University of Houston-Clear Lake
Administrator's Statement

University Overview:

The University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) was authorized in 1971 by House Bill 199 in the 62nd Texas Legislature. The measure came in the aftermath of a 1968 report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, calling for a second University of Houston campus to offer upper-level and graduate programs for students in the Houston metropolitan area. UHCL is situated on 524 acres midway between downtown Houston and the historic port of Galveston. The campus is adjacent to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center and Armand Bayou Nature Center. UHCL serves an advanced technology economy by providing undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs for over 7,600 students. Since its inception in 1974, over 50,000 degrees have been awarded, with over 2,300 awarded in 2008-2009.

UHCL primarily serves the Houston-Galveston metropolitan area of Texas, which includes the Gulf Coast Community College Consortium consisting of Alvin Community College, Brazosport College, College of the Mainland, Galveston College, Houston Community College System, Lee College, Lone Star College System, San Jacinto College District, and Wharton County Junior College.

An important asset of UHCL is the Bay Area Houston region itself. UHCL is the intellectual cornerstone of this highly educated and fast-growing region in Texas. Through its strong partnerships with the community, UHCL provides advanced educational programs, innovative training, and research opportunities to the region. The Bay Area economic base rests on key industries including aerospace, petrochemical, international trade, healthcare, tourism, and boating and recreation.

In the 2011 session of the Texas Legislature, the University of Houston-Clear Lake will seek authority for downward expansion in order to offer freshman and sophomore level courses. Currently, UH-Clear Lake is an upper-level university offering junior, senior, and graduate level courses. In response to requests from area school districts, UHCL as a four-year university would work closely with both area school districts and community colleges to enhance the K-16 pipeline to increase the college-going and college graduation rates in our region. Special attention would be focused on first-time in college students as well as under-represented groups including Hispanic and African-American students. The University of Houston-Clear Lake will work collaboratively with other institutions in the University of Houston System to enhance student access and success.

Mission Statement:

The University of Houston-Clear Lake is a student-centered, community-minded, partnership-oriented university that offers bachelor's, master's and selected doctoral programs to enhance the educational, economic and cultural environment of the Houston-Galveston metropolitan region. UH-Clear Lake serves a diverse student body with special emphasis on undergraduate transfer, graduate and international students. The university offers the highest quality instruction and nationally accredited academic programs designed to develop the critical thinking, creative, quantitative, leadership and communication skills of students. The university conducts applied and basic research and engages in community and professional service that support both the economic development and the quality of life of the area. The university is committed to community engagement through partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Funding Requests for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013:

Formula Funding

The University of Houston-Clear Lake as a first priority requests the restoration of formula funds impacted by the stimulus bill and additional funds necessary to improve formula funding for core instructional and academic support operations. These funds would assist the university in increasing the college-going and college-graduation rates for the region served by UH-Clear Lake. The funds are especially critical given the changing demographics of the region and the number of first-generation college students. Additional funds via formula funding would help mitigate future increases in tuition. While various forms of financial aid have been increased significantly, the additional costs due to higher tuition and fees that students experience when they transition from a community college to a university is of growing concern.

Exceptional Items

UH-Clear Lake is requesting exceptional item funding for its proposed Center of Excellence, the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities which was established in 2008. The Center currently has contracts for services with local school districts as well as local and state agencies. At the present time, the demand for services outstrips the capacity to provide the services to an increased number of children afflicted with autism and other developmental disabilities. New funding will be used for parent training workshops, in-home training, development of web-based multi-media services for teacher and parent training across the state, expanded research into the science of disabilities, and expanded services to children with developmental disabilities other than autism. Center of Excellence funding will support the addition of faculty who will teach in our master's degree program in behavior analysis.

The Houston Partnership for Environmental Studies is a special item which funds the Environmental Institute of Houston, a joint project of UH-Clear Lake and the University of Houston. The institute supports research on environmental issues such as air and water quality, professional development of science teachers, and broad-based participation in the resolution of environmental issues. Additional funding will be used to expand environmental education for K-12 teachers, enhance research and technical support in the area of geographic information systems, supplement research funding on environmental issues by university faculty in partnership with state and federal agencies, and to purchase research-related equipment.

Tuition Revenue Bonds

The University of Houston-Clear Lake requests tuition revenue bonds for a Science and Academic Support Building. UH-Clear Lake has made a major commitment to science education with undergraduate and/or graduate programs in biology, biotechnology, chemistry, environmental science, and physics. In addition, UHCL is home to the Environmental Institute of Houston which has a focus on training K-12 science teachers to meet the shortage of qualified teachers as well as offering continuing professional development opportunities for science teachers in area school districts. With the expansion of UHCL from an upper-level to a four-year university, additional science courses will need to be offered to freshmen and sophomore students as part of their core curriculum requirements which will require additional laboratories and classrooms.

