

25 de junio de 2024

Dr. Fernando Gilbes Santaella. Decano  
Colegio de Artes y Ciencias  
Universidad de Puerto Rico  
Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez



Estimado doctor Gilbes:

### **INFORME ANUAL AÑO ACADÉMICO 2023-2024**

Según solicitado, se entrega Informe de Logros Anual del Departamento de Economía del Colegio de Artes y Ciencias de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez, correspondiente al Año Académico 2023-2024. El informe de logros se basa en la mejor información disponible al momento.

Quedo a sus órdenes para aclarar cualquier duda o pregunta.

Atentamente,

Dr. Jeffrey Valentín Mari  
Director

Anejo



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**University of Puerto Rico  
Mayagüez Campus  
College of Arts and Sciences  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

***Annual Report 2023-2024***

Submitted by:

Jeffry Valentín-Mari, Ph.D.  
Chairperson  
Department of Economics

June 25, 2024

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## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Economics offers a four-year program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics. The program is one of only two undergraduate programs in Economics offers within the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) system. The program offers a strong development in quantitative methods and techniques necessary for economic analysis by requiring two-semester sequence in mathematics, one year of mathematical statistics, one semester in project evaluation and one semester course in econometrics, as well as one year seminar course in research methodology.

Besides providing professional training to students majoring in Economics, the Department also offers a Minor Concentration in Economics, mainly design for student's pursuing other fields in the UPRM with an interest in complementing its career development with a knowledge in economics.

The Department educational purpose is to develop students' ability to think clearly and objectively in dealing with economic decisions and problems. Students are trained specifically to replace value judgments and prejudices with sound economic reasoning based on an objective and rational analysis. Besides this function, economic research and the promotion of economic education are two integral elements within the Department.

In this context, the Department vision is to become an advanced department in higher education and research, internationally distinguished for its excellence in the training of its graduates, which contributes dynamically to social and economic development, transforming society through the pursuit of knowledge, in an environment of ethics, justice, and peace.

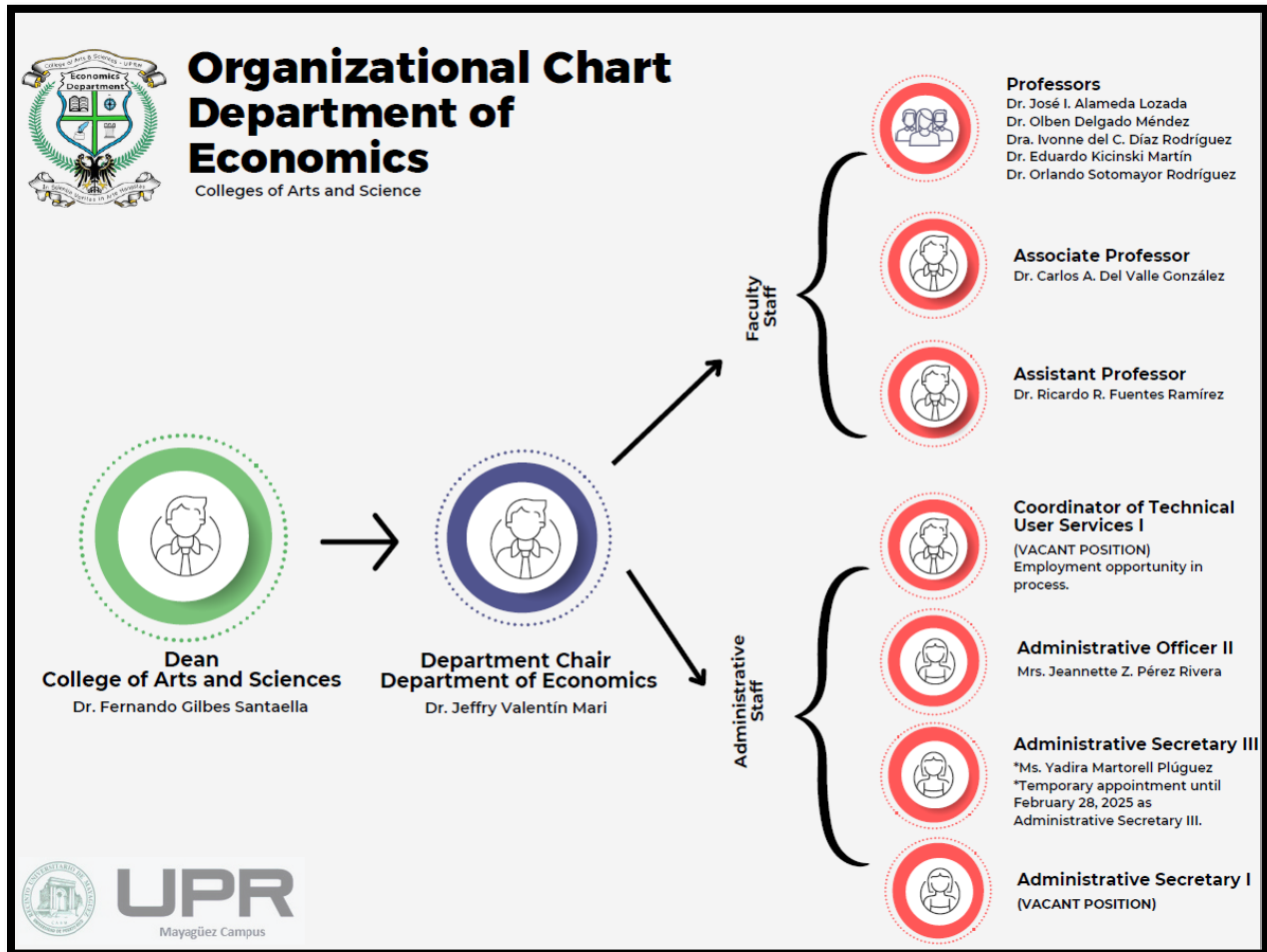
In addition, its mission seeks to provide an excellence service in education, particularly:

- Collaborating in the formation of educated, cultured citizens, capable of critical thinking and professionally prepared in the economic discipline so that they can contribute to educational, cultural, social, technological and economic development.
- Carrying out creative work, research, and service, that meets the needs of society and disseminating the results of these activities so that they are accessible to all.
- To provide our students with the skills and sensitivity necessary to effectively solve the problems we face and to be an example of the civic formation in education that must prevail in a democratic system that values and respects diversity.

To accomplish these statements, the Department of Economics has a total of eight (8) professors of which seven (6) are in the rank of professor, one with the rank of associate professor and one with the rank of assistant professor. The Department has a Faculty Recruitment Plan reviewed and approved at a departmental meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016. As for the administrative staff, apart from the position of Director of the Department there are three (3) non-teaching employees, these are: an administrative

officer, an administrative secretary, and a coordinator of technical service coordinator to the user.

The Department is located in the Efrain Sánchez Hidalgo Building, occupying its administrative offices on the third floor of the building. In addition to that the Department has five classrooms, one computer lab, two meeting rooms, thirteen professor offices, one storage area, and other offices.



During the academic year 2023-2024 several activities, initiatives and accomplishments were carried out to support the UPRM institutional objectives.

