**SANDRA LEAL**

sandra.leal01@utrgv.edu

**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science**, Major in Marine Biology. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville. May 2019

**Brownsville Early College High School**, Brownsville Independent School District, Brownsville. Concurrent enrollment with University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 2016

**Academic Achievements & Honors**

* 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
* Dean’s List Fall 2018
* Dean’s List Spring 2018

**EXPERIENCE**

**Student Project Associate**, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 2019

* Performed cast net surveys of juvenile fish species in San Martin Lake, Texas
* Set clay plots for sediment accretion project
* Assisted graduate students with lab and field work (collection and processing of samples)
* Assisted students with Engaged Scholar Symposium research
* Participant of NOAA’s CCME supplementary courses

**Marine Biology Research Assistant**, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 2017-2018

**•** 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

**Marine Biology Research Volunteer**, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 2018

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

**SKILLS**

**Marine Science**

* Water quality testing: pH, salinity, coliform, dissolved O2, nitrate, phosphate, turbidity, BOD, etc.
* Microscopy skills
* Laboratory Equipment Use

**LANGUAGES**

* English
* Spanish

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

* MEGA 7
* PAST
* ArcGIS
* Chimera
* R (beginner)

**INTERESTS**

* Literature
* Travelling
* Snorkeling