candle in honor of President Emerita Dr. Natalicio at the Celebration of Life for President Emerita Diana Natalicio on Sunday, Oct. 24, at Centennial Plaza on the UTEP campus.

education organizations.

"The Diana Natalicio Institute for Hispanic Student Success will continue UTEP's proud tradition as a Hispanic-serving institution. It will use research and evidence-based practices to develop future Hispanic and Latinx leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs," accord-

ing to a statement released by the UT System.

Chancellor of The University of Texas System, James B. Milliken, posted on Twitter, "So excited about this new initiative with Diana's name on it. The Chancellor's Council made the first gift to support the institute, and there will

be many more."

The UTEP family also expressed their opinions about Wilson's announcement.

"This institute will help cement UTEP as the leading Hispanic university in the nation. We will be hitting the fundraising trail soon to support this mission," said Nick Popplewell, assistant vice president for principal gifts at UTEP Institutional Advancement.

"Dr. Natalicio was an amazing role model and kept her commitment to the Hispanic students transforming UTEP to become a force among Hispanic Serving Institutions," said UTEP alumna Valeria Martinez.

Andrea Navarro, a 20-year-old psychology major at UTEP, also expressed her appreciation.

"Dr. Natalicio was a great influence on many of us. I'm sure this institute will continue the legacy of Dr. Natalicio," she said.

In a 2019 interview with The

Dallas Morning News, Natalicio discussed one of the motivations of her dedication to access to higher education.

"One of the first data points that hit me was the disparity between the ethnic distribution of the El Paso population and the ethnic distribution of UTEP's population," she said. "And the disparity was not explainable by anything except opportunity shortage of students of Hispanic background, or Latino background."

Diana Natalicio was considered a pioneer in higher education among the community and praised for growing a small El Paso campus into a national research institution while expanding college access for Hispanics. The University of Texas at El Paso has stated that it looks forward to sharing more about the new major institute in the coming months.

Eduardo Flores is a contributor and may be reached at [eflores17@miners.utep.edu](mailto:eflores17@miners.utep.edu)

## Ethnic identities may not tell the whole story

JULIA LUCERO  
The Prospector

Being Hispanic or coming from a background of Mexican or Spaniard culture, it can be confusing on what to identify yourself as. It can sometimes make people wonder, "what is the difference between being Hispanic and Latino?"

Chicano Studies Adjunct Faculty member Josefina Carmona said that being "Hispanic" has to do with Spanish-speaking countries and/or countries that were colonized by the Spaniards. Whereas Latinos are Latin American countries that may or may not have Spanish as their primary language.

Racially, most Hispanics are considered white," said Carmona.

"Brazilians would be considered Latinx or Latinos because they are in Latin America," Carmona said.

The term Hispanic is a label that was imposed by the federal government, Carmona said.

When the U.S. Census was trying to distinguish between white Eurocentric Americans and Hispanics such as Mexican-Americans, and Salvadorians, they created the label "Hispanic" because they came from Spanish-speaking countries.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the Hispanic or Latino population was the second-largest racial or ethnic group, comprising 18.7% of

the total population.

"Identity can be very fluid in the sense that your environment has a lot to do with it; oftentimes identity is linked to a country of origin," Carmona said.

There are some students at the border that identify as "Frontieros," which means that they recognize themselves as having a borderland identity, Carmona said.

In a survey conducted by Pew Research Center, two-thirds of Hispanic adults say being Hispanic is part of their racial background.

When asked about their race on Census Bureau decennial census and survey forms, many Latinos do not choose one of the stan-

dard racial classifications offered. Instead, more than any other group, Latinos say their race is "some other race," mostly writing in responses such as "Mexican," "Hispanic" or "Latin American," the Pew Center Research report said.

"It's important that we recognize that each ethnicity has its own culture nuances that make them unique," Carmona said.

Carmona says that taking ethnic studies courses, reading, and being curious about your ethnicity can help those struggling with identity to get a better understanding of who they are.

"There's got to be the desire and the understanding on the part of

the individual to actually embrace whatever the answer might be and not let someone else tell them what their identity is, I think that's the key," Carmona said.

Sophomore Jennifer Evelyn Hannig Marrufo says when she was younger she would get confused on what to fill out on forms, but as she got older she learned the difference between race and ethnicity.

