



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 21, 2025

University of Houston System

UH Expands Academic Offerings into Katy

With a significant allocation from the state and University of Houston-Victoria's departure from the Katy campus, UH will expand its offerings in Katy to serve one of the fastest growing populations in the state and the nation.

While UH expands services into Katy, UH-Clear Lake is also increasing its offerings in Pearland. UH-Downtown currently offers programs in Northeast Houston.

University of Houston

UH Breaks Application Record Again

The University of Houston broke its application record for the second consecutive year. More than 48,000 freshmen submitted their applications, which is a historic high, indicating that UH's value among high school students continues to rise. Due to this increased application volume, UH has expanded freshmen seats by 500.

UH English Professor Appointed Texas State Poet Laureate for 2026

The Texas State Legislature has appointed award-winning poet and University of Houston English professor Kevin Prufer as the Texas State Poet Laureate for 2026, one of the state's highest honors for excellence in the arts.

Department of Defense and CPRIT Research Awards

Navin Varadarajan, professor in the Cullen College of Engineering, received a \$6.5 million award for the Convergent Science Cancer Consortium for Immune Cell Engineering from the Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs.

University of Houston received a \$3 million award from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to launch a cancer biomarker facility. The state-of-the-art core facility will accelerate immunotherapy research and expand cancer biology research capacity across Texas.

UH Archaeologists Discover Tomb of First King of Caracol

UH archeologists Provost Z. Diane Chase and Professor Arlen Chase discovered the tomb of the first king of Caracol, Belize, shedding new light on Maya history. The discovery is the first confirmed royal burial found at the site in more than 40 years.

Excellence in Women's Athletics

Athletic Director Eddie Nuñez knows the power of women's sports and is investing in success with three new coaching hires:

- Chrissy Schoonmaker, named softball head coach
- Matthew Mitchell, named women's basketball head coach
- Ben Williams, named women's soccer head coach

University of Houston-Clear Lake

UHCL Selected for National FamilyU Cohort to Advance Student Parent Success

University of Houston-Clear Lake has been selected to join the 2025 FamilyU Cohort, a two-year capacity-building initiative dedicated to supporting student parents in higher education. This selection reflects UHCL's commitment to implementing strategies that help student parents thrive academically and personally.

UHCL Archives Acquires Papers of NASA Flight Directors Hutchinson and Lunney

University of Houston Clear Lake's Archives and Special Collections has acquired the Neil B. Hutchinson Papers and the Glynn S. Lunney Papers, two landmark collections documenting the careers of NASA's 11th and 4th flight directors, respectively. UHCL is now the only public archive to house original mission documents from two of NASA's earliest flight directors.

UHCL Alumnus Pilots NASA's SpaceX Crew-11 Mission

Distinguished UHCL Alumnus E. Michael Fincke is currently serving as pilot for NASA's SpaceX Crew-11 mission, which launched on Aug. 1, to the International Space Station. Fincke will serve as a flight engineer and crew member for Expeditions 73 and 74, conducting scientific research, technology demonstrations and maintenance activities aboard the orbiting laboratory.

University of Houston-Downtown

UHD's Nursing Program Receives Prestigious Accreditation

University of Houston-Downtown's Registered Nurse to BS in Nursing Completion Program was granted the maximum 10-year accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. This accreditation is a nationally recognized mark of quality, affirming that the program meets the highest standards in baccalaureate nursing education.

Powell Foundation Supports UHD's Pathways to Success Bridge Program

An almost \$400,000 grant from the Powell Foundation will help Aldine ISD students attend and graduate from college through UHD's Pathways to Success Bridge Program pilot. The funding will provide AISD graduates with transformative experiences to earn college credit, explore careers and develop critical skills for academic and professional success.

UHD's Center for Crime, Urban Research and Education Receives State Funding

UHD received \$2.6 million during the legislative session to establish the Center for Crime, Urban Research and Education. Focused on crime prevention and experiential learning, the center will be the first in the Greater Houston area to aggregate data across multiple law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

University of Houston-Victoria

UHV to Launch Textbook Affordability Program

This fall, University of Houston-Victoria will implement the Campus Textbook Access Program to reduce textbook costs and improve student success. The program will provide all students with affordable access to course materials and is expected to save students more than \$1 million in the upcoming academic year.

UHV's Brady Parker Drafted to Colorado Rockies

UHV's Brady Parker was selected to the Colorado Rockies in the 2025 MLB Draft. He had a historic run with the Jaguars, setting a new career record for strikeouts with 252 over his three years and helping the team advance to two NAIA Opening Round appearances.

UHV Research Team Honored with Award at Waste Management Symposia

A collaborative research paper led by UHV faculty was honored as one of the top submissions during this year's Waste Management Symposia. The paper focuses on using an AI-powered tool for monitoring groundwater contamination.