



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 26, 2021

University of Houston

Building a Top 50 Public University

Following the newly unveiled UH Strategic Plan, “Together, We Rise; Together, We Soar.” two new initiatives have been launched.

- **Institute for Global Engagement** –This new interdisciplinary institute aims to enhance students’ international and cultural understanding by embedding learning and research experiences focused on globally relevant topics within all academic programs and disciplines. The Institute will be led by Ambassador (Ret.) **Michael Pelletier**.
- **Population Health Complex** – This new interdisciplinary program will integrate health professions with other disciplines in the University from engineering to education to the arts and social sciences. The purpose of the initiative is to empower individuals to live healthier life style. Dr. **Bettina Beech**, who served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health and Founding Dean of the John D. Bower School of Population Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, will lead the initiative in the newly created cabinet level position of Chief Population Health Officer.

College of Medicine Opens a Direct Primary Care Clinic

With a \$1 million gift from The Cullen Trust for Health Care, the College of Medicine will open a low-cost direct primary care clinic on the campus of Memorial Herman Southwest Hospital, offering an alternative to insurance-based or fee-for-service practices. This addresses a key need of the community and aligns with some of the future work of the Social Responsibility Task Force.

Seven Cougars Participated in 2021 Summer Olympics

Five UH athletes from three different countries and two former UH coaches from two different countries competed at the 2021 Summer Olympics that took place in Tokyo, Japan. The University has had at least one representative in each of the last 16 Summer Games.

UH Research Awards Increase by 40%

As a result of the relevant and impactful research being done by our researchers, the total research awards for the year thus far show an increase of 40%. Notable new research contracts include:

- **Lars Garbow**, professor of chemical engineering, received \$2 million from the Department of Energy on ammoxidation of hydrocarbons
- **Lorraine Reitzel**, distinguished professor of education and director, Taking Texas Tobacco Free, received \$2 million from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas to address tobacco use and substance abuse
- **Wei-Chuan Shih**, professor of computer and electrical engineering, received \$2.66 million from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging for early tumor detection

One of Eight Schools in 2020-21 with First Round Picks in NFL and NBA

Quentin Grimes, UH All-American guard, was selected in the first round of the NBA draft by the New York Knicks. The New Orleans Saints drafted former UH defensive end **Payton Turner** during the first round of the NFL draft. UH has had four first-round NFL selections since 2013, the most of any school in the American Athletic Conference.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Voter Friendly Campus Designation

UH-Clear Lake was recently designated a Voter Friendly Campus by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and the Fair Elections Center, UH-Clear Lake has a demonstrated history of providing dynamic civic education housed in the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership in the Division of Student Affairs. UHCL is the only institution in the UH System to receive the Voter Friendly Campus designation.

Barrios Technology Awards Research Grants to Three Professors

NASA contractor Barrios Technology recently awarded three UH-Clear Lake professors grants to continue ongoing research in their respective fields.

- **Daniel Wang**, professor of chemistry, received a scholarship to help fund a new area of his research that focuses on molecular scaffolds, medicinal chemistry and host-guest chemistry.
- **Ariful Bhuiyan**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received a fellowship that will allow him to continue his ongoing research in the field of biomechanics.
- **Daniel Imrecke**, associate professor of geology and environmental science, received a fellowship to help fund his research on planetary geology, specifically the study of meteorites from Mars.

University of Houston-Downtown

Rufino to Launch Campus-wide Mental Health Initiatives

Katrina Rufino, associate professor of psychology, received nearly \$300,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to launch campus-wide initiatives addressing mental wellness. Rufino will collaborate with other faculty, student organizations and UH's Counseling Center on a range of programs focused on supporting students' mental health.

Kumar Receives Fellowship from Council on Foreign Relations

UHD Professor of International Politics **Leena Thacker Kumar** was selected for the Council on Foreign Relations' International Affairs Fellowship for Tenured International Relations Scholars. Kumar will spend a year with the Council working directly with the Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention in the Countering Violent Extremism unit within the U.S. Agency for International Development. She is the first UHD faculty member to earn this distinction.

University of Houston-Victoria

Specialist in School Psychology Receives National Accreditation

The National Association of School Psychologists has accredited UHV's Specialist in School Psychology program for six years, making it one of only 13 Texas universities to earn the accreditation. Accreditation allows the University to recruit new students and streamline the professional certification process for the program's graduates. The program is one of two terminal degrees offered by the University.

Jaguars Finish Spring Sports Season Strong

The UHV Jaguars softball team and men's and women's golf teams ended their seasons on a high note with rankings in postseason polls after qualifying for national championships. The softball team was ranked No. 19 in the nation in the NAIA Softball Coaches' Top 25 postseason poll and earned its first berth to the NAIA World Series. The men's golf team ended the year at No. 14 in both the NAIA Men's Golf Coaches' Postseason Poll and Golfstat poll. The Jaguars also advanced to their first-ever NAIA Men's Golf National Championships, where they finished No. 14 out of 30 teams. Women's golf ended the year ranked No. 30 and made its second trip to the NAIA Women's Golf National Championships.