



Renu Khator • Chancellor's Report

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • May 2016

University of Houston System Achievements

Congratulations, 2016 Graduates!

A total of 12,409 degrees were awarded by the four UH System universities:

- 9,706 from the University of Houston
- 1,024 from UH-Clear Lake
- 1,231 from UH-Downtown
- 488 from UH-Victoria

Commencement speakers included retired astronaut Captain **Scott Kelly** at the University of Houston – which moved its ceremony from TDECU Stadium to the Basketball Arena due to severe weather – Mayor **Sylvester Turner** at UH-Clear Lake, State Representative **Carol Alvarado** at UH-Downtown and **Karen Garza**, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, at UH-Victoria.

UH System Online

The UH System now offers 114 completely online degrees and certificate programs, and this number is likely to grow in coming years. Last year alone, the University of Houston added 11 new programs while UH-Clear Lake and UH-Victoria added two and five, respectively. These programs range from Bachelor's Degrees in Criminal Justice and Library Information Sciences, to Master's Degrees in Civil Engineering and Social Work, to an Ed.D. in Professional Leadership.

Northwest Campus

UH-Downtown is expanding at the Northwest campus by taking over space vacated by Sam Houston State University and by significantly increasing course offerings. In Spring 2016, UH-Downtown offered 123 sections, compared to 103 in Spring 2015, a 20 percent increase in course offerings. These additional sections lead to a year-to-year 13 percent increase in total semester credit hours taught by UH-Downtown.

UH System Student Access and Success

This month, I testified before the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the House Committee on Higher Education. I took this opportunity to note that since 2008, UH System has:

- increased enrollment by 23 percent
- increased degrees awarded by 30 percent for all students and 45 percent for minority students
- allocated \$200 million in additional resources toward student success programs,
- increased private philanthropy by more than 100 percent
- reallocated \$60 million internally to invest in strategic priorities
- maintained affordability for students by keeping both the per-student debt amount and loan default rate below the state and national averages.

University of Houston Achievements

Transferring Technology to the Marketplace

UH has two exciting new developments bringing its research to the commercial sector:

- C-Voltaics, the first nanotechnology company created at UH, has signed a deal with Dallas-based Binford Supply to distribute its water- and stain-repellent coatings developed by physics professor **Seamus “Shay” Curran**. The idea for a high-tech protective coating grew out of Curran's work on portable solar-powered generators and the challenge of keeping the solar cells clean. The coating, to be sold under the name CaraPro, will continue to be manufactured at the UH Energy Research Park.
- WAVVE Stream Inc., a UH startup with the mission of increasing global access to clean water with a nano-sized filtration system, has been awarded a VentureWell grant to bring their technology out of the lab and into the marketplace. **Debora Rodrigues**, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, developed the technology that inspired WAVVE co-founders **Eric Beydoun** and **Ivette Rubio**, both Bauer College of Business alumni, to build a company around the technology. VentureWell is a non-profit higher education network that helps young scientists launch ventures.

Marketing Honors

The University Marketing, Communications and Media Relations Division collected four first-place Crystal Awards at the 2016 meeting of the Houston chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA), winning for Non-profit In-House Marketing Campaign, Single TV Advertising, Non-profit Social Media Campaign and Maverick Marketing.

Sustainable Beauty

We are proud of the sustainability initiatives at the University of Houston. As a result:

- The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) awarded Gold status to UH – the only Texas institution to earn this designation – in its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System report.
- UH has earned a Tree Campus USA certification from the National Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to sustaining healthy trees and engaging the campus community in conservation efforts.
- UH has been ranked among the most beautiful campuses in the country by online guide Great Value Colleges.

UH Arts on Display

Almost 250 guests participated in UH's first Public Art Day April 16, when they viewed many of the 400-plus sculptures, installations, and other art on campus. There were docent-guided tours of artworks, including the **Frank Stella** paintings in the Moores Opera House. Our public art collection with more than 700 pieces is one of the largest in the country.

“Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck”

When students look at universities, they often examine the quality of academics, tuition and their salary potential after graduation. According to the Princeton Review, UH is among the country's top institutions delivering all those things to students, gaining a spot in the Princeton Review's 2016 edition of “Colleges That Pay You Back: Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck.” The book focuses on issues such as paying for college and finding a job that provides a return on that investment. The book cites University of Houston graduates with at least a bachelor's degree as having a median starting salary of \$51,700 and median mid-career salary of \$86,600.