"I identify as Hispanic. I do think being Hispanic has a lot of fluidity. There's a lot of different types of Hispanic culture. Maybe different, but our roots are similar," Marrufo said.

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# Arts & Culture

Victoria Rivas, editor

## Katia Gallegos preps to lead team to victory

BY JULIA LUCERO  
The Prospector

UTEP's Point Guard Katia Gallegos is a D1 student-athlete, who relies on her family's support to honor her heritage on the court and her achievements.

According to the UTEP 2021-2022 women's basketball roster, Gallegos was the first Miner Sophomore since 2008 to be a first-team All-League Honoree. Her assist average (5.0) was the second-best in school history by a sophomore. She started all 25 games her sophomore year, and was on the 2021 and 2022 Nancy Lieberman Award Watch list. Despite all these prestigious honors, Gallegos said her focus is on her team.

"It is cool having recognition, but at the end of the day, my goal is set for more conference USA, like championship as a team. That's really my goal right now, just trying to put in my two cents to help this team to win and lead them," Gallegos said.

Gallegos said that her coaching staff prepares her well, not only on the court but off. Knowledge about press conferences, interviews and how she presents herself has stemmed from her basketball experience and has taught Gallegos discipline.

Awarded the Nancy Lieberman Watch List for two years, Gallegos said she feels a lot of joy bring-



Point guard Katia Gallegos practices plays Oct. 28.

ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/THE PROSPECTOR

ing honor to her family and other Hispanics.

"I know it's a lot of hard work for a Mexican to come out in the U.S. in the NCAA to be recognized, and I think it's a motivation for a lot of people," Gallegos said.

The passion for basketball drives Gallegos to keep pushing during school and the game.

"I've been in love with this game for a very long time, and I'm just getting started. It's just the motivation for the future. I want to go

far with this. Every day is work," Gallegos said.

Gallegos says she owes God for keeping herself and her family happy. She leans on her family and the El Paso community for mental and emotional support.

Wanting to succeed plays a key role in her academic, athletic and personal life.

When Gallegos was younger, she loves to watch American basketball player Russell Westbrook and became inspired by him, Gallegos said.

Gallegos was born in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and moved to the United States when she was 8 years old.

When she moved to the United States, she was excited that most basketball courts were indoors, unlike the ones she would play outside in Juarez.

"Growing up in El Paso the opportunities I was given to keep playing, represent my middle school, my high school, and now college. I'm very lucky because not a lot of people get to have this opportunity," Gallegos said.

When Gallegos is not on the court she enjoys spending time with her friends.

Gallego's favorite shows are "Money Heist" and "Queen of South." She enjoys listening to Myke Towers, Bad Bunny and Ozuna.

"I listen to a lot of reggaeton before games, after games all the time," Gallegos said.

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## UTEP transfer set to make a difference for Miners

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ  
The Prospector

Dunk and go nuts! Standing at six foot 10 inches is UTEP men's basketball player Bonke Maring. Maring is originally from Cypress, Texas, and is currently a sophomore at UTEP. He is currently taking his core courses and is still deciding on his major.

The UTEP men's basketball player plays forward on the team. He previously played for Blinn College located in Brenham, Texas from 2019 to 2021. This is his first season playing with the UTEP Miners after transferring from the Blinn College Buccaneers.

"I came here to UTEP because it is a great place to be at and I really like all of the people here and my coaches," he said.

Maring and the team have been hard at work under the guidance of their new head coach Joe Golding to prepare for the upcoming season.

Maring has been playing basketball for 15 years. He started playing because his brother inspired him to play. The first time he dunked a basketball was when he was 15 years old. Maring is a pivotal part of the team, not only because of his towering height, but

thanks to his skills as well.

"I bring a lot of rebounds, good shots and hustle to the team. I hope all of us as a team can work together to win all of our games this season and hopefully bring home another championship," he said.

Maring's strengths include having good hands around the basket and finishing on contact. His weakness is that he needs to get better on defense.

Maring was named All-Region XIV Conference second team after averaging 12.6 points and eight rebounds per game. He shot 62.9 percent from the field and added a 2-for-5 effort on three-pointers. Maring also finished 71.7 percent from the free-throw line.

