

Impacting Sustainable Economic
Growth In the Region...
One **VIDA** At A Time

2017 Annual Report



Jessica Flores, South Texas College 2016 Graduate, LVN

VIDA

Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement

Letter From the Chairman

Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is very simple: A well trained, well educated population will not only be ready for tomorrow's jobs, but will be able to live a more prosperous, healthy, and happy lifestyle. The ultimate goal is job retention, not just job placement, which will develop strong citizens who are self-sufficient taxpayers, providing a clear return on investment of federal, state, local and private funding. Our graduates have not only helped the families they support and the businesses that now employ them: their ability to successfully move from the ranks of the low-income has helped us all. Their increased earnings have also enhanced their contributions to our tax system and reduced their dependence on public welfare. VIDA has demonstrated a model for success by graduating participants into demand occupations that normally were jobs unfilled or filled at a very high cost by people outside of our community.

Our Mission

To formulate new institutional relationships in the Rio Grande Valley that simultaneously address employers' needs for skilled workers and link the area's unemployed and under-employed with high-skills, high-wage jobs identified in the region.

Dear Friends and Partners,

These are interesting times!

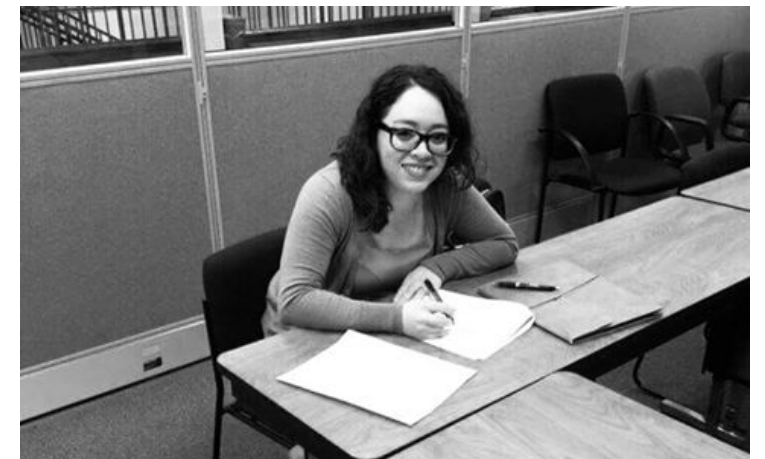
Interesting because, whereas change often times creates concern and uncertainty, we are confident that South Texas will fall on the positive side of change. Interesting because changes to NAFTA will bring a focus on the US/Mexico border and that can only bring new employment opportunities to this region. Interesting because The United States has identified manufacturing and infrastructure as its primary investment focus and the Rio Grande Valley is uniquely poised to benefit from that directive. Interesting because in recent days the federal government has highlighted vocational trades, two-year degrees, and apprenticeship programs have been highlighted as a necessity to create and fill US jobs and has committed to fund those programs. For VIDA these are exciting times! When we hear what is promised and we know that the Administration for Children and Families will soon be releasing findings of depth and substance on VIDA's program outcomes, we are optimistic that those training dollars will follow the programs with data driven, historical results in addressing self-sufficiency and with direct economic impact.

To all of our funding partners and program allies, thank you for continuing to navigate these waters with us. To all of the VIDA participants and graduates, congratulations! You are the only measure of VIDA's success. Keep up the good work and remember that part of success is civic involvement; stay informed and stay engaged!

Sincerely,


Eddie Anaya
Chairman of the Board

By empowering the **economically disadvantaged** adults in our region with the tools (education and training) to become self sufficient, we are able to *move people out of poverty*, in to family sustaining career employment, and to contribute to the area's economic engine.



VIDA Annual Summary

FY 2016-2017


545
Economically
Disadvantaged Adults
Served

46% has 2 or more
dependents in household

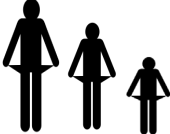
68% of VIDA participants
were females








100% received intensive
case management/
counseling services


Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement

*For every one dollar invested
there is a return of **\$12.12** to
the communities we serve.*

(Economic Impact Study 2015 - University of Texas-Pan
American, Data & Information Systems Center)