In the assessment area, a departmental assessment plan was revised and approved, and two different questionnaires were put into effect. The questionnaires were: (1) questionnaire was distributed to the freshman economics students in the orientation and welcome day; and (2) An *Exit Questionnaire* was carried out to receive the perspective of the economics senior students. In addition, two separate reports were discussed at the departmental faculty meeting about the academic profile of (1) the Department's freshman class 2023-2024 and (2) academic profile of all active students in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program. The mission and vision of the Department of Economics

was reviewed and approved at an ordinary departmental meeting held on Thursday, February 8, 2024. The Department of Economics Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program Learning Outcomes (PLOS) and the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program Learning Outcomes (SLOS) were reviewed and approved at the regular departmental meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

In the curriculum area, the UPRM Dean of Academic Affairs reported on Monday, December 11, 2023, the authorization of the offer, on a permanent basis, of the courses ECON 3026: Economics for Well-being and Sustainability and ECON 3036: Social and Solidarity Economy, as approved by Certification No. 23-71 of the Academic Senate. Both courses will be effective during the Summer of 2024. The Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs and Research (VPAAI) of the University of Puerto Rico informed to the Rector's office that it welcomed the intention of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, to create a Master's Degree in Sustainable Economic Development. The UPRM Academic Senate also approved a motion regarding changes to the prerequisites of several existing ECON coding courses. These courses are ECON 4038: Ecological Economics; ECON 4055: History of Economic Thought; ECON 4074: Economics and Law; ECON 4185: Economic Problems and Trends in Latin America. In addition, the list of recommended courses was revised and the requisites for internal and external students transfer to the economics program were revised.

In the administrative area, the Department continues its efforts in the digitization of its archives to liberalize storage space and the implementation of technology to provide a service of excellence.

In the funding and research area, some faculty members have participated as co-principal investigators in several research proposals for external funding with other UPRM institutional units, such as the Department of Civil Engineering, the College of Business Administration, the Department of Social Sciences, among others. The Department also participated in the RUMex program offering ECON courses which represents a newly diversified funds of revenue. The Department of Economics published Volume 11 of our journal *Ceteris Paribus*. Dr. Vanee Smit was very helpful with his recommendations for institutionalizing the journal. Following its recommendations, an ISSN was obtained and for the first time each article in the journal has its own DOI. *Ceteris Paribus* is expected to be included as part of CePa's virtual catalog. The link to the latest volume: <https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/> . In addition, a second collaboration agreement was signed with the Puerto Rico Planning Board to provide technical assistance in the production of the national accounts and the input-output matrix. Refer to <https://www.uprm.edu/portada/2024/01/26/expertos-del-rum-brindaran-asesoria-a-la-junta-de-planificacion-tras-firma-de-acuerdo/>. The Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) of Puerto Rico has requested the institutional services of the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) through the three proponents: the Center for Economic and Financial Education of the UPRM (CEEF) and its director, Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, PI and Assistant Professor and Dr. Jeffry

Valentín Mari, Co-PI and Professor, both from the Department of Economics, with the aim of providing technical assistance to automate and optimize existing processes within the DDEC to improve data management and operational efficiency. The interagency proposal is currently under evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UPRM.

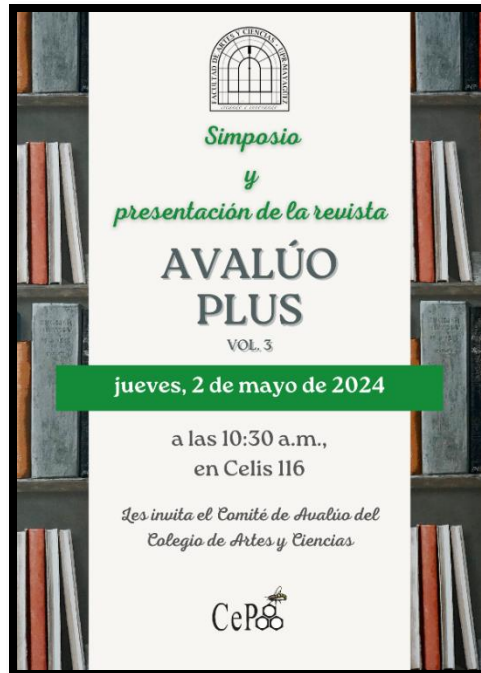
In the area of community services and societal impact, the faculty participated continuously in several conferences, discussion panels, meetings that provided an important point of view. Some of our faculty members also collaborated with other governmental agencies, such as the Department of Justice of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Planning Board, and the municipality of Mayaguez.

The following sections presented, aligned with the institutional annual report, the initiatives, activities, and accomplishments carried out by the Department of Economics during the academic year 2023-2024.

#### **To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment.**

- Dr. Carlos A. Del Valle González as a member of the UPRM College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Planning Committee (and past president) participated in the process of updating the Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan.
- The Assessment Plan (academic and administrative assessment) of the Department of Economics was reviewed. The Plan was approved by the department's faculty at the first regular meeting of the Second Semester of the Academic Year 2023-2024 held on Thursday, February 7, 2024. The Assessment Plan covers the academic and administrative affairs of the Bachelor of Arts Program in Economics, and the Minor Concentration in Economics thought-out the Academic Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. The Assessment Plan is available in English and Spanish at <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/4013-2/>.
- On Monday, November 6, 2023, the faculty members reviewed the mission and vision of the Department of Economics. This exercise is part of the review process of the departmental Strategic Plan and the requirements of Certification No. 55 (2021-2022) of the Board of Governors of the University of Puerto Rico and accrediting agencies, such as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The mission and vision were reviewed and approved by the department's faculty at the first regular meeting of the second semester of the academic year 2023-2024 held on Thursday, February 7, 2024.
- The mission and vision of the Department of Economics was reviewed and approved at an ordinary departmental meeting held on Thursday, February 8, 2024.
- The Academic and Administrative Assessment Plan of the Department of Economics was reviewed and approved in an ordinary departmental meeting held on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez informed that the preparation of the Departmental Assessment Plan was completed. In addition, the Avalúo Plus Magazine was published, of which he was editor/coordinator, and which included an article on the assessment efforts in the Department of Economics. Dr. Fuentes presented his article titled *Incorporating qualitative methods to evaluate the role of Economics courses in achieving the Departmental Educational Objectives* at the official presentation of the Volume 3 of the Avalúo Plus Magazine on May 2, 2024.



Programa	
<b>Revista Avalúo Plus Volumen 3 2 de mayo de 2024 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Celis 116</b>	
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Registro y merienda
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Saludos Protocolares
10:45 am - 11 am	Avalúo a nivel de curso de la práctica en comunidades del Instituto Universitario para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades de la Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto Mayagüez: Experiencias de aprendizaje en servicio, 2018-2023  <i>Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos &amp; Reinaldo Rosado-Silva</i>
11 am - 11:15 am	Incorporando métodos cualitativos para evaluar el rol de los cursos de Economía en lograr los Objetivos Educativos Departamentales  <i>Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez</i>



- The Department of Economics Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program Learning Outcomes (PLOS) and the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program Learning Outcomes (SLOS) were reviewed and approved at the regular departmental meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024.
- The information about the Department of Economics that will appear in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog 2024-2025 was reviewed. The review task was carried out by the departmental directorate together with the collaboration of Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor and president of the departmental Curriculum Committee. The review exercise is an annual process requested by the Dean of Academic Affairs to the departmental units of the UPRM.
- An academic profile of the Department's freshman class 2023-2024 was presented and discussed at the first regular Departmental meeting held on Thursday, September 7, 2023.
- A report presenting the answers to the questionnaire distributed to the freshman students of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program who attended the welcome and orientation of the Department on Friday, August 4, 2023, was presented and discussed at the 1st regular Departmental meeting held on Thursday, September 18, 2023.
- A report on the academic profile of all active students in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program was presented at the first regular departmental meeting held on Thursday, September 7, 2023.
- The 2024 graduating class of the Department of Economics completed the *Class of 2024 Exit Questionnaire* which was carried out in April 2024. The results of the exit questionnaire will be presented and discussed for approval at the first departmental meeting of the First Semester of the Academic Year 2024-2025.

