



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • May 2018

UH System

New President Selected for UHV

After a nationwide search co-chaired by former regent **Roger Welder** and Vice Chancellor **Dona Cornell** and participated in by the campus and at large Victoria community, I have selected **Robert K. (Bob) Glenn** to lead UHV. Dr. Glenn comes with a decade of experience at a similar institution and was supported by all.

Construction Begins for UH System's Katy Campus

Groundbreaking took place yesterday, May 23, for the new UH Katy campus near the intersection of Interstate 10 and the Grand Parkway in northwest Houston. It is envisioned that the new campus will house 8,000 students split between UH and UHV. A detailed enrollment plan will guide program offerings which will begin in the fall of 2019. Currently, UH and UHV are offering courses from rental facilities in Katy.

UH System Lives Up to its Mission

UH System now graduates over 16,000 students, up from 11,000 a decade ago. During the 2017-2018 academic calendar our universities achieved the following total graduation rates:

- UH 9,439
- UHCL 2,569
- UHD 3,309
- UHV 1,100

Considering that the vast majority of our graduates stay and contribute to the Greater Houston and surrounding region's economy, it goes without

saying that we are fulfilling our mission. Aside from seasonal variations, the enrollment across the system remains robust; nonetheless disruptive trends are challenging higher education as never before, and therefore, we must remain dedicated toward our goals and innovative in our strategies to order to fulfill our mission in future.

University of Houston

Bold Expectations Lead to Bold Outcomes

Four years ago, we launched the UHin4 program aimed at fixing tuition, providing targeted advising, but most important, expecting graduation in a timely manner. At the spring commencement, two-thirds of all graduates who joined UH as freshmen completed their degree in four years or less. The average number of credit hours taken by a graduate dropped from 150 credits to 141 credits (several students take double majors) which translates into millions of dollars of saving for students but also for the state.

Federal Grants Fuel Research Activity

UH faculty members continue to win many “million-dollar-plus” federal grants. Other than supporting research ideas, these grants also demonstrate national competitiveness of our faculty because almost always, they are pitched against other Tier One university faculty. The highlight for today is **Zhu Han**, engineering professor, who recently won a \$7.5 million Department of Defense grant to analyze social behavior in the context of large-scale, ultra-dense wireless systems, such as social networks.

Graduate Programs Ranked by USN&WR

Seven graduate programs made the 2019 U.S. News & World Report Top 50 Programs rankings.

- Health Care Law 2
- Intellectual Property Law 5
- Part-Time Law 7
- Petroleum Engineering 13
- Social Work 24
- Chemical Engineering 34
- Industrial Engineering 47

STEM, Entrepreneurship Outreach Win Accolades

The American Mathematical Society gave the 2018 Mathematics Programs That Make a Difference Award to The Cougars and Houston Area Math Program (CHAMP). CHAMP is a mathematics and STEM outreach program for high school and middle school students from underserved communities surrounding the University. CHAMP is directed by **Mark Tomforde**, associate professor of mathematics.

The SURE™ (Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship) program graduated a new class of 150 entrepreneurs, many of whom are Third Ward residents, in April. Texas First Lady **Cecilia Abbott** was keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. The program's director, **Saleha Khumawala**, Robert Grinaker Professor of Accounting at the Bauer College of Business, was recently selected as a 2018 Piper Professor for superior teaching at the college level in Texas. She is the 12th UH faculty member to receive the prestigious honor in the award's 60-year history.

Cougars Win Conference Championships

A number of Cougar sports team have won American Athletic Conference championships.

- Women's Golf Team
- Women's Swimming and Diving Team
- Women's Outdoor Track & Field Team
- Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Team
- Baseball Regular Season Championship

In addition, Cougar Softball finished #2 in the conference, and played in the LSU regionals and Men's Basketball got their first NCAA tournament game victory since 1984.

Vice Chancellor among Houston Business Journal's '40 Under 40'

Jason Smith, UH System vice chancellor and UH vice president for governmental relations, is among the 2018 "40 Under 40" recognized by the Houston Business Journal. This year HBJ received almost 500 nominations. A panel of judges from across industries scored the nominees on leadership, overcoming challenges and community involvement. Including Smith, 11 of the honorees are UH alumni.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Inaugural Freshman Class Graduates

Spring 2018 commencement celebrated the accomplishments of graduates from UHCL's inaugural "freshman" class. Formerly an upper-level university, UHCL gained approval in 2011 from state legislators to add freshman and sophomore-level classes in fall 2014.

High School Seniors Get a Head Start

College-bound high school seniors can get a head start on their college careers as part of the new JumpStart initiative at UHCL. It allows freshman students admitted for the fall 2018 semester to begin taking courses in the summer, and for summer visiting students to complete core courses at UHCL and transfer credits to other Texas institutions.

University of Houston-Downtown

UHD No. 1 in Texas for HUB Expenditures Exceeding \$5M

UHD is ranked as the top state agency for HUB expenditures during the last six months. Since fall 2017, UHD has spent more than 40 percent of its total expenditures with HUB vendors. Many of these HUB contracts involved contractors handling Harvey-related repairs. The University also selected HUB vendors to oversee its custodial services and campus renovations.

Community Leaders Converge on UHD for Trail Opening

UHD's connection to the city is stronger than ever thanks to the opening of the White Oak to Buffalo Bayou Trail. This new paved hike and bike path is located next to UHD in Johnny Goyen Park and provides students and community members with a new route leading directly to campus. The trail is part of the Bayou Greenways 2020 initiative, made possible through a partnership between the Houston Parks Board, City of Houston, Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Harris County Flood Control District.

New Traditions at UHD

Gator Pride is at an all-time high at UHD with the debut of the University's Ring Ceremony on April 28. This formal event presented graduation rings to

seniors who are set to walk the stage this spring. More than 100 students and family members assembled on campus for this event. Greeting them for photo opportunities was the newest addition to campus, UH's eight-foot long Bronze Gator. .

University of Houston-Victoria

Large NSF Grant Received

National Science Foundation awarded a \$645,677 federal grant to UHV to increase enrollment, retention and graduation of low-income students majoring in mathematics and computer science. The grant will be used to increase student enrollment in computer science, information technology, digital gaming and simulation, and mathematics programs, improve the UHV's student support programs, and create a campus STEM learning community with faculty mentorship to support student retention.

Student Center and Library 'Topped Out'

Construction on UHV's new \$32 million student center and library passed a milestone in early May when a "topping out" ceremony took place, marking the end of foundation and framing work on the building. Representatives from the UH System, UHV, BE&K construction, Gensler architecture firm and construction workers each signed a piece of galvanized steel decking that was put in place on the roof of the building, along with a small evergreen tree, as is tradition during a topping out ceremony.

UHV Alma Mater Song Debuts

For the first time in UHV's 45-year history, the University has an alma mater. The school song was revealed during a public event in early May where it

was first sung by UHV junior **Cassie Cameron** before the audience joined in. Development of the alma mater started as a UHV Student Government Association initiative, and the process became a collaboration between students, faculty, staff and alumni who were part of an alma mater committee.