

Second Annual Florence Nightingale Day at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV).

By the FN day 2025 committee at UTRGV

On March 7, we celebrated our second Florence Nightingale Day at UTRGV on the Edinburg campus. The majority of the 92 participants were high school students, but there were also some undergraduates, some graduate students, and faculty members from several university departments.

We had two outstanding female guests Dr. Katherine Ensor, Noah G. Harding Professor of Statistics, Rice University, and Dr. Candace Robledo, Associate Professor of Public Health, School of Medicine, at UTRGV. In their outstanding presentations, both speakers discussed Florence Nightingale's contributions to statistics and data science as well as how her contributions are still having a positive influence on these subjects today. Furthermore, from the opening remarks by Dr. Andrya R. Rivera-Burciaga, Assistant Professor and Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Director to the last activity in the event, all presenters discussed the advantages of pursuing a career in statistics and data sciences.

The Center for Advanced Manufacturing Innovation and Cyber Systems organized an activity this year where they brought a dog robot and demonstration on how statistics may be used to enhance the robot's abilities. The American Statistical Association Student Chapter at UTRGV organized the second student competition, interactive exercises, and networking event using Human Neural Network Pictures. Students enjoyed both highly interesting activities.

There were also a few questions about Florence Nightingale in the trivia game that the participants had to answer to win some prizes.

Among the objectives of this event was to advertise UTRGV's Statistics Program (BS, MS, and PhD). Professor Timothy Huber, the director of the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, George Yanev, the coordinator of the Master of Science program in Applied Statistics and Data Science, and Dr. Hansapani Rodrigo, the co-coordinator of the Bachelor of Science program in Applied Statistics and Data Sciences, discussed our statistics program at UTRGV.

The students asked the guest speakers questions 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 third time in 2026 at UTRGV.











