



## **RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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UH System Board of Regents Meeting • February 23, 2023

## University of Houston System

### UH System Institutions Advocate for Student Success in Austin

This legislative session, UH System institutions are advocating for an increase in base funding to help keep student tuition flat during a Day at the Capitol. Hosting a Day at the Capitol allows us to bring the specific requests and needs of our institutions to the attention of the legislative delegation. UH Day at the Capitol is on March 2, UHCL Day at the Capitol is on March 7, UHD Day at the Capitol is on March 8, and UHV Day at the Capitol is on March 7.

### UHCL, UHD Receive Basic Needs Grants

The U.S. Department of Education selected UH-Clear Lake and UH-Downtown to receive funding under the Basic Needs Program-Supporting Student Success Program. Each university will receive \$940,000 to provide for students' immediate needs, to build systems to support those needs and to collect data through a case management process that connects students to comprehensive resources. The program aims to expand the accessibility of financial assistance for students demonstrating basic needs insecurities, including technology, to improve retention and graduation rates.

## University of Houston

### Energy Transition Institute Director Appointed

Joseph Powell, a former chief scientist for Shell and member of the National Academy of Engineering, has been named the inaugural director of the UH Energy Transition Institute. Powell's recruitment to the University was funded by a grant from the Governor's University Research Initiative. A nationally renowned chemical engineering expert with 36 years of industry experience, Powell has led research and development programs in new chemical processes, biofuels and enhanced oil recovery.

### UH Research Among Top 10 Breakthroughs of 2022

Physics World has included the groundbreaking work of Zhifeng Ren and Jiming Bao, principal investigators of the Texas Center for Superconductivity at UH, on its list of Top 10 Breakthroughs of 2022. They are being recognized for demonstrating cubic boron arsenide as "one of best semiconductors known to science."

### UH Named Top Producer of Fulbright Student Scholars, Again

For the second year in a row, UH was named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S. Students by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. During the 2022–23 academic year, 10 UH students earned Fulbright scholarships. In the last five years, 46 UH students have earned the prestigious honor.

## UH Recognized for Exemplary Support Services for STEM Students

The Scholar Enrichment Program, a support program for undergraduate students focused on improving their academic experience and performance, has won two awards. The program was recognized for its success by the INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine's Inspiring Programs in STEM Award and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Star Award.

## UH Athletics Continues to Impress and Inspire

As we all know, the Cougar Men's Basketball team under the leadership of Coach Kelvin Sampson is ranked No. 1 in all the ranking systems. The UH Women's Swimming and Diving Team has won their seventh straight conference championship.

## UH Celebrating New Hilton Hotel Tower Grand Opening

The new tower at the Hilton University of Houston premieres Monday, Feb. 27. To celebrate and introduce the new facilities to the community, the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership will host a series of special events, including a casino night and a luau brunch. Proceeds will go to Hilton College Scholarships.

# University of Houston-Clear Lake

## Transforming Lives by Degrees Program Marks Major Milestones

UHCL's Transforming Lives By Degrees program is nearing its 50th anniversary. The only graduate program for incarcerated students in Texas marked two major milestones. Assistant Professor of Humanities Christina Novakov-Ritchey has joined UHCL in the first tenure-track faculty line dedicated to the program. Beginning in January 2023, female students are now able to participate in the program.

## Investiture of President Richard Walker

UHCL celebrated the investiture of its sixth president, Richard Walker, on January 27. To mark the occasion and to highlight his commitment to student success and excellence, the President's Excellence Scholarship Fund has been created. In addition to removing financial barriers for all students, this fund will attract and provide meaningful support for students demonstrating great academic potential. To date, the President's Excellence Scholarship Fund has collected over \$310,000.

## University of Houston-Downtown

### UHD Named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S. Scholars

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs named UH-Downtown a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S. Scholars. The four UHD faculty members selected for Fulbright awards for the academic year 2022-2023 are Natacha Poggio, Edmund Cueva, Shahnaz Savani and Rahul Verma. Their respective goals are to prevent suicide in Badakhshan; teach environmental communications in Ecuador; understand the current behavioral finance and environmental, social and governance investments in the United Arab Emirates; and introduce Spanish scholars to the influence of Classicism in Latin America.

### UHD Opens New Wellness and Success Center

UHD ushered in a new era with the official opening of its Wellness and Success Center on January 20. The \$39 million, 75,000-square-foot facility provides for the overall wellness and fitness of students, faculty and staff. It also expands UHD's footprint and visibility and establishes a dynamic core and recognizable landmark for fostering and nurturing an on-campus community. The center was funded by a student referendum pushed forward by UHD's Student Government Association and approved by the state legislation.

## University of Houston-Victoria

### UHV Receives \$1.5 Million Grant to Support School Psychology Students

UH-Victoria received a five-year, \$1,573,719 grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Creating Targeted Undergraduate Pathways to Build the Professional Identity and Leadership of Future School Psychologists grant will target access to mental health services in schools. UHV will partner with Katy ISD to train future school psychologists.

### UHV Receives \$150K National Grant for Humanities Initiative

Thanks to a \$150,000 Humanities Initiatives Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, UH-Victoria will soon offer three new minors that will focus on interdisciplinary areas including race, gender and disability studies. The grant helps strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities in higher education. This is the first time the University has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.