**To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students.**

- Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz Rodríguez informed the approval of the new economics course, i.e., *Economics for Well-being and Sustainability* (ECON 3026). This course will begin to be offered in the Department of Economics from August 2024; and it has also been incorporated into the proposal to create a curricular sequence in Sustainability Engineering (ISOS) at the UPRM.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz Rodríguez organized a workshop on sustainability and circular economy, aimed at high school students as part of the Earth Week at the Municipality of Santa Isabel. UPRM Students were in charge of offering the workshop.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, submitted an initial draft for a Master's Degree in Sustainable Economic Development to the Departmental Curriculum Committee, which was favorably reviewed by the University of Puerto Rico Vice Presidency of Academic Affairs.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that a second collaboration agreement was signed with the Puerto Rico Planning Board to provide technical assistance in the production of the national accounts and the input-output matrix. Refer to <https://www.uprm.edu/portada/2024/01/26/expertos-del-rum-brindaran-asesoria-a-la-junta-de-planificacion-tras-firma-de-acuerdo/>



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that together with Dr. Julio C. Hernandez Correa, associated professor at the Department of Agriculture Economics and its students of the Econometrics course (ECON 4017), that their ongoing research was presented during the fourth edition of the Applied Economics Congress held in UPRM (May 10, 2024). Refer to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk57ghvur1M>
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that together with economics student Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos, visited the Economic and Social Planning Program of the Puerto Rico Planning Board in San Juan to learn first-hand about its work, processes, and challenges. This is part of the collaboration agreement was signed between the UPRM and the Puerto Rico Planning Board (April 5, 2024).
- The UPRM Dean of Academic Affairs reported on Monday, December 11, 2023, the authorization of the offer, on a permanent basis, of the courses: ECON 3026: Economics for Well-being and Sustainability, and ECON 3036: Social and Solidarity Economy, as approved by Certification No. 23-71 of the UPRM Academic Senate. These courses will be effective during the summer of 2024.
- The UPRM Dean of Academic Affairs reported on Monday, December 4, 2023, that in accordance with the provisions of the Academic Senate, the following courses have been modified, according to Certification No. 23-70 of the Academic Senate: ECON 4038: Ecological Economics; ECON 4055: History of Economic Thought; ECON 4074: Economics and Law and ECON 4185: Economic Problems and Trends in Latin America. The modification of these courses was to eliminate the prerequisites.
- On November 16, 2023, the Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs and Research (VPAAI) of the University of Puerto Rico informed to the Rector's office that it welcomed the intention of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, to create a Master's Degree in Sustainable Economic Development. It is important to mention that the letter from the vice presidency states the following, and quote: *On the other hand, we inform you that all expenses incurred in the future implementation of this program will be with your unit's own funds. If it is necessary to recruit faculty personnel, it must be attended to in future recruitment cycles of their unit.*
- The members of the departmental Curriculum Committee began the work of formally drafting the proposal for the master's degree, as well as initiating the procedures for the creation of the core and elective courses. It is important to note that the proposal must be framed within the standards established by Certification No. 163 (2022-2023) of the Board of Governors of the University of Puerto Rico. While the syllabus must follow the standards of Certification No. 125 (2023-2024) of the Administrative Board of the UPR.

- A syllabus model was presented at the first ordinary meeting of the second semester of the 2023-2020 academic year held on Thursday, February 7, 2024, with the purpose of standardizing all ECON courses syllabus. The model is based on Certification No. 125 (2023-2024) of the Board of Governors (JG) of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) in relation to the Guide for the Creation, Uniform Codification and Registration of Courses at the University of Puerto Rico.
- At the first ordinary meeting of the second semester of the Academic Year 2023-2024 held on Thursday, February 7, 2024, it was agreed to request to all faculty members to review the master syllabus of the courses that each faculty member usually teaches to address at least the following three aspects: (1) match the course objectives and with the student learning outcomes of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program; (2) review the topics to be covered; and (3) updating the bibliography.
- At the first ordinary meeting of the second semester of the Academic Year 2023-2024 held on Thursday, February 7, 2024, the non-traditional admission criteria of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program were reviewed and approved. These are as follows: (1) Have a fourth year of high school or its equivalent, with a minimum average of 2.50; (2) Have passed courses in social sciences with a grade of A, B or C or Pass; and (3) Favorable interview with the director of the Department.
- The Department of Economics participated in the CAAM Courses initiative by developing two online courses, these are ECON 3021: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics and ECON 3022: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics. The Program of Offerings "Massive Self-Directed Open Courses" (CAAM Courses) is a pilot initiative of the RUMbo EX Learning and Success Center, of the Dean's Office of Students and developed by the Resource Center for Distance Education (CREAD) of the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus, subsidized by funds to strengthen HEERF academic achievement. The faculty of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, approved by electronic referendum held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, the authorization of the use of the question bank developed for the administration of the final exam for the two online courses, ECON 3021 and ECON 3022, that participate in the CAAM Courses initiative. Students who apply to take the final exam and obtain seventy-five (75) percent or more of the correct answers will be awarded a final pass grade and will be awarded three (3) credits for the course.
- The Department of Economics organized the logistics of its participation in the third edition of the Summer Camp. About 100 students at high schools throughout Puerto Rico are expected to participate. The Camp will be held at the UPRM from June 24 to 27, 2024. The Department will participate in information tables, dialogue panel and interactive workshop on Tuesday, June 25.

- The Department of Economics is participating in the RUMex project by offering two online courses, i.e., ECON 3021: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics, and ECON 3022: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics.
- The Department of Economics participated in the student retention initiative (Pilot Plan) organized by the UPRM Dean of Students.
- The faculty of the Department of Economics approved the following motion: “The Faculty of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) meeting in person today, Thursday, November 2, 2023, approves the offer of ECON coding courses under the modalities of non-face-to-face education defined by Certification No. 23-29 of the Academic Senate as part of the academic offer of the UPRM and that allows improving teaching and learning processes through the effective use of cutting-edge technologies to contribute to an education of excellence. The offer of ECON coding courses in non-face-to-face education modalities will be subject to compliance with all the provisions set forth in Certification No. 23-29 of the Academic Senate. This motion is to be applied in all academic periods and does not establish any temporary dimension, as confirmed at the second ordinary departmental meeting held on Thursday, November 2, 2023.
- The Office of the Registrar (UPRM) was requested to include as part of the list of elective courses of the Minor Concentration in Economics, specified by Certification No. 15-93, the following ECON coding courses, these are: ECON 4074: Economics and Law, ECON 4316: Strategic Foresight and Scenario Construction, ECON 4425: Special Topics and ECON 4995: Special Problems. The petition was approved on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.
- As part of the project designed to transform the UPRM classrooms into technological rooms/virtual classrooms, the UPRM Information Technologies Center (ITC) included in its fifth phase the SH-104 room. The equipment was installed by the ITC personnel in the summer of 2023.
- The Department of Economics reviewed and approved, in consultation with the Departmental Curriculum Committee, the Minimum Entry Index (IMI) and the capacity of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program as part of the admissions process for freshman students corresponding to the Academic Year 2024-2025.
- The Department of Economics reviewed and approved in its regular meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, the criteria and rules for acceptance in order to evaluate the applications for non-traditional admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program.
- The UPRM Dean of Academic Affairs reported on Monday, December 11, 2023, the authorization of the offer, on a permanent basis, of the courses ECON 3026:

Economics for Well-being and Sustainability and ECON 3036: Social and Solidarity Economy, as approved by Certification No. 23-71 of the Academic Senate. These courses will be effective during the Summer of 2024.

