RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • March 12, 2026

University of Houston

UH Professor Elected to National Academy of Engineering

University of Houston engineering professor Venkat Selvamanickam has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honors awarded to engineers worldwide. Globally recognized for his innovations in superconductivity, Selvamanickam's work has transformed the energy industry.

Houston Public Media Broadens Reach

Houston Public Media is expanding its footprint with the launch of HPM+, its new streaming platform available on smart TVs, laptops and phones. It has also established a new regional bureau covering Galveston County news.

$1M DOD Grant to Advance Lupus Diagnosis and Treatment

Weiyi Peng, associate professor in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry and Director of the Drug Discovery Institute, received a nearly $1 million Department of Defense grant to advance lupus diagnoses and treatment.

Last Mile Scholarship Gets Students to the Finish Line

UH's new Last Mile Scholarship Fund Program is making an impact with more than 70 donors having committed over $1.2 million. To date, 36 students have benefitted from the scholarship, which provides students on the verge of degree completion with financial assistance to ensure they graduate.

Cougar Textbook Access Program Saves Students Millions

Since its launch in fall 2023, UH's Cougar Textbook Access Program has saved over 62,000 students $75.6 million. The inventive program provides Cougars with one flat rate for course materials at a fraction of the cost.

Pharmacy Researcher Developing Stronger Cancer Drug

Wei Gao, assistant professor of pharmacology, received a $900,000 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas grant. Gao and her team aim to develop a stronger and more targeted nanodrug for pancreatic and lung cancer.

The University of Houston-Clear Lake

UHCL Joins $29M NIH-Funded Translational Science Alliance

University of Houston-Clear Lake has been named a founding partner of the Greater Gulf Coast Translational Science Alliance — a $29 million National Institutes of Health grant aiming to accelerate scientific discoveries into real-world health solutions.

UHCL Establishes $1 Million Helping Hand Scholarship

UHCL launched the Helping Hand Fund Scholarship, a $1 million investment providing scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need and maintain academic progress. The investment reflects UHCL's enduring commitment to affordability, access and student achievement.

Mellon Foundation Grant Expands Support for Incarcerated Students

UHCL received a $300,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to expand the University's Transforming Lives by Degrees program. Established in 1974, the program offers degree programs to incarcerated students at the Ramsey Unit.

The University of Houston-Downtown

UHD and HISD Partner to Expand College Access

The University of Houston-Downtown and the Houston Independent School District are creating new pathways to higher education for thousands of HISD seniors. Through UHD's new Guaranteed Admission Program, eligible HISD graduates will receive ensured admission.

UHD Receives Prestigious Recognition for Community Engagement

For the third time, UHD received the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification — an esteemed elective held by fewer than 10% of higher education institutions nationwide.

UHD Joins HISD's Houston Promise Initiative

UHD is the sole institution of higher education participating in HISD's Houston Promise — a collaborative initiative to transform all HISD schools into A- or B-rated campuses. As part of this commitment, UHD has supported Dogan Elementary with volunteer service, teacher appreciation and student enrichment activities promoting the value of college.