Maring made an impressive jump in his sophomore season after averaging only 2.7 points and 2.4 rebounds during his freshman season. He is hoping to show even more improvement with his season starting next week.

During games to stay motivated, Maring listens to his favorite rapper Drake to get pumped up to play. He doesn't get nervous playing in front of a crowd since he's been playing for so long, he said.

He wants to play in the NBA after he graduates from college. It doesn't



Forward Bonke Maring looks for an open teammate during practice Oct. 27.

ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/THE PROSPECTOR

matter what team he plays on, as long as he gets to play. It has always been his dream to play in the NBA like his favorite professional basketball player, LeBron James.

Maring's advice to future basketball players, "Keep working and stay humble."

Maring and his teammates will kick off their season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the Don Haskins

Center against the Western New Mexico Mustangs.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Eisenberg Family Ticket Office at 915-747-UTEP, email [tickets@utep.edu](mailto:tickets@utep.edu), visiting [www.UTEPMiners.com/tickets](http://www.UTEPMiners.com/tickets) or in person (Brumbelow Building on UTEP campus, 201 Glory Road) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

You can also follow Maring on Instagram @BonkeMaring33 and keep up with UTEP Men's Basketball news at [utepminers.com/sports/mens-basketball](http://utepminers.com/sports/mens-basketball).

Stats acquired with the help of UTEP Athletics.

Alyson Rodriguez is a contributor at The Prospector and may be reached at [aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu](mailto:aerodriguez20@miners.utep.edu); [alyson\\_rod1127](mailto:alyson_rod1127)

# Basketball fans plan to fill the Don Haskins

BY VICTORIA RIVAS  
The Prospector

After a year of fans virtually supporting UTEP's basketball teams, the upcoming 2021-2022 season will soon return, and fans are excited to attend games and support both teams.

"I'm glad we will now be able to attend games again because the environment is vibrant and different," said UTEP student Jorge Marin.

UTEP men's basketball team begin their season 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, with a home game against Western New Mexico. Fans can take advantage of the "Golding Ticket" special for the home opener game to celebrate the start of Joe Golding as the new head coach of the men's basketball team.

All tickets from the navy and green sections will be \$5 only while supplies last. Students can call 747-UTEP or visit [www.utepminers.com/tickets](http://www.utepminers.com/tickets) to purchase their tickets.

"From day one, we've talked about getting butts in the seats and back in the Don Haskins Center," said Head Coach Joe Golding in a press release. "We want that place to be packed. It used to be one of the toughest places to play in the country. We have to do our job by putting a good product on the floor."

UTEP women's basketball season starts at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, against the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) at the UTEP's Don Haskins Center.

The women's team will also play an exhibition game with St. Mary's Sunday, Nov. 7, at the Don Haskins Center before the season starts.

"I love basketball, and this is my first semester at school. So, I think I will attend a basketball game to support UTEP," said UTEP student Michelle Chavez.

UTEP's athletic teams have gotten a good start, and as fans prepare to fill UTEP's Sun Bowl Stadium for the upcoming home game on Saturday, Nov. 6, both UTEP's basketball teams hope fans go and support them and fill the Don Haskins Center as well.

"As we are nearing the first tip-off of the season, ticket sales are the most important way to support our team," said Kevin Baker, women's basketball head coach, in a press release. "Buying a ticket, wearing orange, and being loud are always the best way to contribute to the success of our basketball program. We need our fans in the stands. We will put a very exciting team on the floor, and they will be fun to watch. This is going to be another great season."

Six UTEP men's basketball games have been selected to be broadcast nationally or streamed through well-known outlets like CBS Sports Network and ESPN+. Four out of the six games will be played at the Don Haskins Center.

Fans can buy season tickets, group tickets and single-game tickets. Depending on the game, prices start at \$8 for women's basketball and \$10

for men's basketball.

According to UTEP Athletics, UTEP students and active military members can use their ID to purchase tickets with discounts. UTEP students can also purchase an additional guest ticket at the same price, and military members can purchase up to four tickets at a discount.

"I can't thank our fans enough for your investment in buying tickets for this upcoming season," Golding said in a press release. "The fans have an important role as we continue our goal of getting this program back competing for championships. It's time to bring the passion and energy back to The Don. Go Miners!"