UHCL will also use a new Science and Academic Support Building to house new programs to enhance student retention and graduation including a Center for Student Success. The center would provide learning assistance programs, tutoring services, and academic early referral programs to assist students having academic challenges.

Summary

The University of Houston-Clear Lake is committed to increasing the college-going and college-graduation rates for the Houston-Galveston region and the State of Texas. Due to changing demographics, UH-Clear

Lake will focus increased attention on first-generation college students whose families may have little, if any, experience with higher education. Special attention will continue to be given to students who transfer to UHCL from area community colleges. At the same time, UHCL will enhance its course offerings at the graduate level via on-campus, off-campus, and online programs to meet the educational needs of working adults. As a partnership-oriented and community-minded university, UH-Clear Lake will continue to form partnerships with businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations as well as area school districts, community colleges, and universities to develop the educational resources to meet the needs of area employers and our community.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Houston Partnership for Environmental Studies
(Existing Item)

Description and Justification:
This special item funds the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH), a partnership among the University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Houston, agencies, businesses and environmental organizations. The institute supports research, professional development, and broad based participatory efforts for environmental issue resolution. EIH provides funding for research efforts of faculty and students at both universities in four focus areas: pollution prevention, natural resource conservation, environmental public policy, and social issues related to the environment. Balanced environmental education is an important activity and outcome of these research efforts. Many agencies partner with EIH in research or education projects because our combined expertise enhances services provided to the citizens of Texas. EIH is known for its scientific credibility and objectivity. EIH has been called upon increasingly to provide research support on various environmental issues addressed by various agency programs. In the future these programs will require GIS support, computer modeling and analysis, and analytical lab support. Many of these new resources will be needed to remain competitive in response to future research and educational needs and funding opportunities identified by agencies and local community partners. They include 1) establishing a NELAC certified lab with advanced instrumentation and support staff to meet the funding agencies quality assurance requirements for environmental projects, 2) support additional GIS & ecosystem modeling staff for large scale global, watershed and ecoregions research funding agency initiatives, 3) enhance faculty seed grant funding used to secure additional external funding. We predict that the addition of these resources would likely lead to an increase in external funding by $2M per year. In addition, seed grants would also generate up to an additional $1M by affiliated faculty.

Factors Impacting Strategy:
The Houston-Galveston area is a natural laboratory for studying the balance of economic development and environmental quality. A very large industrial complex and rapidly expanding urban population is situated adjacent to and surrounded by sensitive wetland, forest, and bay ecosystems. The region has a long history of environmental disputes, but has gained a national reputation for broad-based consensus approaches to environmental planning and issue resolution. EIH is the major interface between the community and the UH System for participation in environmental issues. The emphasis on education reform has provided an impetus for enhancement of environmental education (EE) in Texas. Government agencies and businesses are less likely to have personnel to devote to environmental education. Therefore, the services of EIH are in great demand for professional continuing education and development for teachers in EE. Local communities and funding agencies are also in need of new GIS based ecosystem analyses and systems modeling capacity to support new challenges associated with climate change, land-use, and oil spills. The need for holistic integrated analyses that incorporates geo-spatial technology is needed to inform decision makers. Increasingly funding agencies in the environmental field require extensive GIS and ecosystem modeling to analyze complex environmental issues. Analytical lab support with dedicated laboratory staff is also needed to meet the complex quality assurance reporting of required by many funding agencies. Current staff cannot address these important issues because of specialized training requirements and/or workloads. It is conservatively estimated that up to $2 million dollars in research opportunities are being missed annually due to insufficient staff and instrumentation resources. All of these are normally considered “core” resources (e.g. capital and staff) that many funding agencies are reluctant to fund.

	Appropriated		Requested		
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	Priority
Base Dollar Funding	$415,626	$415,626	$403,157	$403,157	
Exceptional Funding			600,000	600,000	2
Total	**$415,626**	**$415,626**	**$1,015,626**	**$1,015,626**	

University of Houston-Clear Lake

High Technologies Laboratory
(Existing Item)

Description and Justification:
The High Technology Laboratory uses a collaborative model of research and development to develop and transfer new technology to the Texas economy while improving education of engineers, scientists and mathematicians who work to reduce risks to Mission and Safety Critical (MASC) systems essential to the goals of NASA. The funds are spent on needed faculty and student salaries and laboratories and computing support needed to conduct this research. In the past this special item funding has been highly leveraged by grant and contract funds from federal agencies and corporations. The primary goal of the High Tech Lab for this next biennium is to help NASA and its selected contractors to successfully develop the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) Project as a part of its long range Constellation Program.