- The Department began the process of updating the records of the ECON undergraduate coding courses based on Certification No. 125 (2023-2024) of the Board of Governors (JG) of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), which agreed to amend Certification 33 (2020-2021) Guide for the creation, uniform coding, and registration of courses at the University of Puerto Rico. The teaching staff was asked to review the teacher records of the courses they usually teach to address at least the following aspects: (1) match the objectives of the course and the student learning outcomes of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program; (2) review the topics to be covered; and (3) updating the bibliography.
- The Department of Economics collaborates in the UPRM Program "Massive Self-Directed Open Courses", (CAAM Courses) which is a pilot initiative of the RUMbo EX Learning and Success Center, of the Dean's Office of Students and developed by the Resource Center for Distance Education (CREAD), subsidized by funds to strengthen HEERF academic achievement. This pilot plan has several goals: (1) To offer massive free education in Spanish at the university level. (2) To serve as a tool to publicize some of our courses internationally, (3) To increase access to university education. (4) Accelerate the time to graduation of our incoming students. Professors Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez and Jeffry Valentín Mari developed the online courses ECON 3021 and ECON 3022, respectively. Both courses are part of the academic offer of the CAAM courses.
- Certification No. 2023-2024-01 Amended from the Department of Economics indicates that the faculty of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, approved by electronic referendum held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, the authorization of the use of the question bank developed for the administration of the final exam in the two online courses ECON 3021 and ECON 3022 to the students that participate in the CAAM Courses initiative. Students who apply to take the final exam or test and obtain seventy-five (75) percent or more of the correct answers will be awarded a final pass grade and will be awarded three (3) credits for the course.
- Certification No. 2023-2024-02 of the Department of Economics, approved at a departmental meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024, states that the Department collaborates with and supports the development of the Curriculum Sequence in Sustainability Engineering of the Department of Engineering and Materials Sciences. The proposal includes as a requirement course a new course in economics developed by Dr. Ivonne Díaz Rodríguez, Professor of the Department of Economics, this is ECON 3026: Economics for Well-being and Sustainability.

- The UPRM Dean of Academic Affairs reported on Monday, December 4, 2023, the requests originated by the Department of Economics and in accordance with the provisions of the Academic Senate, the following courses have been modified, according to Certification No. 23-70 of the Academic Senate: ECON 4038: Ecological Economics; ECON 4055: History of Economic Thought; ECON 4074: Economics and Law and ECON 4185: Economic Problems and Trends in Latin America. The modification of these courses was to eliminate the prerequisites.
- On November 16, 2023, the Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs and Research (VPAAI) of the University of Puerto Rico informed the Rector's office that it welcomed the intention of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, to create a Master's Degree in Sustainable Economic Development.
- In order to improve the academic offer of the Department of Economics, the UPRM Recruitment Plan (version May 10, 2023) assigns the hiring of a probationary teaching position to the Department of Economics. The Human Resources Department of the UPRM officially published Employment Call No. 24-8 Friday, February 2, 2024, which is also available at the following link: <https://www.uprm.edu/empleos/> or <https://www.uprm.edu/empleos/en/> The employment add was also published in (1) The Chronicle of Higher Education magazine <https://jobs.chronicle.com/job/37616251/assistant-professor-of-economics/>; (2) in the American Economic Association (AEA) <https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/listings> and (3) in the newspaper of general circulation of Puerto Rico: Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences of the UPRM was in charge of publishing in a single announcement the faculty employment.
- The Department of Economics participates in the Early Warning System initiative for freshman students sponsored by the Dean of Students of the UPRM.
- The website of the Department of Economics was renovated (<https://www.uprm.edu/economia/>) improving the way curricular information is organized.

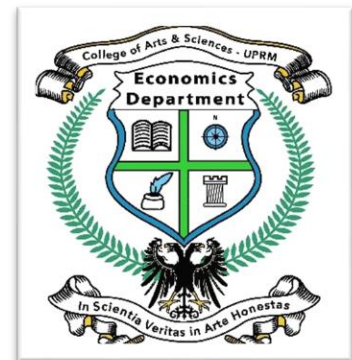
### **To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue.**

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that a second collaboration agreement was signed with the Puerto Rico Planning Board to provide technical assistance in the production of the national accounts and the input-output matrix. Refer to <https://www.uprm.edu/portada/2024/01/26/expertos-del-rum-brindaran-asesoria-a-la-junta-de-planificacion-tras-firma-de-acuerdo/>. The aforementioned collaborative agreement provides \$1 million dollars to the UPRM for the purchase of time for teachers and students.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that he continued to work on: (1) CDBG-DR Project for Comprehensive Community Resilience Planning, which provides \$1.4 million dollars to the UPRM for the purchase of teachers' and students' time; and (2) The Nonprofit Strengthening Initiative for Economic Development project of the Center for Business and Economic Development of the School of Business Administration, provides ~\$500k dollars to the UPRM for the purchase of teachers' and students' time students.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that he submitted a proposal title Imputing an input-output table for Puerto Rico and applications to policy analysis. (USDA-NIFA/Purdue). The proposal (4042) is currently under evaluation.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that he continues the investigation with external funds, including with the US EDA, the Federal Department of Housing, and the Planning Board.
- The Department of Economics is participating in the RUMex project by offering a section of the ECON 3022 course: Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor participates as Co-PI Proposal entitled Imputing an Input-Output Table for Puerto Rico and Applications to Policy Analysis. PI is Dr. Russell Hillberry and Manuel I. Jimenez (doctoral candidate) from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University.

### **To implement efficient and expedient administrative procedures.**

- The Assessment Plan (Academic and Administrative) of the Department of Economics was reviewed. The Assessment Plan was approved by the department's faculty at the first regular meeting of the second semester of the 2023-2024 academic year held on Thursday, February 7, 2024. The Assessment Plan cover the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program and the Minor Concentration in Economics Program for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. The Assessment Plan is available in English and Spanish in <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/4013-2/>.
- The Office of Legal Affairs of the UPRM reported the following aspects: The Application for Renewal and Declaration of Use for the logo of the Department of Economics, registration number 202816, was filed with the Department of State (Puerto Rico Trademark Office), on February 12, 2019. The logo of the Department of Economics was duly renewed, but as of today, the Logo Renewal Certificate has not been reflected, which has an expiration date of February 6, 2029. For the above, this logo is valid and can be used. As soon as this certificate is





received, it will be immediately forwarded to the Department.

- The Department of Economics has a form designed for the faculty personnel in order to report any situation that arises in the areas under the jurisdiction to the Department of Economics. The form is available in the menu of the Department's website entitled About Us under the Faculty submenu at the end of the list of teaching staff information (see <https://www.uprm.edu/economia/facultad/> ).
- The inventory of keys assigned to the Department of Economics was updated, including the keys assigned to the faculty personnel, non-faculty staff and students association.
- The Department of Auxiliary Services of the Dean of Administration at UPRM, installed on Friday, September 29, 2023, the VoIP telephone units in all offices of the Department of Economics.

