

# South Texas Industrial Assessment Center

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

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★ **Summary:** The South Texas Industrial Assessment Center (ST-IAC) is an exciting opportunity for our region. Typically, we identify opportunities to improve productivity and competitiveness, reduce waste, and save energy, and improve operations at both manufacturing and water facilities. Typically, an IAC saves more than \$130,000 in annual costs due for manufacturing and water plants in free assessments. Over 19,500 IAC assessments have been conducted nationally. Also, our center is the largest Hispanic-serving IAC located in the most impoverished region of the U.S. The ST-IAC at UTRGV will provide free assessments to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to assist them with reducing costs in an extremely competitive environment. The assessments focus on energy efficiency, productivity improvements, water management, cybersecurity and sustainability, all supporting President Biden's priorities to improve the resiliency of operations using renewables, decarbonization, and energy storage.

★ **Impact, Diversity and Inclusion:** The region served by the ST-IAC is known as the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), home to one of the fastest growing, predominantly Hispanic population (+90%), in addition to one of the fastest growing manufacturing sectors.

## ★ Project Goals:

- 1) Train engineering students in energy.
- 2) Ensure that students have the opportunity to receive their DOE-issued certificate of completion which will enable them to be recognized professionals in the area of energy-efficiency.
- 3) Be a catalyst for diversity and inclusion by providing educational opportunities to our 90% Hispanic students through hands-on experience with providing energy savings assistance and implementing productivity and waste management strategies. Hence, our students and their families will experience a path to a better life out of poverty in the most disadvantaged region of the U.S.
- 4) Provide no-cost industrial energy assessments to manufacturers and water utilities in South Texas so they may become more energy efficient and capable of improving the productivity of their manufacturing processes.

