RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2011

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

■ My report today starts with news of record Spring Semester enrollment across the UH System. Preliminary figures system-wide show strong growth over the same period last year, 62,376 in Spring 2011, up from 58,880 in Spring 2010 (+5.9%). The breakdown is as follows:

--UH	37,337, up from 35,476 (+5.2%)
--UHCL	8,073, up from 7,678 (+5.1%)
--UHD	12,717, up from 12,035 (+5.7%)
--UHV	4,249, up from 3,691 (+15%)

■ This pattern of growth system-wide has manifested itself in other areas as well. Figures from the most recent State Accountability Report show other remarkable and noteworthy statistics. For example:

□ Among the state's 15 "master's universities," UH-Victoria is at the top of the list in enrollment growth – 141.2% in the last decade.

□ UH-Clear Lake has increased its Hispanic student headcount 97.8% in the past decade, making it a "Hispanic Serving Institution," and UH-Victoria has increased its Hispanic student headcount by 244.4%, bringing it very close to being designated as a "Hispanic Serving Institution" as well.

□ UH-Downtown is very near the top of the list of Texas universities in the total number of degrees awarded, a 107.3% increase in the past decade.

□ The state describes "at-risk students" as those eligible for Pell Grants, or those who hold a GED, or are 20-years-old or older, or attend part-time, or have low SAT scores. UH-Victoria has the distinction of being at the top of the list of master's universities awarding degrees to these at-risk students, a 203% growth during the past decade. UH-Downtown follows closely with a 180.9% growth rate, with UH-Clear Lake growing 46% in the past decade.

■ Consistent with our strategic priority of enhancing student access and success, two initiatives have been launched that will make it easier for *all* UH System students to have access to *all* UH System institutions and locations. The two initiatives are:

- The UH System Pathways Program will allow a student in any of the four UH System universities to take courses at *any* of them, with grades and credit reverting to the student's "home" university automatically. Financial aid will similarly be available through consortium agreements among the four universities. There is no application fee, and all university services across the UH System will be available to students enrolled in program. This program will be effective in Fall 2011, with enrollment beginning May 1.

- The UH System Nursing Education Consortium is another example of collaboration among UH System universities, with the common goal of enhancing student access and success. The UH-Victoria School of Nursing has been awarding RN-to-BSN degrees since 2007. With the UH System Nursing Education Consortium in place, accredited RN-to-BSN degrees will be offered at other UH System locations. The UH System nursing program will have one dean who will oversee the faculty and curriculum at all universities. Benefits for students include the availability of classes near home or work, common tuition and fees, a centralized application and admission system, and centralized or coordinated students services. The first cohort of students will be admitted in Fall 2014.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

■ To paraphrase Regent **Welcome W. Wilson**, there are three big achievements for the University of Houston in this report: First, Tier One... second, Tier One... and third, Tier One. The announcement by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching elevating UH to its highest category of a university with "very high research activity" swept the campus in early January, culminating in a spectacular campus-wide Celebration of Excellence event January 28. Hundreds of boisterous students, and equally enthusiastic groups of faculty, staff, and alumni filled Cullen Performance Hall to capacity to celebrate our new Tier One status. **Larry Kellner** and **Jeff Moseley** from the Greater Houston Partnership delivered congratulatory remarks in representation of Houston's corporate and community sectors, and U.S. Congressman **Gene Green** addressed the crowd in representation of several city and state elected officials who were present.

■ Two significant grants received in December 2010 will boost UH's efforts to support the teaching of math and the sciences. Houston Endowment Inc. awarded a $5 million grant to help increase the number of doctoral students graduating annually. The funds will be used to help recruit, retain, and graduate highly qualified doctoral students in targeted areas such as engineering and the sciences. And *teach*HOUSTON, the teacher-prep program designed to create qualified math and science teachers to meet the critical national shortage, was the recipient of a $1 million gift from Kitty King Powell, co-founder of the Powell Foundation.

