



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • December 2016

University of Houston System Achievements

Katy Campus Update

The UH System has purchased 46 acres on the northeast corner of I-10 and Grand Parkway for construction of the UH System Katy Campus where UH and UHV will offer programs in 2019. In the meantime, UH and UHV have started to serve the Katy community by offering programs in rented facilities.

University of Houston Achievements

UH's Largest College Has a New Dean

We are pleased to announce the new dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences – UH's largest college. He is **Antonio Tillis**, who comes to us from the College of Charleston where he is professor of Hispanic Studies and dean of the School of Languages, Culture and World Affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Vanderbilt University, a master's in Spanish literature from Howard University, and a Ph.D. in Latin American literature with an Afro-Hispanic emphasis from the University of Missouri.

Honors College Among 10 Best in Nation

The Honors College is among the top 10 honors programs and colleges in the nation, according to the latest edition of "Inside Honors: Ratings and Reviews of Sixty Public University Honors Programs." Receiving the highest overall rating of five "mortarboards," UH is in a statistical tie with nine other honors programs and colleges. This is the first time UH made the list since the rankings began in 2012. With no U.S. News & World Report ranking of honors programs, "Inside Honors" is emerging as a respected, leading resource for these evaluations, having been recognized by the New York Times as "providing thorough appraisals of individual honors colleges and programs and intelligent thoughts on how they fit into the higher-education landscape."

Grants Provide Boost to Superconducting Wire Research, STEM Teacher Preparation

- The U.S. Department of Energy has granted \$4.5 million to **Venkat Selvamanickam**, M.D. Anderson Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering, to boost the manufacture of high-performance superconducting wires for next generation electric machines. Motors and generators made with the new wire can lead to more than six billion kilowatt hours of annual electricity savings and reduce CO₂ emissions by nearly a million tons per year.
- Answering the call for more high school math and science teachers, UH is using a \$1.45 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to bolster its teachHOUSTON math and science teacher preparation program in a big way. Now in its ninth year, teachHOUSTON was awarded the five-year grant to further its mission of supporting future teachers in STEM fields. The funds are being used to introduce a new program that offers scholarships, professional development and mentoring.

Party Like It's 2017!

On February 4 UH will proudly partner with Taste of the NFL, the premier Super Bowl Week fundraiser, and bring the "Party with a Purpose" to UH – the first time this event has been held on a university campus. "Party with a Purpose" is a grand food and wine tasting event – a celebration that brings together the top chefs from each of the 32 NFL cities, with the participation of past and current NFL greats, Hall of Famers, and celebrities. Since its inception in 1992, Taste of the NFL has raised more than \$25 million for food banks in the NFL home cities. Funds raised at the UH event will benefit those food banks, with the largest portion of the proceeds going to the Houston Food Bank.

A Trio of Awards for Excellence in Diversity

INSIGHT into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, honored UH, the UH Law Center, and the School of Nursing as recipients of the prestigious 2016 INSIGHT into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award. The HEED Award is the only national recognition honoring colleges and universities that exhibit outstanding efforts and success in the area of diversity and inclusion throughout their campuses. We are the first university to receive three HEED awards in a single year.

Small Business Boot Camp in Third Ward

To meet our goal of creating 25 new area businesses during the next five years, the Bauer College of Business has expanded its Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship (SURE) program, which is now training its first cohort of potential business owners.

UH-Clear Lake Achievements

UHCL Advances in U.S. News & World Report Best College Rankings

UHCL has advanced seven places on the *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings, marking upward movement in only its second year to be considered for the regional ranking. Tied for No. 74 among the 2017 Best Regional Universities in the West, UHCL is listed among universities in the western United States. Universities included in the ranking range from Texas and Oklahoma westward to California and Hawaii.

U.S. Department of Education Awards \$3.7 million HIS-STEM Grant to UHCL

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$3.7 million grant to support UHCL student-service programs that focus on academic success in STEM fields. The grant will be distributed across five years to bolster enrollment of Hispanic and low-income students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields of study.

Learning Consortium Recognizes UHCL Pathway to Quality Online Education

UHCL's Office of E-Learning Services earned a 2016 Effective Practice Award from the international Online Learning Consortium. The award recognized UHCL's case study, "Pathway to Quality Online Education at University of Houston-Clear Lake," which was selected through a peer review process. Executive Director **Shanta Goswami** noted that the case study detailed the past eight years of growth in UHCL's online programs, which have more than tripled to 22 degree programs and certifications. It included examples of ways her office has worked with departments across campus to implement online programs and support UHCL's mission, including the creation of a rigorous Quality Assurance Program.

UH-Downtown Achievements

National Spotlight on UHD Faculty

College of Humanities and Social Sciences faculty are in the national spotlight as of late. Art Professor **Floyd Newsum's** painting "After the Storm CNN" is on view at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. **Daniel Peña**, assistant professor of English, earned the Pushcart Prize for his short story "Safe Home." And Assistant Professor of Psychology **Erlanger Turner** was named among "9 Rising Stars" by Monitor on Psychology, the official magazine of the American Psychological Association.

Community Outreach and Public Service

UHD has been the host site for notable events promoting public discourse. In October, the campus hosted the 2016 Sheriff's Debate, which was streamed live on KTRK ABC13 and Univision 45. That month, UHD students led the Walk 2 Vote, a project aimed at promoting civic engagement, with special guest Mayor Sylvester Turner and others. And in November, UHD welcomed HISD Superintendent **Richard Carranza** to campus to greet faculty and community members.

National Rankings for UHD

UHD factored prominently in two national rankings. The University was ranked No. 3 in College Choice's "50 Safest Large Colleges and Universities in America." Also, the institution's online offerings were cited in the Affordable Colleges list of "Best Online Colleges in Texas."

UH-Victoria Achievements

National Community Service Honor Roll Cites UHV for Second Year

The Corporation for National & Community Service recognized UHV on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second consecutive year. UHV's emphasis on community service has led to the creation of several recent programs. Freshmen participate in a First-Year Experience course that includes opportunities to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and other nonprofit organizations. For the past two years, UHV has offered volunteer opportunities through the Jags Join In – Day of Service. Most recently, 28 students and four staff members went to Louisiana during Labor Day weekend to assist in recovery efforts after the state experienced severe flooding.

UHV Receives Nearly \$380,000 in State, National Grants

A \$300,601 state grant is helping UHV recruit additional community college students into its degree programs focusing on physical and mental health, and a \$78,990 national grant is allowing 16 area high school teachers to take part in a water quality research and professional development project through UHV. The state grant, from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is expected to boost the number of Texas minority students obtaining UHV bachelor's degrees in health studies and kinesiology and the master's degree in mental health counseling. The national grant, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is providing funding for a 15-month project for high school teachers taking part in water quality experiments along the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers.

NAIA Names UHV Five-Star Institution

UHV was selected as a bronze National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Champions of Character Five-Star Institution for the 2015-2016 academic year. Institutions earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Schools also earn points based on an exceptional student-athlete grade-point average and obtaining no ejections during competitions. The Jaguars had 59 student-athletes recognized as Red River Athletic Conference Scholar Athletes this past season. Five student-athletes were named to the UHV President's List, and 39 were named to the Deans' List.