Factors Impacting Strategy:
The announcement of the CEV contract awards in August 2006 is a major milestone in restoring NASA research and development funding to the Johnson Space Center more than a decade after the space station program became "Operational" and was no longer a "Research and Development" program. Because of the critical role of the CEV and its assignment to JSC, NASA/JSC is now the focal point for our nation's hopes for the future of the human exploration, research and development of space. The High Tech Lab provides an objective mechanism for conducting and reporting the needed research to reduce the Mission and Safety Critical risks of required computing and communications systems. Continued funding will ensure the continued development and support of joint research among NASA, UHCL and aerospace contractors.

	Appropriated		Requested	
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Base Dollar Funding	$57,546	$57,546	$55,819	$55,819
Exceptional Funding				
Total	**$57,546**	**$57,546**	**$55,819**	**$55,819**

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Tuition Revenue Bond – Debt Service
(Existing Item)

Description and Justification:
This request is for a continuation of the current item which provides funding for the tuition revenue bonds issued for the University of Houston-Clear Lake for the Student Services/Classroom Building and Arbor Building.

Exceptional Funding Request
Debt Service Request for the new 160,000 gross square foot facility includes the Science and Academic Support Building.

Factors Impacting Strategy:
UHCL has a required debt payment of approximately $3 million over 20 years.

	Appropriated		Requested		
	FY10	**FY11**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**Priority**
Base Dollar Funding	$3,204,841	$3,200,441	$3,021,588	$3,024,363	
Exceptional Funding				6,225,889	3
Total	**$3,204,841**	**$3,200,441**	**$3,021,588**	**$9,250,252**	

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities
(New Item)

Description and Justification:
Established in March 2008, the UHCL Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD) is staffed by faculty and students in the Applied Behavior Analysis, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Education graduate programs. The Center's goals are to support research on autism and developmental disabilities, train current and future professionals to serve as leaders in the fields of psychology and education, and provide services to children and their families through partnerships with area school districts and community organizations.

Current Center activities include school-based consultation for teachers of children with autism and developmental disabilities, clinic-based intensive therapy for children with autism ages 3 to 8, home-based early language intervention for children with Downs' syndrome, and comprehensive diagnostic assessments for children suspected of having a disability. Funds for materials, equipment, student stipends, and staff support will provide the Center with the much-needed infrastructure to attract additional funding from national agencies such as National Institutes of Health and the Department of Education and expand vital services to an increased number of children afflicted with autism and other developmental disabilities. With sustained support from the state of Texas and project funding from other sources, some of the additional services which the Center would be able to provide include:

- Parent training workshops,
- In-home training,
- Web-based, multi-media services to provide training to teachers and parents across the state and nationwide,
- Expanded research into the science of disabilities and the best teaching methods for children afflicted with autism and Downs Syndrome, and
- Expanded services from working only with children with autism or Down's syndrome to working with children with any developmental disabilities or to children who are at risk for developmental delay.

Factors Impacting Strategy:
The focus on research and services for individuals with autism has exploded both nationally and locally. A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 6.6 per 1,000 (approximately 1 in 152) children eight years of age have an autism spectrum disorder. According to statistics available from the U.S. Department of Education, the prevalence of children with autism in the Texas public schools increased by 594% from 1992 to 2003. In 2003, almost 12,000 students in Texas—1 out of 291 children—had autism. The demand for services also is expected to increase in Texas as a result of a state law passed on June 16, 2007, which requires health plans to provide coverage for autistic children two to six years of age (Tex. Stat. Ann. Ins. § 1355.015). Eight states have recently passed similar legislation and many more states are expected to do so within the next few years. Nonetheless, Texas has a serious shortage of individuals who are qualified to work with this population. As the 4th most populous city in the U.S., Houston is well positioned to advance research, training, and treatment through a university-based Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. University of Houston-Clear Lake has already secured more than $800,000 in contracts from local school districts, foundations, and state agencies since August 2005 to provide treatment, training, and services to individuals with autism and their caregivers.

	Appropriated		Requested		
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	Priority
Base Dollar Funding					
Exceptional Funding			$400,000	$450,000	1
Total			**$400,000**	**$450,000**	

University of Houston-Clear Lake

TRB Project Request
Science and Academic Support Building
(New Item)

Description and Justification

In an effort to continue our commitment towards success and academic excellence, a new 160,000 gross square foot facility is needed. A major goal is to house a Center for Student Success, which is designed to cultivate the lifelong learning potential of UHCL students. The center's mission would seek to expand personal growth and opportunity, advance social and community development, provide outreach and support services to under-served populations, and improve the quality of life.

Support to all students will include College Transitions Programs, Learning Assistance Programs, Tutoring Programs, and Academic early referral programs.

A second goal is to provide additional space to support research and academic excellence in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic fields.

	Requested	Priority
TRB Bonding Authority Request	$68,600,000	1
Total	**$68,600,000**	