**To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors.**

- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz Rodriguez, professor, informed that she participated in a project between the University of Puerto Rico, the Department of Agriculture and the University of Puerto Rico at Utuado.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz Rodriguez, professor, informed that she is a member of the group of professors who collaborate with Dr. Iván Baigés in the development of a program in Sustainability Engineering (ISOS) at the UPRM.
- Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz Rodriguez, professor, informed that she is currently participating in research on sustainability and circular economy in agrivoltaics at the University of Puerto Rico at Utuado. Six (6) UPRM students from the Departments of Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Industrial Engineering and Computer Engineering participated in the project.
- Dr. Carlos A. Del Valle González, associated professor informed that he participated in two research proposals submitted as CoPI together with professors from the Department of Civil Engineering at UPRM. One of them is NSF.
- Dr. Carlos A. Del Valle González, associated professor made a presentation of NICR 3-2 research results in the Civil Engineering auditorium.
- Dr. Carlos A. Del Valle Gonzalez, associate professor, made a presentation of his research in traffic congestions at the annual conference of the Transportation Research Board in Washington DC.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, informed that he made the following professional presentations:
  - The strategic value of an Industrial Policy aimed at the Social and Solidarity Economy in the Global South. November 17, 2023. XIV International

- Meeting of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems. Association of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean – AEALC. Havana, Cuba (Virtual Presentation).
- Development Strategies in the Face of the Injection of Federal Reconstruction Funds. November 10, 2023. Congress Planning Puerto Rico - Puerto Rican Planning Society. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
  - Volume 11 of the Ceteris Paribus Journal was published. Refer to <https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/>
  - US EDA: Non-Profit Strengthening Initiative with the Center for Business and Economic Development.
  - Federal Housing Department: Program for Comprehensive Planning for Resilience with the Institute for Community Development.
  - An academic article was presented at the UPRM Congress of Applied Economics entitled Poor Governance and Organic Privatization of the Educational System in Puerto Rico.
  - An academic paper was presented on March 9 at the Eastern Economics Association Conference in Boston, titled "The stricken economy of Puerto Rico."
  - An article entitled "Development Strategies in the Face of the Injection of Federal Recovery Funds" was published in the Journal of the Puerto Rican Society for Planning.
  - An article in the peer-reviewed journal Review of Radical Political Economics, entitled "Beyond Dependency in Puerto Rico: Exploring Social and Solidarity Industrial Policy as an Alternative for the Global South," was conditionally accepted for publication.
- Dr. Eduardo Kicinski Martín, professor, informed that he participated in a Virtual presentation as a panelist in an activity sponsored by the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico on April 2, 2024. Entitled "The Economic Impact of a Change in the Status of Puerto Rico: A Discussion on the Findings of Dr. José Caraballo Cueto." His contribution was a presentation entitled "A Commentary on the Impact of the Change on the Political Status of Puerto Rico by José Caraballo Cueto".
  - Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, Associate Professor: He attended the Transportation Research Board Annual Conference in Washington DC as part of the research project of the National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR of the USDOT) under the supervision of the principal investigator Dr. Alberto M. Figueroa, Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering of the UPRM.



- Dr. Alberto M. Figueroa, Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, participates in a proposal entitled Research Center for Mobility Equity, submitted to the Department of Federal Transportation. The proposal would involve Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, economics professor, participation for two years and is a collaboration with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, economics professor, was appointed by the UPRM Rector (January 17, 2024) to carry out the special task of preparing and drafting the UPRM Infrastructure Master Plan 2024-2034. It entails an additional compensation of three (3) credits.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, economics professor, offered a conference entitled Incentives to Promote Collective Transport and Micro mobility as part of the activity titled Strategies for the Reduction of Congestion in the UPRM. This activated organized by the National Institute for Congestion Reduction, the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying and the Department of Economics. Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Civil Engineering and Surveying Auditorium.
- Dr. Ivonne Diaz Rodríguez, Professor, provides services to the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies of the UPR-Utuado as part of the Inter-Agency

Agreement between the University of Puerto Rico and the Department of Agriculture through the additional compensation mechanism.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, participates in the following research projects:
  - Technical Assistance in the Production of the Quarterly Accounts of the Gross Product and the Output Input Matrix 2017" (Z-410) of the Planning Board of Puerto Rico. Regular Assignment: 3 credits.
  - Non-Profit Strengthening Initiative for Economic Development (NPO/OFIDO). Dr. Fuentes has a 25% effort, for the duration of the Project, two years, starting August 10, 2022. The PI of the Project is Dr. David Santiago, attached to the College of Business Administration. Regular Assignment: 3 credits.
  - Community Resilience Planning with seven communities in Puerto Rico (Whole Community Resilience Planning). The PI of the Project is Prof. Luisa Seijo attached to the Department of Social Sciences. Regular Assignment: 3 credits.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, presented at the Eastern Economic Association's 50th Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. 29 February – 3 March 2024. Session 127. The Global South and the Political Economy of Domination and Dependency II Session #14 Sponsored by The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) Saturday | 11:00 am-12:20 pm | Fairfax A The Stricken Economy of Puerto Rico: What Comes after Climate Disasters, Fiscal Control Boards, and Forced Migration? Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. <https://www.ramapo.edu/eea/>
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, participated as a speaker, together with Prof. José J. Villamil in the OCiSummit2024 Organizational Challenges & Innovation. Activity organized by the Business and Economic Development Center of the College of Business Administration of the UPRM. Friday, April 26, 2024.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, participated in the Symposium and Presentation of the Avalúo Plus Magazine where he presented the conference entitled Incorporating Quantitative Methods to Evaluate the Role of Economics Courses in Achieving Departmental Educational Objectives. Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Celis 116.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF24-534) as principal investigator. The NSF's proposal seeks to build climate-resilient communities and bridge the gap between essential resources and services and community needs.

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, was authorized under Act No. 100 to offer professional service to the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics until June 30, 2024. He will lead the final phases of the Traveler Survey project.
- The Department of Economics published Volume 11 of our journal *Ceteris Paribus*. Dr. Vanee Smit was very helpful with his recommendations for institutionalizing the journal. Following its recommendations, an ISSN was obtained and for the first time each article in the journal has its own DOI. *Ceteris Paribus* is expected to be included as part of CePa's virtual catalog. The link to the latest volume: <https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/>



- The economics student Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos participated on February 12 and 13, 2024 in the LEADING Hispanics Symposium and Career Fair held at Texas AM University-Kingsville, TX. In addition, he continues to conduct research in the area of Agricultural Economics with Dr. Julio C. Hernández Correa in the Project an Agriculture Production Function for Puerto Rico (received a \$5,000 grant 1st week 23-24). He is currently being evaluated for a summer internship at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS). In addition, he received a grant (\$5,000 2nd week 23-24) from the Leading Hispanics to Federal Agency Employment funds from the USDA-NIFA-Next Gen, the researcher in charge is Dr. Esbal Jiménez Cabán of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. Refer to: <https://www.tamuk.edu/news/2024/02/LEADING-Hispanics-symposium-career-fair-highlight-student-research-USDA-opportunities.html>
- The Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC) of Puerto Rico has requested the institutional services of the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) through the three proponents: the Center for Economic and Financial Education of the UPRM (CEEF) and its director, Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes-

Ramírez, PI and Assistant Professor and Dr. Jeffry Valentín Mari, Co-PI and Professor, both from the Department of Economics, with the aim of providing technical assistance to automate and optimize existing processes within the DDEC to improve data management and operational efficiency. The interagency proposal is currently under evaluation of the office of UPRM chancellor.

### **To Impact Our Puerto Rican Society.**

- Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz Rodríguez, professor, participated in several community initiatives:
  - Speaker at the Discussion: Climate Change: Planning, Reflections and Recommendations for the Region, organized by the Women Economic Forum of the Caribbean, Honeywell Aerospace, Aguadilla, November 16, 2023.
  - Participation in the Environment and Economy Panel, Annual Assembly of the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico; and participation in the presentation of the book "Economy by Disasters and Development: Voices of Economists in Puerto Rico", October 27, 2023.
  - Talk on economics and sustainability, offered to students of the INTD 3990 (Creating a Sustainable World) course taught by Dr. Christopher Papadopoulos, September 2023, as part of the National Science Foundation's proposal activities.
  - Initiatives to promote student participation in community projects: A student of industrial engineering, who is also pursuing a second bachelor's degree in economics, was selected to participate in the project.
  - Participation in activities on Sustainability and Circular Economy in agrivoltaics.
  - Organization of a workshop on sustainability for high school students. Students from the UPRM were in charge of offering the workshop.
  - Participation in the presentation of Dr. Tania del Mar López's book, April 2024.