Victoria Rivas is the Arts and Culture Editor and may be reached at [vrivas7@miners.utep.edu](mailto:vrivas7@miners.utep.edu); @VicRivas\_18 on Twitter.



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

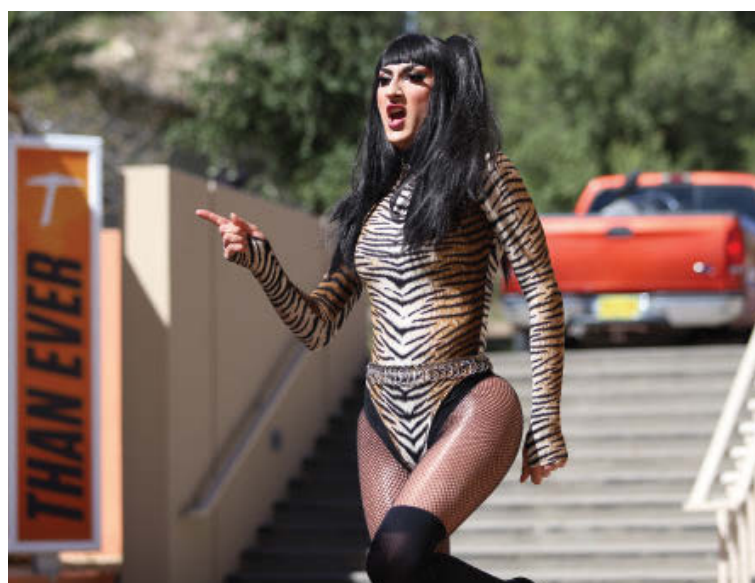
Forward Gilles Dekoninck guards Guard Emmanuel White during practice Oct. 27.



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Guard Christain Agnew passes the ball to a teammate during practice on Oct. 27

## SELC's Queernival drag show take the union



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Harlot (top), Salem Ofax (bottom left) and Melina DèAcero (bottom right) perform at Queernival Oct.27.

UTEP's SELC hosted their last event of Queertober to celebrate Queer History Month with tabling and a drag show.

### UPCOMING UTEP EVENTS TUESDAY, NOV. 2

- 7:30 p.m., UTEP Theatre and Dance present **Alebrijes** a bilingual production at the Desert Garden Amphitheater. Free admission.
- 12 p.m., **35 Under 35 Alumni Speaker Series - Alumni in Media** at the Union Bldg. University Suite (3rd Floor) Enjoy the conversation with free pizza!

### MONDAY, NOV. 15

- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., **International Food Fair 2021** at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center, Union East 3rd Floor
- 4 p.m., **The Walk of the Immigrants with Saul Flores** at El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center.

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# Sports

Emily Autumn Velasquez, editor

## Miners fall in close game against FAU

### Miners ready to battle undefeated Roadrunners after loss to Owls

BY LEVI CARLOS  
The Prospector

UTEP Miners drop to (6-2, 3-1 C-USA) on the season after a loss on the road to Florida Atlantic University (5-3, 3-1 C-USA) in Boca Raton, Florida. The Miners are (1-2) all-time against the Florida Atlantic Owls and have never won a game in Boca Raton. This is the first time the Miners and the Owls have met since 2016.

Only one game back from the front runners No.16 UTSA Roadrunners, this game gave the Miners the opportunity to tie the Roadrunners in conference play. The Miners fought hard to come back against the Owls but came up short in a game that ended with a final score of 25-28.

“We just didn’t score enough points to win the football game,” said UTEP Head Coach Dana Dimel.

It was a slow start for the Miners, trailing by four points in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Miners managed to get some more points on the board with a touchdown reception by junior tight end Trent Thompson. This was Thompson’s second touchdown reception of the year, tying the record for touchdowns by a tight end in a single season since 2018.

The touchdown was not enough to give the Miners the lead and they went into the locker room down by four points at the half. It was a

disappointing third quarter for the Miners, who did not manage to put points on the board and went down by 11 points going into the fourth quarter.

It was do or die for the Miners going into the fourth quarter and it started off poorly when the Owls scored a touchdown to go up by eighteen points. However, the Miners nearly managed a comeback with 3 minutes left on the clock.

