



## **RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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UH System Board of Regents Meeting • February 2019

## UH System

### UHS Universities Take Their Message to the Capitol

In what has become a biennial tradition, more than 400 UH System students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends from the four UH System universities, as well as Board of Regents members, traveled to Austin this month to take their message to their legislators for increased support for higher education. UH's group walked the halls of the State Capitol February 12, followed by UHCL's contingent February 19. Groups from UHV and UHD went to Austin February 25 and 26, respectively.

### High Profile Conference to Discuss Pathways to Student Success

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Houston GPS are cohosting a conference in March on the UH campus to facilitate partnerships among the Texas Gulf Coast Region higher education community with the aim of overcoming degree completion challenges and providing cost-effective educational experiences for students to succeed beyond college.

## University of Houston

### Fall 2019 Freshman Applications Up

UH continues to attract record numbers of students as a university of choice. As of February 24, the number of FTIC applications received for the Fall 2019 semester is 28,424, up 2,697 (+10.5%) as compared to Fall 2018. It is very early to determine the final number of transfer applications, but they are up by 5.3 percent as of February 24.

### Baylor College of Medicine, UH Sign MOU for Collaboration

UH has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Baylor College of Medicine that could result in joint faculty appointments, professional clinical services, student and education collaboration, faculty collaborative research projects, research-based core labs and co-branding. This alliance will complement UH research and academic programs, especially those related to the new UH College of Medicine.

### Dean Named Worldwide Distinguished Professor

**Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA**, dean of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design, has been named by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) as one of 2019's Distinguished Professor Award laureates. ACSA represents over 40,000 architecture faculty and students worldwide and bestows the honor annually to an elite group of educators for their notable work in building design, community collaborations, scholarship and service.

### Number of Research "Millionaires" Up, Licensing Income Ahead of Plan

The Division of Research and Technology Transfer reports receiving 28 new research awards in FY18 exceeding \$1 million for a total of \$62.6 million – a record. The amount exceeds the total of the previous three years

combined. In addition, Intellectual Property Licensing income is ahead of plan, increasing from \$33.8 million in FY17 to \$43 million in FY18, a 27 percent increase.

### Alumna Wins Grammy Award on First-time Nomination

Alumna **Jessica Jones**, who holds master's and bachelor's degrees in vocal performance, scored music gold for "Best Opera Recording" in "The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs," which premiered in 2017 at the Santa Fe Opera. It was her first Grammy nomination. Jones lives in Miami, where she will perform with the Florida Grand Opera through May.

### UH Joins National Effort to Create More Diverse STEM Faculty

UH has been selected to participate in the Aspire Alliance, a effort funded by the National Science Foundation to increase diversity among faculty in STEM disciplines. The program will build upon current initiatives at UH, many of them spearheaded by the Center for ADVANCING UH Faculty Success, created in 2015 to increase the number of female STEM faculty.

## University of Houston-Clear Lake

### Couple Pays It Forward to UHCL Pearland

Pearland residents **Jesmin** and **Nizam Meah** have pledged \$300,000 benefitting UHCL Pearland programs. Through their Meah Family Foundation, they committed \$200,000 to equip the nursing simulation lab in the new Health Sciences and Classroom Building, which opened this semester. A naming gift of \$100,000 will benefit the expansion of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

### Professor Co-authors Training Guide for Culturally Appropriate Services

Assistant Professor of Social Work **Roberta Leal** co-authored a training guide for professionals to provide culturally appropriate mental health services in schools. The guide will be available nationwide. Its purpose is to train school-based practitioners – psychologists, nurses, social workers, educators – on the need for mental health services and to guide the Latino population to access appropriate medical or mental health treatment.

### UHCL Hosts Model Arab League Conference

Over 150 students from seven higher education institutions converged at UHCL in February to demonstrate their debating and diplomatic skills at the 12th Annual Bilateral Model Arab League (MAL) Conference. Students researched political positions of an assigned Arab country, then presented plans and resolutions that mirror that country's position. This marks UHCL's third year as the host. UHCL is one of only 14 universities in the nation to hold a MAL Conference.

## University of Houston-Downtown

### Marilyn Davies College of Business Extends Accreditation

UHD's Marilyn Davies College of Business completed the process of reaffirming its accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). An AACSB accreditation is the gold standard for business programs, and only five percent of the world's institutions are accredited. The College's faculty and staff worked diligently to ensure the College's accreditation was extended and that it developed a strategic plan aligned to AACSB standards.

### Smooth Sailing for Future Maritime Professionals

UHD has signed a Letter of Intent with Houston Independent School District (HISD), Houston Community College (HCC) and the Port of Houston Authority to create academic pathways for aspiring maritime professionals. Leaders from these institutions – including UHD President Juan Sánchez Muñoz – committed to supporting high school students seeking to transfer credits in logistics and supply chain management to HCC, and ultimately to UHD's Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences program.

### National Rankings for Online Programs

Two UHD programs have been recognized among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Applied Administration is among the top 100 online programs in the country, and the M.S. in Criminal Justice is ranked No. 26. The programs were evaluated based on faculty credentials, graduation rates, technological infrastructure and opinions from administrators at peer institutions. Rankings were also based on the amount of debt incurred by students.

## University of Houston-Victoria

### UHV Graduates Pass State Teaching Exam with Flying Colors

UHV upheld its reputation for excellence after 95 percent of students preparing to become educators, administrators or counselors passed the Texas Examination of Educator Standards exams in 11 certification programs. Ninety-five percent seeking initial teacher certification passed the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities test. Ninety-two percent of those seeking additional certifications passed their content examinations. One hundred percent passed in eight of the 11 areas that were tested.

### UHV Presents Presidential Medal, Three Other Awards During Annual Report Event

Four awards were presented at the UHV President's Annual Report & Excellence Awards community event. **Roger Welder**, former UH System Board of Regents member, received the Presidential Medal. Other awards went to the **Bennett-Wood Family**, who donated land for a new athletics complex, and to The Rebuild Texas Fund in recognition of a \$100,000 grant to UHV's Relief Fund benefitting students impacted by Hurricane Harvey. **Alvaro De La Cruz**, former UHV Student Government Association president, received a student leadership award.

### Recent Gifts, Grant Support University Initiatives

A \$700,000 gift from China businessman **Bingxin Wu** will support a study abroad program to China and School of Business Administration initiatives. Crossroads Bank has donated \$300,000 to UHV athletics, the largest cash gift ever received by athletics, making Crossroads an official UHV Athletics Sponsor. A \$100,000 grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas will fund a yearlong program in Victoria to examine risk factors for chronic kidney disease and look for ways patients can lower their chances of developing kidney problems.