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, assistant professor, participated in the following activities:
  - Served as vice president of the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico from August to September; and as president from October onwards.
  - In the Comprehensive Community Resilience Planning Program, Phase 2 of the project has been carried out, where the secondary data related to resilience available to the seven (7) participating communities from various official sources has been collected, and the methodology for collecting primary data is discussed with the community.
  - In the NPO-SIDED Program, the Economic Impact Calculator was updated with the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Planning Board. The calculator has been used to estimate the economic impact of participating nonprofits, and the calculator has been presented to the EDA. In addition, the process of writing an academic article on the project to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal began.
  - As part of the Comprehensive Resilience Planning Project, street readings have been coordinated in the San Salvador Community in Caguas to identify risks and vulnerabilities, inspections of a school in the process of being rescued and coordinating for the community to receive support through the services of

- the UPR-Derecho Business and Economic Development Center and the UPR-Derecho Center for Resilience.
- Conference "State Capture: Corruption and Socioeconomic Problems" as part of the lecture cycle "Thinking about a global ethics" of the Philosophy Program of the Department of Humanities on March 19, 2024.
  - Conference on the Economic Impact of Nonprofits at the "OCI Summit: Organizational Challenges & Innovation," on April 26, 2024.
- Dr. Jeffry Valentín Mari, professor, organized the conference entitled The Policies of the Fiscal Oversight Board and its Results offered by Mr. Daniel Santamaria Ots, Economist and Director of Research at Espacios Abiertos (<https://espaciosabiertos.org/sobre-nosotros/>). Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10:30 am in the Nursing Amphitheater.
  - The Department of Economics offered the conference entitled BRETIX: History and Lessons for Puerto Rico, by Dr. Carlos Vargas Silva, economist and director of the Center on Migration, Politics and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023, at the Josefina Torres Torres Amphitheater, beginning at 10:30 a.m.







- Authorization was sought from Mr. Ricardo Pitre Feliciano, Regional Superintendent of the Mayagüez Regional Education Office of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico to visit the following schools: Residential Center for Educational Opportunities (CROEM), Mayagüez. Eugenio María de Hostos High School, Mayagüez. Dr. Pedro Perea Fajardo High School, Mayagüez. Dr. Carlos González High School, Aguada. Patria Latorre Ramírez High School, San Sebastián.



- During the 2023-2024 Academic Year, the following schools have been visited:
  - Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Mayagüez (Thursday, October 26, 2023 – Dr. Edwin Irizarry Mora).

- Colegio de la Milagrosa, Mayagüez (Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – Dr. Edwin Irizarry Mora).
- Patria Latorre Ramírez High School, San Sebastián (Thursday, November 9, 2023 – Dr. Jeffry Valentín Mari).
- Eugenio María de Hostos High School, Mayagüez (Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – Dr. Edwin Irizarry Mora).
- SESO, Mayagüez (Friday, October 13, 2023 - Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez).
- The UPR Expo was visited on Friday, December 8, 2023, at the Puerto Rico Fair Complex in Ponce. Residential Center for Educational Opportunities, CROEM (Friday, February 23, 2024 – Dr. Jeffry Valentín Mari).
- The seventh edition of the Economic Sciences Week was organized on October 24 and 26, 2023. The activities are described below:
  - Tuesday, October 24, 2023, Conference Title: Contemporary Determinants --Socioeconomic and Political-- of Puerto Rican Emigration to the United States. Speaker: Dr. Edwin Irizarry Mora, retired professor of the Department of Economics, UPRM. Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Place: Ramón Figueroa Chapel Amphitheatre (aka, Chardón Amphitheatre).
  - Thursday, October 26, 2023, Conference Title: Business Cycle in the United States: Past and Future Recessions. Speaker: Dr. Arturo Estrella, Professor Emeritus in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Former Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Place: Josefina Torres Torres Amphitheater (aka, Nursing Amphitheater).
  - Refer to <https://www.uprm.edu/portada/2024/01/26/econ/>





- Consulting and research activity occurring in this academic year:
  - Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada:
    - Consultant to the Secretary of Justice of Puerto Rico (received consent from the Rector of the UPRM).
    - Consultant to the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Mayagüez. (Received consent from the UPRM Rector).
  - Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez:
    - Project: Nonprofit Strengthening Initiative for Economic Development (NPO-SIED) with Dr. David Santiago Rosado (PI) from the College of Business Administration.
    - Project: Community Resilience Planning with seven communities in Puerto Rico (Community Resilience Planning). Sponsored by the Department of Housing (CDBG-DR) with Dr. Luisa Seijo (PI) from the Department of Social Sciences.
  - Dr. Ivonne del C. Diaz Rodríguez:
    - Chapter in the book "Post-Disaster Economics and Development. Voices of the women economists of Puerto Rico", compiled by Maribel Aponte García and Marta Quiñones Domínguez and María Feliciano Cestero. Economies for Well-being: Models and Strategies for a Just Transition (Ivonne Díaz Rodríguez). CLACSO and University of Puerto Rico.
    - Sustainability Engineering Committee led by Dr. Ivan Baigés and NSF Proposal for Sustainability Programs, led by Dr. Christopher Papadopoulos of the College of Engineering.
    - Dr. Orlando Sotomayor Rodríguez Research in collaboration with Dr. Gustavo J. Bobonis of the University of Toronto.
- The dean's office of the College of Arts and Sciences is organizing the third edition of the Summer Camp. Around 100 students in grades 11 and 12 from schools throughout Puerto Rico are expected to participate. The Camp will be held at the UPRM from June 24 to 27, 2024. The Department of Economy will participate on Tuesday, June 25 in a roundtable, interactive workshop and information tables. Refer to: <http://cohemisferico.uprm.edu/camparci/index.html>
- The conference on the Cost of the Fiscal Control Board was organized. Speaker: Economist Daniel Santamaria Ots, Director of Open Skies Research. Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 10:30 am in the Nursing Amphitheater.
- Considering the standards established in Certification No. 04-17 of the Academic Senate, which meets the Standards for the Granting of Awards and Honors in the

Collation of Degrees of the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez Campus, the faculty of the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences in a ordinary meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 under consensus selected the student, Raúl O. Rodríguez Pagán, as deserving of the Dr. Sir William Arthur Lewis departmental award to be awarded in the 2024 graduation ceremony.

- Link to videos from the departments of the College of Arts and Sciences: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6c7cuSsTIM> .
- Volume 11 of the Ceteris Paribus Journal is reported to be officially published. Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, further formalized the journal and was able to assign it an ISSN and now each article has a DOI. Dr. Fuentes plans to resume the conversation about including the journal as part of the virtual catalog of the Center for Academic Publications (CePa) of the College of Arts and Sciences. Link to journal: <https://www.uprm.edu/ceterisparibus/>
- Dr. Ivonne Diaz Rodríguez, Professor of the Department of Economics, was a speaker at the presentation of the publication: Population Dynamics in Puerto Rico: 2010-2020. Conference was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 10:30 am - 12:00 noon at Celis 116. The Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of the Littoral, the Hemispheric Center for Cooperation in Research and Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences (CoHemis) and the Sea Grant Program are invited.
- El Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González offered a conference entitled Incentives to Promote Collective Transport and Micro mobility as part of the activity Strategies for the Reduction of Congestion in the UPRM. Activated organized by the National Institute for Congestion Reduction, the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying and the Department of Economics. Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Civil Engineering and Surveying Auditorium.



