FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UH MPA PROGRAM ANNOUNCES HONOREES FOR ANNUAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Third Annual MPA Public Official of the Year Luncheon Honors Distinguished Public Servants at the local, county and state level.

March 7, 2014

Houston, TX - The 3rd annual Public Official of the Year Ceremony will be held from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Friday March 7th, 2014 at the University of Houston Hilton- Waldorf Astoria Ballroom. The event highlights the work of Houston metropolitan area public officials whose accomplishments may not make the evening news, yet whose tireless work ensures that the public’s everyday needs are addressed and the public good is served.

This year, five finalists have been selected from a plethora of nominees. These individuals exhibit qualities consistent with those espoused in the University’s Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program – trust, accountability, performance, ethical decision-making, and crossing jurisdictional boundaries to solve problems.

1. Mike Alford, District Engineer for the Houston District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

2. Julie M. Robinson, City Administrator of Dickinson, Texas.

3. Mario Diaz, Director, City of Houston Airport System

4. Dottie Kaminski, Councilmember at Large, City of La Porte

5. Allen Bogard, City Manager, City of Sugarland
Dr. James Thurmond, Director of the Master in Public Administration program stated, “We are honored to have them as our finalist and will award a winner during the program. In addition to emphasizing trust, accountability, performance, ethical decision-making, and crossing boundaries to solve problems, the MPA program encourages its students to make these qualities a priority as they develop their careers within the public sector. These qualities are certainly mirrored in the four finalists for the prestigious honor of the Houston Metropolitan Area Public Official of the Year.”

The luncheon is underwritten by Mr. Peter H. Brown, Director of Better Houston, and will feature a keynote address by Mr. James Calaway, CEO and President of Center for Houston’s Future, The Regions’ Think Tank.

For more information about this event please contact MPA Program Director James Thurmond at jhthurmond@uh.edu or 713-743-3930.