

First Annual Florence Nightingale Day at the university of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV).

By the FN day 2024 committee at UTRGV

Our first Florence Nightingale Day at UTRGV was on February 16th at the Edinburg campus.

We had 75 participants that were composed of 30 high school students, five undergraduate students, 25 graduate students (most were also volunteers at the event) and 14 faculties members from the different department at the university and one person from elsewhere. We had two outstanding female guest speakers Dr. Monnie McGee, an associate professor from Southwest Methodist University in Dallas and Dr. Lilian Fuentes, the dean of the school of Nurse at UTRGV. Both speakers gave amazing presentations that included Florence Nightingale contribution to statistics and data science, and how relevant Florence works in statistics and data science are still impacting positively those fields today. Furthermore, from the opening remarks by Professor Cristina Villalobos, Associate Dean of College of Science for Strategic Initiatives and Institutional Effectiveness, to the last activity in the event, which was a women panel, all presenters discussed the advantages of pursuing a career in statistics and data sciences.

We showed during the event a three-minute video about Florence Nightingale contributions to statistics and data science. There were also a few questions about Florence Nightingale in the trivia game that the participants had to answer in order to win some prizes.

One of the goals of this event was to promote the Statistics Program (BS, MS and PHD) at UTRGV. We had the Director of the SMSS Professor Timothy Huber, the Coordinator MS in Applied Statistics and Data Science professor George Yanev and the co- coordinator of the BS in statistic professor Santanu Chakraborty presenting our statistics program at UTRGV.

The students asked questions to the guest speakers about statistics and data science. We had a poster presentation session for our graduate students in Statistics and data science and the high school students had the opportunity to ask questions directly to the graduate students. The Florence Nightingale Day was sponsored by the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (UTRGV). The Florence Nightingale Day for Statistics and Data Science organization and The Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI). Thanks to all the sponsors. We hope to organize this for the second time in 2025, with possible collaboration with the School of Nursing at UTRGV.