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez participated as a speaker, together with Prof. José J. Villamil in the OCiSummit2024 Organizational Challenges & Innovation. Activity organized by the Business and Economic Development Center of the College of Business Administration of the UPRM. Friday, April 26, 2024.



- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez participated in Symposium and Presentation of the Avalúo Plus Magazine where he presented the conference entitled Incorporating Quantitative Methods to Evaluate the Role of Economics Courses in Achieving Departmental Educational Objectives. Thursday, May 2, 2024 at Celis 116.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF24-534) as principal investigator. The NSF's proposal seeks to build climate-resilient communities and bridge the gap between essential resources and services and community needs.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez was authorized under Act No. 100 to offer professional service to the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics until June 30, 2024. He will lead the final phases of the Traveler Survey project.

### **To Strengthen School Spirit, Pride, and Identity**

- Dr. Ivonne del C. Díaz Rodríguez: Collaboration agreements with government agencies: Participation in the agreement established between the University of Puerto Rico, the Department of Agriculture and the University of Puerto Rico at Utuado.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez Collaboration agreement to provide technical assistance in quarterly national accounts and the input-output matrix to the Planning Board.

- Dr. Jeffrey Valentín Mari informed that the economics' student Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos and Alexi Wu He applied to participate in the 2024 American Economic Association (AEA) Summer Program.
- The Department of Economics offered the conference entitled Labor Reform in Puerto Rico: Ideology, Conflicts and Empirical Evidence, by Dr. Teresa Ghilarducci, renowned economist, expert in labor and social security issues and professor at the New School for Social Research in New York and Director of the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis (SCEPA) and the New School's Retirement Equity Lab (ReLab). The conference was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at the Department of Industrial Engineering Amphitheater at II-229, beginning at 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

DEPARTAMENTO DE ECONOMÍA  
COLEGIO DE ARTES Y CIENCIAS  
UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO  
RECINTO DE MAYAGÜEZ

CONFERENCIA

*Reformas Laborales en Puerto Rico:*  
Ideología, Conflictos y Evidencia Empírica

  
Foto: The New School for Social Research

**Dra. Teresa Ghilarducci**

Economista, experta en temas laborales y seguridad social, profesora de la New School for Social Research de Nueva York y Directora del Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis y del New School's Retirement Equity Lab.

 Anfiteatro  
Ingeniería Industrial  
(II-229)

 16 noviembre 2023  
10:30 AM





- Rodrigo García Guerrios, economics' student, participated in the work of the Agricultural Census in the summer of 2023. He is currently involved in research under the Office for the Regulation of the Dairy Industry (ORIL).
- Alejandro M. Ouslan Cerritos, economics student, is an economics tutor at RUMboEX. He participates and receives an assistantship in research entitled An Agricultural Production Function for Puerto Rico (under the supervision of Dr. Julio C. Hernández Correa, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology).
- Alanis E. Ríos Rodríguez and Raúl Rodríguez Pagán, both economics' students work at the Creative Incubator of Mayagüez under the supervision of Mrs. Silvia Aguiló Ramos.
- The conference titled the Cost of the Fiscal Control Board was organized. Main speaker: Economist Daniel Santamaria Ots, Director of Open Skies Research. Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10:30 am in the Nursing Amphitheater.

Departamento de Economía  
Colegio de Artes y Ciencias  
Recinto de Mayagüez



**CONFERENCIA**

**LAS POLÍTICAS DE LA  
JUNTA DE  
SUPERVISIÓN FISCAL Y  
SUS RESULTADOS**



**SR. DANIEL SANTAMARIA OTS**  
Conferenciante

ECONOMISTA Y DIRECTOR DE  
INVESTIGACIÓN DE ESPACIOS ABIERTOS

Foto: Espacios Abiertos

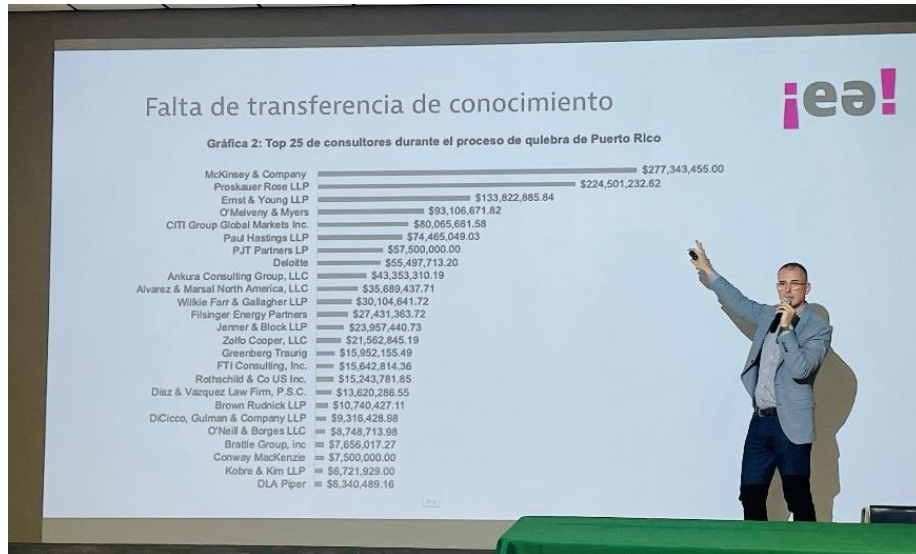
ANFITEATRO JOSEFINA TORRES TORRES  
(ENFERMERÍA)

21 DE MARZO DE 2024 10:30 AM A 12:00 MD

**INFORMACIÓN** 787-832-4040 ext.2314 www.uprm.edu/economia/

\* Autorizado por la Oficina del Contralor Electoral OCE-SA-2024-04693\*





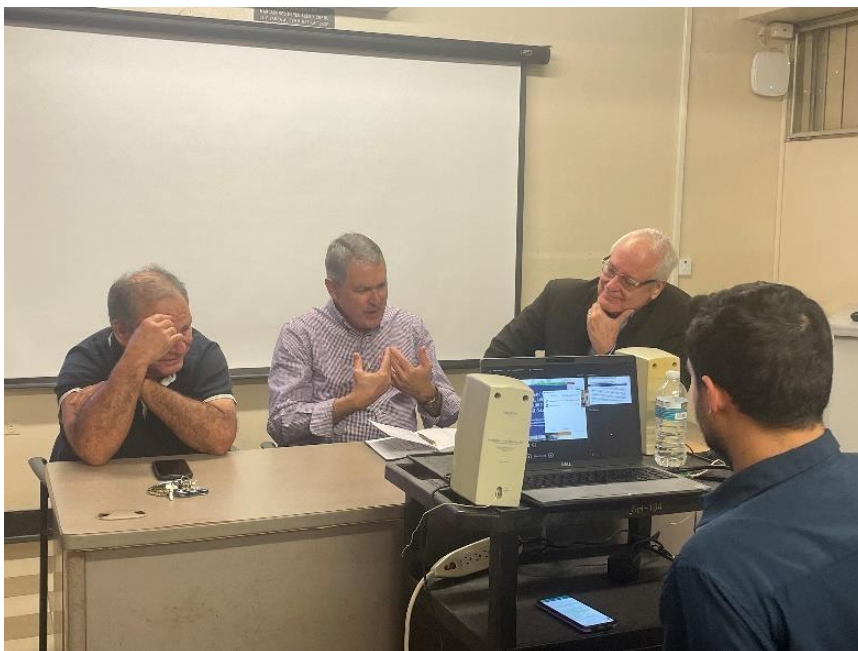
- Economics Students Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos and Alexi Wu both submitted applications for the 2024 American Economic Association Summer Program.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, Associate Professor, attended the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington DC as part of the research project of the National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR of the USDOT) under the supervision of the principal investigator Dr. Alberto M. Figueroa, Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering of the UPRM.
- Dr. Ivonne Diaz Rodríguez, professor, provides services to the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies of the UPR-Utuado as part of the inter-agency agreement between the University of Puerto Rico and the Department of Agriculture through the additional compensation mechanism.

