

# SANDRA LEAL

956-577-5272 ◇ sandra.leal01@utrgv.edu

## EDUCATION

---

### **M.S. in Ocean, Coastal and Earth Sciences**

Present

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

### **B.S. in Marine Biology**

2019

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, GPA 3.3

## SOFTWARE TOOLS

---

MS Office, Chimera, MEGA7, PAST, ArcGIS (learning), R (learning)

## EXPERIENCE

---

### **Research Assistant**

Present

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences

### **Stingray Touchtank Interpreter**

2019

Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville Texas

- Prepare and administer daily animal feeds
- Keep adequate records with regards to feeding, health, and animal behavior
- Maintain life support systems
- Participate in veterinary procedures
- Care and maintain the Invasive exhibit featuring lionfish

### **Student Project Associate**

2019

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences

- Performed cast net surveys of juvenile fish in San Martin Lake, Texas
- Set clay plots for sediment accretion project
- Engaged Scholar Symposium Participant

### **Research Volunteer**

2018

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences

- Assisted with collection of sediment core samples for analysis
- Assisted with sample processing

### **Student Project Associate**

2017 - 2018

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences

- Genetic analysis of zooplankton in the lower Laguna Madre, Texas
- Collection/ identification of planktonic organisms via morphological and genetic analysis
- Gel electrophoresis and analysis
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and chromatogram analysis
- Construction of phylogenetic trees

## ACHIEVEMENTS

---

NOAA CCME Scholarship Recipient Fall 2019  
NOAA CCME Scholarship Recipient Spring 2019  
Engaged Scholar Scholarship Recipient 2018-2019  
Regent M Yzaguirre Scholarship Recipient 2018  
Charles Neefe Sr. Scholarship Recipient 2017-2018  
Deans List Fall 2018  
Deans List Spring 2018

## **LANGUAGES**

---

English  
Spanish

## **INTERESTS**

---

Literature  
Traveling  
Snorkeling