Miners redshirt junior running back Raynold Awatt scored a five-yard rushing touchdown with 2:50 left on the clock and they managed to convert a 2-point conversion cutting the deficit to 10 points. Following the touchdown, the Miners tried an onside kick and were able to recover it.

On the ensuing drive redshirt sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison threw a 49-yard bomb to wide receiver Tyrin Smith and the Miners were able to cut the deficit to three points with 2:02 left in the game.

The Miners’ defense kept them in the game with a late stop that gave the offense the ball with less than a minute left in the game. In the end the Miners were not able to capitalize on that opportunity and were handed their first conference loss of the season.

Defense played a big part in this contest with the Miners holding the Owls to 280 yards. They have allowed less than 300 yards in six games this season, their most since doing so eight times in 1966.

“The defense played fantastic, but we didn’t play well enough to win,” said Dimel. “We played really good football and got ourselves back into and had a chance to get ourselves to make a play at the end of the game and couldn’t quite do it.”

The Miners had their four-game



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER AGUILAR

Linebacker Breon Hayward takes the field against the Florida Atlantic Owls on Oct. 30.

win streak, which was their longest since 2010, snapped by the Owls and dropped to 2-2 on the road this season. The Miner’s 3-1 record in C-USA remains their best through four games since joining the league in 2005.

The Miners’ next game is at home

against the undefeated Roadrunners at 8:15 p.m. MST Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Sun Bowl. This game will be the Miners’ “Salute to Troops” game.

Game tickets are available by calling 915-747-UTEP or by visiting [www.utepminers.com/tickets](http://www.utepminers.com/tickets).

UTEP students qualify for one free ticket with the use of their Miner Gold Cards. This game will also be nationally televised on ESPN2.

Stats provided with the help of the UTEP Athletics department.

Levi Carlos is a staff reporter and may be reached at [lccarlos@miners.utep.edu](mailto:lccarlos@miners.utep.edu)

### MEN BASKETBALL from page 1

“We just try to come in every day, focus on getting better, being a unit. We obviously want to win conference,” said Boum in a post-practice interview Oct. 27.

Redshirt junior Souley Boum was named preseason all-conference honoree, the league office announced on Thursday, Oct. 21.

Boum was a 2021 All Conference USA third team member and ranked third in C-USA in scoring with 18.8 ppg, as well as fifth in the league in total points with 450. He also led the Miners in steals with

34. UTEP also has six new members on the team this year that include point guard Kezza Giffa, forward Alfred Hollins, forward Kevin Kalu, forward Bonke Maring, guard Jorell Saterfield and forward Jamari Sibley.

“Change is hard, it’s not easy, and it feels like there’s so much we are trying to do. We are changing things on both sides of the ball,” Golding said in a post-practice interview Oct. 27.

Hollins is a recent addition to the team, transferring from Oregon

State and has been putting in extra work this offseason after not having played a game since December of 2020.

The Miners are looking to improve after finishing last season fifth in C-USA West with a record of 8-8 in the conference. Last season, Souley led the team in points with 18.1 points per game, free throws with 81.3% made and three-point field goals with 38.7% made. Kennedy led in rebounds with 5.9 rebounds per game. Bieniemy led in assisted with 4.0 assists per game. And Verhoeven led the team with

0.9 blocks per game and 62.7% of his field goals made.

The team is encouraging the people of El Paso to come out and support them for their season opener and hopefully make the Don Haskins one of the toughest places to play in the country again.

The Miners’ first game takes place 7 p.m. MT Tuesday, Nov. 9 against the Western New Mexico Mustangs at the Don Haskins Center. Additionally, UTEP will play five of their first seven games at the Don Haskins Center, including the Golden Turkey Classic Nov. 22 and

Nov. 24.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Eisenberg Family Ticket Office at (915) 747-UTEP, email [tickets@utep.edu](mailto:tickets@utep.edu), visiting [www.UTEPMiners.com/tickets](http://www.UTEPMiners.com/tickets) or in person (Brumbelow Building on UTEP campus, 201 Glory Road) Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All stats provided by UTEP Athletics.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the sports editor at The Prospector and may be reached at [evelasquez@utep.edu](mailto:evelasquez@utep.edu); [@emilyautumn20](https://twitter.com/emilyautumn20) on Twitter.