Faculty Recognition

Several faculty members have been honored recently with prestigious university, state, national and international awards:

- **Martin Melosi**, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Professor of History and Director of the Center for Public History, received the 2016 Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Society for Environmental History, the highest honor bestowed in that field.
- **George E. Fox**, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, received the 2016 Esther Farfel Award, UH's highest faculty honor.
- Three UH Law Center faculty members – **Raymond Nimmer**, **Ben Sheppard**, and **Tracy Hester** – have been named by their peers to the roster of “Best Lawyers” in Texas.
- **Roger Boltz**, associate professor in the College of Optometry, was named Educator of the Year by the Texas Optometric Association. He received both his Doctor of Optometry and Ph.D. from UH, and recently served as interim dean.
- **Nicolás Kanellos**, Brown Foundation Professor of Hispanic Studies and Director of Arte Público Press, was selected to receive the Cruz de la Orden de Isabel la Católica, one of the highest honors Spain can bestow on a civilian, in recognition of his exceptional research activities and scholarship to promote the appreciation of Hispanic language and culture.

UH-Clear Lake Achievements

Students Tapped for Medical School

Biology sophomores **Sandy Samaan** and **Glory Hughes** have been accepted to Texas' prestigious Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP). This is a first for UHCL, which became a JAMP participating institution after expanding to a four-year university in 2014. Fall 2015 marked the first time UHCL students were eligible to apply.

2016 UHCL Community Partnership Award

President **William A. Staples** presented the 2016 UHCL Community Partnership Award to the Pearland Chamber of Commerce at his annual Report to the Community on March 24. Staples credited support from the Pearland Chamber and many others for obtaining funding by the 84th Texas Legislature in

2015 for special initiatives including the university's transition to a four-year institution as well as capital construction funds for a new STEM and Classroom Building at UHCL and a Health Sciences and Classroom Building at the UHCL Pearland Campus.

School of Education Joins National STEM coalition

The School of Education has been welcomed into partnership with the 100-K-in-10 coalition, which comprises 280-plus corporations, foundations, museums, non-profits, school districts and other universities committed to delivering 100,000 new STEM educators by 2021. The school has pledged that by 2020, it will train 400 pre-service teachers to integrate STEM curriculum into their future classrooms and will develop a STEM certificate to complement the current degree programs for Texas Teacher Certification. Additionally, it plans to graduate 20 students from its new doctoral program – the Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a STEM focus. The degree, at the forefront of this emergent field and one of the first of its kind in the nation, specializes in preparing professionals to be leaders in recruiting additional K-12 STEM teachers.

UH-Downtown Achievements

SACSCOC Reaccreditation

A team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) spent two days visiting UHD and off-campus sites, meeting faculty, students and administrators. The commission's visit was productive, and UHD leadership was informed that there were no further recommendations. The final reaccreditation decision is expected in December 2016, following the SACSCOC board of directors meeting.

Annual Faculty Senate Awards

UHD honored outstanding professors for their accomplishments in teaching, service and scholarship/creative activity. Among those recognized were: Excellence in Teaching: **Travis Crone**, Social Sciences; Excellence in Service: **Susan Henney**, Social Sciences; Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity: **Heather Goltz**, Social Work; Outstanding Lecturer (co-winners): **Ajay Singh**, Natural Sciences, and **Dana Smith**, Social Work; and Outstanding Adjunct: **Simon Jakubowski**, Natural Sciences.

Two UHD Students Receive Prestigious Scholarship Award

Marleen Gomez, an interdisciplinary studies major, and **Etelvina Umana**, an international business major, are two out of 250 undergraduate students from 140 colleges and universities across the nation selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study or intern abroad this summer. Both students will be participating in a College of Humanities and Social Sciences trip to Costa Rica in May and June 2016.

UH-Victoria Achievements

UHV Celebrates Homecoming for First Time in Nearly 20 years

UHV held its first homecoming since 1998 with a week's worth of activities in March, including the crowning of a king and queen and the honoring of two UHV alumni for their achievements. Events featured a carnival, soccer game with students playing against faculty and staff, breakfast bash, campus beautification service project and comedy show. Victoria Realtor **John Quitta** was recognized as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at the Alumni Banquet, and Victoria businessman **Shilo Monney** was named the Young Alumnus of the Year. The week ended with **Mandi Valdez**, a junior education major from Menard, being crowned homecoming queen, and **Ben Taylor**, a junior history major from Nottingham, England, being named king.

UHV Awards First Honorary Doctorate, First Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award

UHV's spring commencement featured two firsts for the university. Chinese entrepreneur **Bingxin Wu** was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. This was the first honorary doctorate UHV has given in its 43-year history. In 2013, Wu and his wife, **Shuqin Feng**, donated \$600,000 to the UHV School of Business Administration. Commencement speaker **Karen Garza**, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools near Washington, D.C., was awarded UHV's first Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award. Garza earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from UHV.

National Organizations Recognize UHV Programs

Three national organizations singled out UHV degree programs for recognition. The Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology was recognized in the National Strength and Conditioning Association's Education Recognition Program. The university is one of five in Texas accredited for strength and conditioning. UHV also achieved a No. 19 ranking for best online Bachelor of Business Administration programs by OnlineColleges.net – the only Texas public university ranked on the Top 25 list. In addition, NonprofitColleges.com ranked UHV No. 21 nationally in its Best Online Master's of English and Creative Writing list.