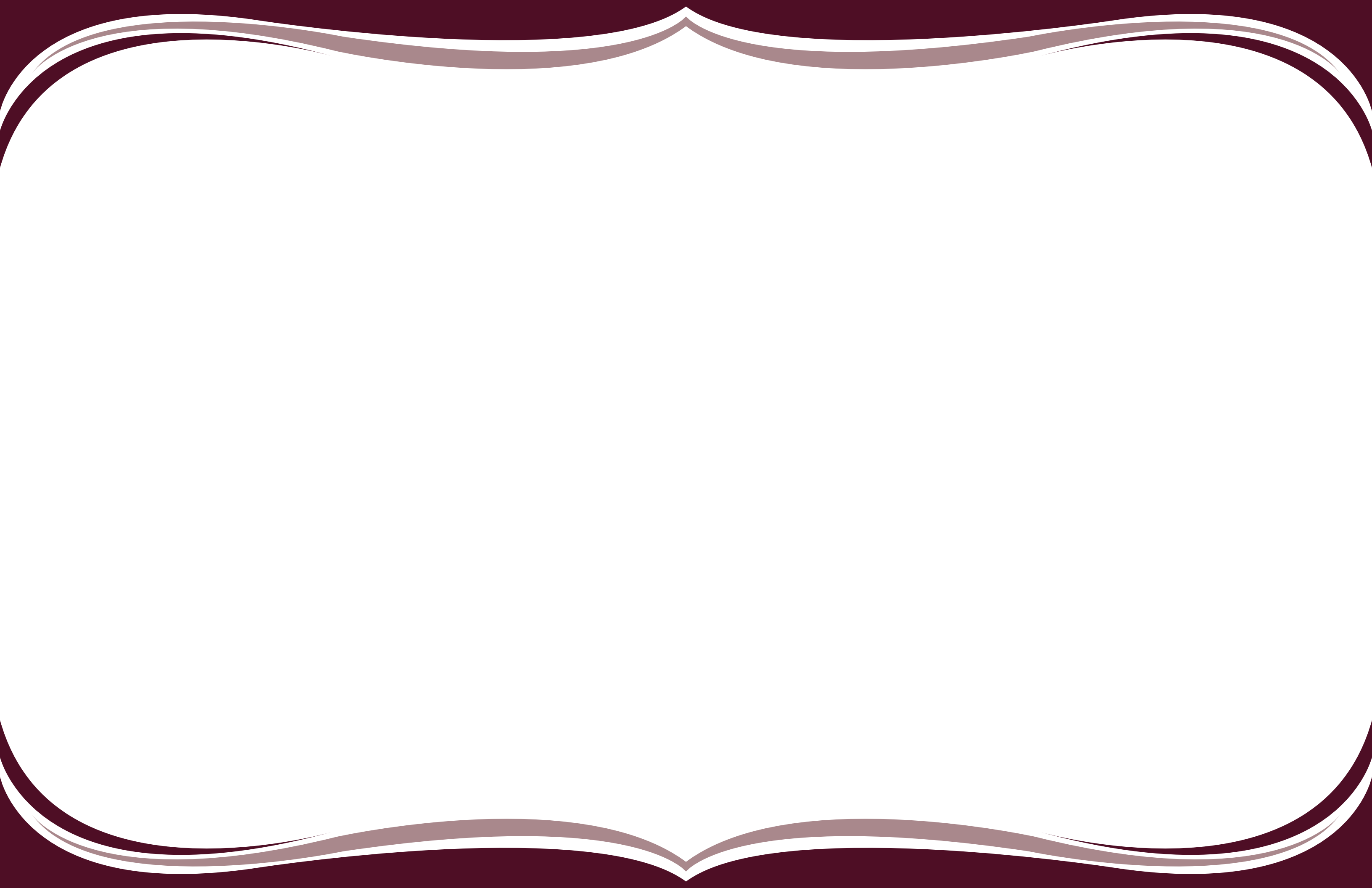
95% 
Unemployed, Low Income,
or on Public Assistance


Graduate Average Wage
\$21.90

Average Annual Income
\$45,552

From the **118**
Graduates 

- 74%** Associates Degree
- 17%** Certificate Degree
- 8%** Bachelor's Degree
- 1%** Marketable Skills



*We do not
do it alone!*

~

*Thank you for
your continued
support in
addressing
self-sufficiency
issues in our
underserved
community.*





2017

Human Capital Investors

DIAMOND DONORS



Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement

For more information on how
to invest in the VIDA program
contact us at:

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We're online too...