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# UTEP Miners rally against the Roadrunners

## Volleyball team wins Friday, but falls short Saturday

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL  
The Prospector

UTEP volleyball (17-6, 6-4 C-USA) battled The University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners (8-14, 5-5 C-USA) over the weekend in San Antonio, Texas in a five-set match on both Friday, Oct. 29 and Saturday, Oct. 30.

On Friday, Oct. 29, the Miners took down the Roadrunners, 3-2, in a five-set match; 25-23, 25-18, 17-25, 21-25, 15-9. The Miners recorded a total of 12 blocks and six service aces against the Roadrunners.

In Friday's match against the Roadrunners, four Miners recorded double-digit kills: junior outside hitter/middle blocker Alianza Darley recorded 12 kills, junior middle blocker Kenidy Howard recorded 13 kills, senior outside hitter Serena Patterson recorded 20 kills, and senior outside hitter Paulina Perez Rosas recorded 12 kills.

Sophomore defensive specialist Alyssa Sianez put up a career-high of 29 digs in the game against the Roadrunners. Senior setter Kristen Fritsche put up 28 assists while sophomore setter Hande Yetis recorded 26 assists.

For UTSA, senior setter Mia Perales recorded two service aces, senior outside hitter Kirby Smith

recorded a double-double with 11 kills and 17 digs, and senior defensive specialist Mia Ybarra led the team in digs with 19.

"It was a grinder match like I said from the beginning and we were able to grind out this win," Head Coach Ben Wallis said in a post-game interview. "UTSA served it really tough for two to three sets. They tried really hard to get us out of sorts and they did that for a little while, but we stayed strong and stayed competitive."

On Saturday, Oct. 30, the Miners fell short to the Roadrunners in a five-set match, 3-2; 21-25, 25-14, 25-21, 30-32, 17-1. The Miners recorded eight blocks, seven service aces, and hit .370. UTEP also recorded 80 kills, which could be a potential conference-high on the year.

"It was a battle today," Wallis said in a post-game interview on Saturday. "We did a lot of things right offensively for long stretches, but we just didn't do enough block-and-defend when we needed to. We out-played ourselves."

The Miners had five players achieve season-high numbers during the game. Sophomore outside hitter Ava Palm recorded 16 points, 12 kills, three service aces and five digs, senior outside hitter Paulina Perez Rosas recorded 17 digs, sophomore defensive specialist Alyssa Sianez recorded 31 digs, and sophomore setter Hande Yetis recorded 41 assists. Junior middle blocker Vittoria Price was the lead scorer for the Miners with 20.5 points and a record of .750. Price also recorded 16 kills and three



ANNABELLA MIRELES/THE PROSPECTOR

Setter Kristen Fritsche bumps the ball during the game against the the Blazers Oct.22.

service aces.

On the defensive side, Sianez tallied 31 digs while Perez Rosas recorded 17 digs for a double-double.

For UTSA, senior outside hitter Hannah Lopez led the team with 17 kills, while junior setter Courtney Walters recorded 52 assists and three aces. Senior defensive specialist Mia Ybarra led on the defensive side with 19 digs.

"I'm disappointed in the loss,"

Wallis said Saturday in a post-game interview. "We had so many opportunities to win in the fifth set, but we just didn't earn it. We snatched defeat from the jaws of victory this afternoon which is really frustrating. This one's going to hurt for a while because we had so many opportunities to win and we just weren't able to do it."

The Miners are set to host the University of Texas Rio Grande

Valley (14-9, 5-4 WAC) on Nov. 3 at Memorial Gym. The match will have live stats available.

All stats and quotes for UTEP provided by the Department of Athletics.

All stats for UTSA provided by [goutsa.com](http://goutsa.com).

Katrina Villarreal is a contributor and may be reached at [kvillarreal@miners.utep.edu](mailto:kvillarreal@miners.utep.edu).

## Seven UTEP Athletes earn All C-USA Honors

BY DANNY LOPEZ  
The Prospector

The Miners men and women's cross-country teams both placed fifth Saturday, Oct. 30 at the 2021 Conference USA Championship at Frank Liske Park in North Carolina. Seven Miners also received All Conference USA honors.

