

Economic Development Strategic Alliance

Committee Chairs: Ernest Gerlach, RBP – IED/UTSA; Bob Zachariah, President, Laredo Hotel and Lodging Association

Thursday, 21st

1:15 – 1:30 pm

Overview – Welcome and Introduction

Track Moderators:

Bob Zachariah, President, Laredo Hotel and Lodging Association
Ernest Gerlach, RBP – IED/UTSA

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Developing a South Texas Regional Economic Growth Strategy – First Steps!

Panelist:

Steven R. Nivin, Ph.D., Chief Economist Economic Development Department – City of San Antonio

Moderator: Ernest Gerlach, RBP – IED/UTSA

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Rural Development in South Texas – Putting the Pieces Together

Panelists:

Lupe Torres, Rural Development Specialist, Texas Department of Agriculture

Jake Sherran, Area Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA – Alice Office

Scott Joslove, Texas Hotel Association, Austin, Texas

Moderator: Ernest Gerlach, RBP – IED/UTSA

3:30 - 3:45 pm

Break

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Networking the Region – Forming Strategic Alliances

Panelists:

Bill Summers, President/CEO Rio Grande Valley Partnership,
Weslaco, Texas

Moderator: Bob Zachariah, President, Laredo Hotel and Lodging
Association

4:45 – 5:30 pm

**Where Do We Go From Here? Next Steps – Position
Statement**

Moderators:

Bob Zachariah, President, Laredo Hotel and Lodging Association
Ernest Gerlach, RBP-IED/UTSA

5:30 pm

Adjournment

*Speakers and topics are subject to change.