



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 25, 2022

University of Houston System

NASA Partnership Helps 'Advance Human Spaceflight'

As NASA endeavors to travel deeper into space, a partnership with the UH System will enable Johnson Space Center to reduce gaps in technology development for future human spaceflight missions. The partnership creates opportunities for UHS students to collaborate on research, technology development, technology transfer, training, and educational and outreach initiatives.

New Public Art Acquisitions Make Appearances This Fall

Public Art of the UH System announced two new site-specific installations and 20 newly acquired works by some of the most dynamic artists in Houston will be on public view this fall. Commissions include a permanent light sculpture by the American artist **Leo Villareal** for the state-of-the-art building that is the new home of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and a temporary, large-scale architectural installation by Cuban-American artist and sculptor **Jorge Pardo** for Wilhelmina's Grove.

University of Houston

UH Joins New Alliance to Increase Hispanic Opportunity

UH and 20 of the nation's top research universities joined the newly formed Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities. The alliance is focused on doubling the number of Hispanic doctoral students enrolled at Alliance universities and increasing the Hispanic professoriate in Alliance universities by 20 percent.

Two UH ACES Institute Schools Earn 'A' Ratings From TEA

Blackshear Elementary and Foster Elementary Schools, which partner with UH's Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute, received an "A" rating in the latest Texas Education Accountability report. The institute focuses on school improvement efforts in Third Ward, including at Blackshear and Foster, with UH students serving as reading and math tutors and mentors.

Engineering Professor Named Global Energy Prize Laureate

Distinguished Professor of Engineering **Kaushik Rajashekara** received the coveted Global Energy Prize from the Global Energy Association. After ushering in the era of electric and hybrid cars in the 1980s, Rajashekara became known worldwide for his contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies.

New Naming Gifts

The Dakri family pledged \$4 million to create an endowed chair, professorship and research endowment at the new Musa and Khaleda Dakri Center for Economic Inclusion.

The A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation gifted \$3 million to establish a scholarship endowment for sales and digital marketing students. In recognition of the gift, the program will be named the A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Program for Excellence in Selling.

Cougar Textbook Access Program (C-Tap)

A pilot program launched in spring 2022 has resulted in actual student savings of more than a million dollars for 4,922 participating students. Students pre-register for digital course materials that are available on or before their first day of class. The fee is added to student fee bill as a “learning materials course fee”.

UH Athletics on the Rise

The UH Football program will begin the season ranked No. 25 in the USA Today AFCA Coaches Poll, marking the first time the Cougars have been ranked entering an upcoming season since 2016.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

UHCL Rolls Out New Quality Enhancement Plan

The Quality Enhancement Plan for UH-Clear Lake, “Becoming Aware: Cultural Interactions at UHCL,” recognizes the University’s responsibility to ensure that students have the necessary marketable skills to be successful in an ever-changing world. Through the QEP, UHCL will develop a campus environment that supports students in gaining the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to engage in cultural interactions that enable them to succeed in our global community.

Grant Allows More Paid Internships to Help Students Engage in Industry

Through the Work-Based Learning Opportunity Grant for Internships, provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, UHCL received \$247,350 to convert unpaid internships into what students need most — a paid internship that offers hands-on experience and networking opportunities. The grant supports high-demand fields including accounting, computer science/related fields, education, mechanical engineering and social work.

Drone Academy Launched at UHCL at Pearland:

The UHCL Drone Academy at Pearland was established to provide professional drone training for individuals who seek to gain commercial drone skills necessary for Federal Aviation Administration certification. The program also meets the current industry demands for commercial pilots. Customized drone training is provided with state-of-the-art equipment and software for today’s industry applications.

University of Houston-Downtown

A New Era: UHD Begins Quest to Become an Anchor Institution

The May 24 Investiture of UHD President **Loren J. Blanchard** as the University’s seventh president signified a new era for UHD. Blanchard presented a new strategic plan for UHD titled, “A New Paradigm,” which will define the culture of UHD for decades to come. The Alumni & Friends Celebration Dinner raised \$200,000, which will fund strategic plan initiatives throughout the University.

Meeting Basic Needs: Grants for Student Success

UHD recently received three grants to support student success. A nearly \$200,000 grant from the Trellis Foundation will allow UHD to address mental wellness for students who have experienced greater anxiety and stress due to COVID-19. A \$50,000 Accelerate Student Success Planning Grant will allow UHD to optimize student success services and improve student access to those services. And, a five-year, \$4.3 million grant supports UHD's Upward Bound Program, a federally funded initiative that seeks to make higher education more accessible to low-income, first-generation college students.

UHD Granted \$730K for Voter Rights Initiative

Houston Endowment awarded UHD's College of Public Service a three-year, \$730,000 grant to support its voting rights initiatives. The grant will provide an opportunity for UHD's social work students to be leaders in local communities and to engage Houston youth in learning and advocating for change, leading to greater civic engagement.

University of Houston-Victoria

City of Victoria, UHV break Ground on Ben Wilson Improvement Project

UHV hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Ben Wilson Corridor Improvement Project on Friday, June 3. The project is centered on the section of Ben Wilson Street that divides the UHV campus from Airline Road to Red River Street. The project will reduce the street to one lane in each direction and add grass and landscaped center dividers from the north end of campus to Red River Street as well as crosswalks in front of UHV University Commons. The project is expected to be finished in fall 2023.

UHV Business College Launches New Certificates, Concentrations

UHV students now have access to a range of new business concentrations and graduate certificates in areas that will enable graduates to pursue careers in regional industries. The College of Business is adding four new graduate certificates and concentrations in business analytics, human resources management, nonprofit leadership and supply chain management. The college also will offer a new Bachelor of Business Administration concentration in construction management. All of the certificates and concentrations will be available this fall.

UHV Named Best College in Katy

Once again, the readers of the Katy Times named the University of Houston-Victoria the best college to attend in the Katy area. The University received first place in the 2022 Katy Times' Best of Katy readers' choice awards contest in the Best College category. The University has been named a top choice by Katy Times readers for several years.