Eight men traveled to the C-USA Championship: Gabriel Armijo, Titus Cheruiyot, Maxwell Kipkosgei, Rodgers Korir, Yusuf Mohamud, Juan Olmos, Michael Sims and Kenneth Talavera. Heading into the championship, the Miners were ranked number 11 in the Mountain Region.

There were six women who traveled to the C-USA Championship, and they consisted of Carlyne Chepkosgei, Karoline Daland, Ruth Jerubet, Joan Kimaiyo, Jacquelyn Orozco and Victoria Ovalles.

"The team has prepared well by participating and doing well during the regular season meets that we took part in," UTEP Head Coach Paul Ereng said in an interview prior to the C-USA Championship.

The Miner men finished with 79 points in the 8K event, and the women tallied 151 points in the 6K race

Junior Rodgers Korir and fresh-

man Ruth Jerubet earned All-C-USA first team honors, finishing on top for the Miners. Senior Carlyne Chepkosgei earned honors to the second team, while sophomore Kenneth Talavera, sophomore Titus Cheruiyot, freshman Maxwell Kipkosgei, and junior Gabriel Armijo were named third team honorees.

Kipkosgei was also named as the C-USA Freshman of the Meet.

Korir finished in fourth place overall out of 85 competitors, while Jerubet placed fifth out of 98 competitors.

"I am proud of the way both UTEP teams competed today," Ereng said in a Oct. 30 interview after the championship. "Both teams finished fifth. Rodgers Korir led the men by finishing fourth and Ruth Jerubet in fifth in the women's race. We had seven students receive all-conference honors. Five with the men and two on the women's side. Maxwell Kipkosgei was the conference freshman of the year, which we are very proud of him."

The Miners will be continuing their season at the NCAA Mountain Regionals on Nov. 12 in Utah.

Results were provided with the help of UTEP Athletics.

Danny Lopez is a staff reporter and may be reached at [dalopez23@miners.utep.edu](mailto:dalopez23@miners.utep.edu)



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# UTEP preps to play against UTSA

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL  
The Prospector

UTEP football (6-1, 3-0) will face off against The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) at the Sun Bowl Stadium Nov. 6. UTSA could pose a high threat to the Miners, as they are currently undefeated.

UTSA (8-0, 4-0) is 8-0 for the first time in school history and for the first time in program history are nationally ranked at No. 23 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll.

UTSA's offense has proved to be a force to be reckoned with; in a win against Rice University, the Roadrunners put up a total of 403 yards—along with a season-high of 261 yards on the ground. Junior running back Sincere McCormick recorded his fifth 100-yard game, while senior running back B.J. Daniels put up 54 yards on seven rushes. Senior quarterback Frank Harris completed 12 of 19 passes for 125 yards and two touchdowns, rushing five times for 47 yards.

UTSA's defense has played a key role in each of the Roadrunners wins. In the game against Rice University, UTSA held Rice's offense to 102 yards, which is the fewest yards allowed in school history and recorded a season-high of 10 total tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Inside linebacker Trevor Harmanson and cornerback Corey Mayfield, Jr., both seniors,



ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Offensive lineman Jeremiah Byers celebrates with his teammates after winning against LA Tech Oct. 16.

had an interception return for a touchdown. Junior safety Rashad Wisdom led the defense with six tackles and a tackle for loss, while sophomore cornerback Ken Robinson had five tackles, including 1.5 tackles for loss.

The Miners are 6-1 for the first time since 2005 and are 3-0 in conference play for the second time ever. After the win against LA Tech the Miners are eligible for a bowl game for the first time since 2014.

The Miners' offense has continued

to put up big numbers; in the win against LA Tech, freshman running back Deion Hankins recorded multiple rushing touchdowns for the fourth time in his career, and the first time this season. Sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowing recorded his tenth 100-yard receiving game of his career, tied for the fourth-most in school history and three yards shy of tying the school record of 13. Junior wide receiver Reynaldo Flores recorded a career-high in receiving yards for

the second straight game. Sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison recorded 283 yards against LA Tech, which is his most passing yards against a Conference USA opponent.

