



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

---

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • February 19, 2025

## University of Houston System

### UHS Meets With Texas Legislature

In February, the University of Houston System presented its legislative priorities and budget requests for the state's 89th legislative session. Among the systemwide requests are more financial aid in the form of TEXAS Grants, full funding for enrollment and increasing support for deferred maintenance through the Texas Higher Education Fund.

## University of Houston

### Gessner College of Nursing Ranked No. 1 in Nation for Pass Rate

The Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing is ranked No. 1 in the nation — out of more than 3,000 programs — for its first-time pass rate on the professional certification exam. We are very proud of the nursing college and its students, faculty and staff.

### UH Student Scientist Solving Meteorological Mysteries on Mars

University of Houston graduate student Larry Guan led a now-published study that is changing our understanding of climate and weather on Mars and providing critical insights into Earth's atmospheric processes.

### UH Fighting Childhood Cancer

A \$3.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health is empowering University of Houston researchers led by Professor Ashok Kumar to develop a way to treat a malignant soft tissue sarcoma that has a higher incidence in young children, accounting for 8% of all pediatric cancers.

### Campus Transformation Starts With the Cullen Foundation

The Cullen Foundation made a \$2.5 million gift to the Centennial Project to support the transformation of the Centennial Plaza, which will be the epicenter of campus life. The University will name the great lawn in this space to recognize the Cullen Foundation and UH's founding family.

### UH Men's Basketball

The Houston Cougar Men's Basketball team is ensuring that the nation's eyes remain on Houston. The Cougars are 13-1 in their conference this season and currently rank #3 in NET rankings and #5 in Associate Press rankings.

## University of Houston-Clear Lake

### UHCL Launches Undergraduate Degree in Aerospace Engineering

University of Houston-Clear Lake introduced a new Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering program and will welcome its first cohort in fall 2025. It is one of only four programs of its kind in Texas and the only program of its kind within 100 miles of NASA's Johnson Space Center.

### UHCL Renews NASA Partnership to Enhance Aerospace Education

University of Houston-Clear Lake renewed a two-year annex agreement with NASA's Johnson Space Center. The partnership supports initiatives to establish programs in aerospace engineering and commercial space business. It also provides students with professional training and experiential learning opportunities.

### UHCL and UTMB Forge Partnership for Health Professions

University of Houston-Clear Lake and the University of Texas Medical Branch established an articulation agreement to expand educational pathways for health care careers. The partnership offers UHCL students preferential admission into UTMB's Master of Science in Respiratory Therapy program.

## University of Houston-Downtown

### UHD Receives THECB Grant for New Transfer Academy for Student Success

The University of Houston-Downtown is enhancing its support services for transfer students, thanks to a Student Success Acceleration Program 2.0 Grant award of \$150,000 through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

### UHD's Nursing Program to Receive CCNE Accreditation

The University of Houston-Downtown's Nursing program has met all four standards for accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The accreditation decision is still preliminary until the CCNE Board votes on it and approves it later this year.

### UHD Honored at HLSR's Black Heritage Western Gala

The University of Houston-Downtown was one of three higher-education institutions honored at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Black Heritage Committee's 2025 Annual Black Heritage Western Gala. President Loren J. Blanchard was on hand to receive a Heritage Award.

## University of Houston-Victoria

### UHV Achieves Reaccreditation With No Recommendations

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaccredited the University of Houston-Victoria through 2034. UH-Victoria spent three years preparing for the accreditation review, and the assessment team had no recommendations for changes.

### UHV Business Program Receives Affordability Ranking

The Master of Business Administration program at University of Houston-Victoria was ranked as one of the most affordable online programs in the nation by College Consensus, which included the UH-Victoria's online MBA program in its recent list of 40 AACSB-Accredited Online MBA Programs Under \$15,000.

### New Art Piece Installed in Kay's Grove at UHV

A new piece of art has been installed at the Kay's Grove memorial garden at University of Houston-Victoria. "Lotus" was made by renowned Texas sculptor Jesus Bautista Moroles in 1982. Kay's Grove is a contemplation garden created in honor of the late Kay Kerr Walker, a longtime UHV supporter and a former UH System Regent.