■ **Richard C. Willson**, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering and biochemical and biophysical sciences, has been named a 2010 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science. The fellowship is an honor awarded to members by their peers based on their work in advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished. Willson received his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering

from the California Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

■ The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine has ranked the UH Law Center 22nd nationally for total number of degrees conferred on Hispanic students in 2009. Of 341 degrees granted by the Law Center, 10% went to Hispanic students.

■ A team of biomedical scientists and engineers from UH and physicians from The Methodist Hospital Research Institute are collaborating to develop a platform for image-guided and robot-assisted surgeries on beating hearts that is minimally invasive.

■ Ars Lyrica Houston, a Baroque and classical music ensemble founded at the University of Houston by **Matthew Dirst**, associate professor of musicology, was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Opera Recording category. The group's recording of "Marc'Antonio e Cleopatra" was this year's only American offering to be nominated in the opera category. It was the first Grammy nomination for both Dirst and Ars Lyrica. Dirst joined the Moores School of Music in 1996, and founded Ars Lyrica two years later.

UH-Clear Lake Achievements

■ UHCL has been designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. The HSI designation means that Hispanic students at UHCL make up 25% or more of the university's undergraduate enrollment.

■ UHCL Counseling Services has been accredited by the University and College Counseling Services Board of Accreditation on behalf of the International Association of Counseling Services.

■ Houston Endowment has awarded UHCL $400,000 over three years for its arts audience development initiative. Comprising 10 individual but complimentary components, the initiative is intended to expand the reach of UHCL's art programming across the Bay Area and beyond.

■ Delegates from China Three Gorges University signed a memorandum of understanding while visiting UHCL in November that will allow students to begin their degrees at China Three Gorges University and then transfer to UHCL to complete the degree.

■ Alumna **Nancy Hutchinson** ('82 BS) was named Classroom Teacher of the Year by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, and Teacher of the Year by the Gulf Coast Association for the Education of Young Children. She works at the San Jacinto College South Children's Center.

UH-Downtown Achievements

■ UHD, Lone Star College-Cy Fair and Lone Star College-Kingwood together won one of four Star Awards from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for a collaborative, teacher-

education degree program that provides students with a seamless transition from community college to university while working with school district partners.

■ UHD instituted its first Winter Term, an all on-line session, in late 2010. The student-friendly addition, held from December 27, 2010, through January 14, 2011, proved very popular for current and recent UHD students, with more than 700 students enrolled.

■ **Lisa D. Morano**, associate professor of natural sciences has won a $247,000 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for "Rocks to Wine: Connecting Urban Education and Research with the Texas Wine Industry."

■ The Student Accounting and Cashiers offices will no longer mail paper fee bills starting with the Spring 2011 semester in an effort to become more environmentally conscious and cost efficient. Fee bills for the Spring 2011 semester are now available electronically.

■ The university's December graduation ceremonies marked UHD's first "green" commencement. The caps and gowns students wore were made of recycled plastic, and many were donated at the end of the ceremony to a local school.

UH-Victoria Achievements

■ UHV has received the highest score in Texas concerning satisfaction of senior students. The 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement asked seniors if they would choose the same institution again if they were given the chance to start over with their higher education. Ninety-six percent of UHV survey participants answered that they would select the university again.

■ The School of Business Administration was ranked No. 3 in the nation for opportunities for minority students and was named one of the nation's top 300 business schools overall by The Princeton Review.

■ UHV held its inaugural induction ceremony for students invited to be in the School of Nursing Honor Society. The organization should receive its charter in November 2011.

■ "Port of Victoria" is the first book published by UHV's University Press of Victoria. The book looks at the history of area waterways and the evolution of getting the Port of Victoria established. University Press of Victoria is headed by faculty members **Charles Alcorn III** and **Kyle Schlesinger**, along with **Jeffrey Di Leo**, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

■ Students **Lenox Evans** and **Sarah Saldivar** were selected for the 2010 Association of Independent Institutions all-conference soccer teams. This is the first year of UHV's soccer program.