The Miners' defense has shown no signs of stopping, as they continue to dominate every single week. In the game against LA Tech, the Miners held LA Tech to its fewest points ever in a Conference USA game, which is the second fewest allowed by UTEP. The defense also

recorded multiple safeties for the first time since 2015. Junior defensive end Jadrian Taylor recorded a career-high of 3.5 sacks and tallied 6 tackles. Three Miners posted their first interceptions at UTEP: junior linebacker Tyrice Knight, sophomore cornerback Torey Richardson, and sophomore defensive back Tyson Wilson.

This is the ninth time that UTEP has met UTSA. UTSA currently leads the series 6-2 with a win streak of four. The last time these two teams met was Nov. 14, 2020, at the Alamodome where UTSA's offense put up a record high of 600 yards and came out victorious with a score of 21-52. The last time the Miners won against UTSA was Oct. 22, 2016, which resulted in a five-overtime game with a score of 52-49.

UTEP hosts UTSA at 8:15 p.m. Nov. 6 at Sun Bowl Stadium. UTEP students qualify for free tickets to all football games with their Miner Gold Card. To sign up for your free ticket visit [studenttickets.utep.edu](http://studenttickets.utep.edu) for information.

All stats for UTSA found on UTSA Athletics official website, [goutsa.com](http://goutsa.com). All stats for UTEP found on UTEP Athletics official website, [utepminers.com](http://utepminers.com).

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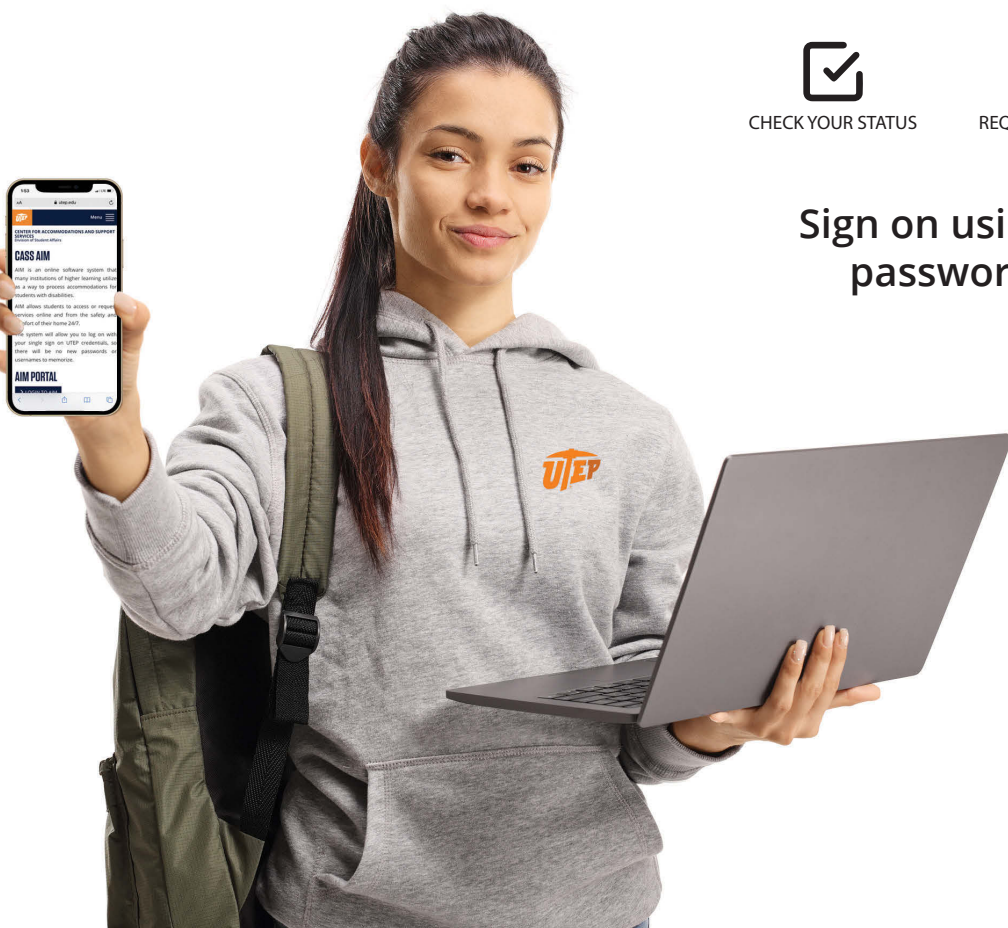
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