



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • November 16, 2023

University of Houston

Welch Foundation Invests \$9M in UH Research

Jeffrey Rimer, Abraham E. Dukler Professor of Chemical Engineering, and Megan Robertson, professor of chemical engineering, received a combined \$9 million in Catalyst for Discovery Program Grant awards from the Welch Foundation. Professor Rimer will establish the Welch Center for Advanced Bioactive Materials Crystallization at the University of Houston, and Professor Robertson will develop innovative chemical processes to transform plastic waste into useful materials.

Woodard Earns Prestigious 'Mastership' From American College of Physicians

LeChauncy Woodard, clinical professor at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and founding director of the Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute, achieved Mastership in the American College of Physicians. This honor is held by only 1-2% of its 161,000 members.

Student Team Wins National Competition in Building Performance

Assistant Professor Mili Kyropoulou and her student team at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design clinched first place in the Lowdown Showdown Competition by repurposing Houston's world-famous Astrodome to something more aligned to our times and as a net zero carbon concept.

Inaugural Cohort of UH-Chevron Energy Graduate Fellows Announced

The University is proud to announce the inaugural cohort of University of Houston-Chevron Energy Graduate Fellows – eight graduate students who are actively involved in innovative energy-related research. Funded by Chevron, the program provides a one-year, \$12,000 fellowship which includes mentoring by faculty experts and the opportunity to engage with subject matter experts at Chevron.

Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship Named No. 1 in U.S. for Fifth Year in a Row

For a fifth consecutive year, the Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship in the C. T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston has been named the No. 1 undergraduate entrepreneurship program in the United States. The Wolff Center has garnered the top spot in the annual list compiled by The Princeton Review and published in Entrepreneur magazine a total of eight times.

New Gift Establishes Duddleston Free Enterprise Institute

The C. T. Bauer College of Business is launching the Duddleston Institute with a \$5 million gift from the Wayne Duddleston Foundation. The institute will operate in association with the Bauer College's Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship to enhance entrepreneurship education for all UH students.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

UHCL State of the University Sets High Expectations for 50th Anniversary

In his inaugural State of the University address, President Richard Walker highlighted achievements at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Notable accomplishments included a record graduating class of 2,427 students, exceeding fundraising goals with \$2.8 million from various donors, securing \$7.2 million in grants and the positive economic impact of alumni on the local economy. Additionally, through numerous community partners, UHCL enrolled 1,440 students in internship courses. These milestones set the stage for the university's upcoming 50th anniversary in 2024.

UHCL Excels in Its Second Year of National Rankings

U.S. News & World Report places University of Houston-Clear Lake at No. 12 among Texas public institutions and No. 304 nationally, a 27-position leap. UHCL also climbed 66 spots to No. 143 in "Top Performer for Social Mobility." Additionally, it ranks No. 8 among Texas Hispanic-Serving Institutions and No. 30 in the U.S. by Niche college rankings. These milestones underscore UHCL's commitment to educational excellence and enhancing student success.

UHCL and KBR Establish Partnership for Student Internships

University of Houston-Clear Lake and KBR, a global provider of differentiated professional services, formalized an agreement to provide students with applied learning experiences. The partnership will offer internship opportunities across multiple academic disciplines, affording students valuable professional experience in the aerospace industry.

University of Houston-Downtown

UHD President Sets Bold 2023 Goals in State of the University Address

In his State of the University Address, University of Houston-Downtown President Loren J. Blanchard highlighted achievements like a new strategic plan focused on student success, improved mental health care and degree maps for academic disciplines. UHD aspires to develop new degree programs, moving from 46 to 50 undergraduate programs and from 12 to 20 graduate programs by 2028. Other goals include setting the target six-year graduation rate for 2024 to 36% for first time in college students — a 6% increase from the spring 2022 cohort rate. UHD plans to increase alumni connections over the next academic year by 80%.

UHD Earns High Ranking: Top 3 for Student Experience and No. 1 for Diversity

In the Wall Street Journal/College Pulse's 2024 college rankings, University of Houston-Downtown ranks as one of the best colleges in the U.S. with notable distinctions. UHD is No. 1 for diversity and No. 3 for student

experience. UHD ranks No. 224 out of the top 400 Best Colleges in America and scored the highest (alongside Kentucky's Berea College) in terms of diversity. Only 23 Texas colleges and universities in total made the top 400, and UHD is No. 224.

UHD on the Rise According to U.S. News & World Report

University of Houston-Downtown continues to be a university on the rise. The University climbed 15 points in the recent 2024 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings to No. 62 in Overall Rank for Regional Universities (West) (tied). Additionally, UHD is now tied for No. 31 in Top Public Schools-Regional Universities (West), moving up nine points as compared to last year's list.

University of Houston-Victoria

Texas Legislature Approves Allocations for UHV Aviation Program

The University of Houston-Victoria will introduce a new aviation program, thanks to funding from the Texas Legislature. They received \$1,275,000 for 2024 and \$1,805,000 for 2025 to establish an aviation minor that is available to add to any degree at the university. UHV will develop this program in the next two years, with an advisory board guiding the process. Additionally, the funding helps the University continue to offer affordable tuition rates and state-funded programs to meet student needs.

UHV Breaks Ground on New Health and Wellness Center

The University of Houston-Victoria hosted a groundbreaking ceremony August 15 to officially begin construction on the University's new Health and Wellness Center. The 38,864 square-foot building will offer UHV students, faculty and staff a place to safely participate in fitness and wellness activities. It also will be home to a 5,500 square-foot walk-in clinic run by DeTar Healthcare System. The building is projected to be completed in the spring of 2025.

UHV Opens 50 Faces Exhibit to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The University of Houston-Victoria marks its 50th anniversary with the "50 Faces of UHV" exhibit, showcasing individuals and organizations that contributed to its growth since 1973. About 150 attendees, including some of the honorees, took a walking tour of campus to see each of the portraits and learn about how the subjects impacted UHV and Victoria. The exhibit comprises 50 portraits in five campus buildings, with 10 portraits in each. Visitors can learn about each honoree's influence on UHV and the city of Victoria through accompanying information cards.