- The Department of Economics has a total of eleven (11) students who were selected to the 2022-2023 Honor Roll of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. The Department honored these outstanding students, along with the 12 graduation candidates, including the student selected (Raul O. Rodríguez Pagán) to receive the Dr. Sir. Williams Arthur Lewis Departmental Award, on Thursday, April 18, 2024 in room SH-309A beginning at 10:30 a.m. In this activity, special recognition was given to the student Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos for his performance in the area of undergraduate research in economics.





- An online conference was organized in coordination with the Association of Economists of Puerto Rico. Entitled: The Economic Impact of a Change in the Status of Puerto Rico: Discussion on the findings of Dr. José Caraballo Cueto. Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Speakers were Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada, Dr. Martha Quiñones (UPR-Arecibo), Dr. Eduardo Kicinski Martin, Dr. Edwin Irizarry Mora, Dr. José Caraballo Cueto (Dr. UPR-Río Piedras).



**EL IMPACTO ECONÓMICO DE UN CAMBIO EN EL STATUS DE PUERTO RICO:**  
Conversatorio sobre los hallazgos del Dr. José Caraballo-Cueto

Invitados

**Dr. José Caraballo-Cueto**  
UPR-RP

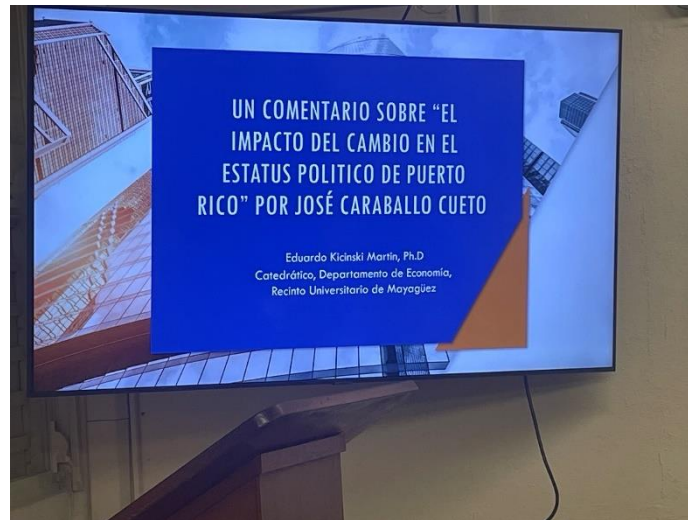
**Dr. Eduardo Kicinski**  
UPR-RUM

**Dr. José Alameda**  
UPR-RUM

**Dra. Martha Quiñones**  
UPR-Arecibo

**Dr. Edwin Irizarry**  
UPR-RUM

2 de abril de 2024  
6:00 p.m. a través de Zoom



- Student Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos participated on February 12 and 13, 2024 in the LEADING Hispanics Symposium and Career Fair held at Texas AM University-Kingsville, TX. In addition, he continues to conduct research in the area of Agricultural Economics with Dr. Julio C. Hernández Correa in the Project An Agriculture Production Function for Puerto Rico (received a \$5,000 grant 1st week 23-24). He is currently being evaluated for a summer internship at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS). In addition, he received a grant (\$5,000 2nd week 23-24) from the Leading Hispanics to Federal Agency Employment funds from the USDA-NIFA-Next Gen, the researcher in charge is Dr. Esbal Jiménez Cabán of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. Refer to: <https://www.tamuk.edu/news/2024/02/LEADING-Hispanics-symposium-career-fair-highlight-student-research-USDA-opportunities.html>
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, Associate Professor of the Department of Economics and Dr. Alberto M. Figueroa, Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, participates in a proposal entitled Research Center for Mobility Equity, submitted to the Department of Federal Transportation. The proposal would involve Dr. del Valle's participation for two years and is a collaboration with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
- Dr. Carlos A. del Valle González, Associate Professor of the Department of Economics was appointed by the Rector (January 17, 2024) to carry out the special task of preparing and drafting the UPRM Infrastructure Master Plan 2024-2034. It entails an additional compensation of three (3) credits.
- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, participated in the 50th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association in Boston, Massachusetts. 29 Feb. – 3 March 2024. Session 127. The Global South and the Political Economy of Domination and Dependency II Session #14 Sponsored by The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) Saturday | 11:00 am-12:20 pm | Fairfax A The Stricken

Economy of Puerto Rico: What Comes after Climate Disasters, Fiscal Control Boards, and Forced Migration? Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. Refer to: <https://www.ramapo.edu/eea/> .

- Economics students, Alejandro Ouslan Cerrito participated in two summer internships. He was selected by the American Economic Association to participate this summer (2024) in the AEA Summer Training Program and Scholarship Program to be held at Howard University, Washington, DC. He is the third student of the Department to be chosen to participate in this internship. He was also selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) summer internship.
- Economics students, Alexi Wu He and Feliz Arostegui Saavedra won First and Second place respectively in the research projects competition in the 4th Edition of the Applied Economics Congress sponsored by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.





- The student Adrián E. Figueroa Acevedo graduates from the baccalaureate of Mechanical Engineering and Economics (graduation June 2024).
- The faculty personnel and students of the Department of Economics participated in the 2024 UPRM Open House.

DEPARTAMENTO DE ECONOMÍA

DEPARTAMENTO DE ECONOMÍA  
Colegio de Artes y Ciencias  
Universidad de Puerto Rico  
Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez

Actividad organizada por la Universidad de Puerto Rico, la cual recibe estudiantes de escuelas públicas y privadas a nivel superior, a conocer sobre los diferentes ofrecimientos académicos y recibir orientación sobre los procesos de admisión. Dicha actividad se llevó a cabo el viernes, 10 de noviembre de 2023 en las Plazas frente al Edificio Chardón del Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez.

El Departamento de Economía, su director el Dr. Jeffrey Valentin Mari y los estudiantes Alejandro Ouslan Cerritos y Alexi Wu He, estuvieron presentes en la actividad, orientando e informando a los estudiantes de los programas académicos que ofrece nuestro Departamento de Economía.

**CASA ABIERTA 2023**

- A total of eleven students completed their bachelor degree in economics. The student Raul O. Rodríguez Pagán was awarded with the Sr. Dr. William Arthur Lewis Award as the best economics student at the graduation ceremony held June, 20, 2024.





## International Activity

- Dr. Ricardo R. Fuentes Ramírez, Assistant Professor, participated in the 50th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association in Boston, Massachusetts. 29 Feb. – 3 March 2024. Session 127. The Global South and the Political Economy of Domination and Dependency II Session #14 Sponsored by The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) Saturday | 11:00 am-12:20 pm | Fairfax A The Stricken Economy of Puerto Rico: What Comes after Climate Disasters, Fiscal Control Boards, and Forced Migration? Ricardo R. Fuentes-Ramírez, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. Refer to: <https://www.ramapo.edu/eea/>.
- The Department of Economics offered the conference entitled BRETIX: History and Lessons for Puerto Rico, by Dr. Carlos Vargas Silva, economist and director of the Center on Migration, Politics and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023 at the Josefina Torres Torres Amphitheater, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

