



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

**JOHN J. ANTEL, PH.D.**

Theresa M. Monaco Chair


Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UH System

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, UH

July 15, 2011

Memorandum

TO: UH Deans

FROM: J. Antel, Provost 

RE: State TRIP matching for gifts directed at research

The Texas Research Initiative Program (TRIP) was established by the Texas legislature during the 2009 session and is funded at \$34 million for the FY12/FY13 biennium.

The way TRIP works is that gifts and some grants, in support of research activity, of between \$100,000 and \$10 million are matched on a sliding scale. Thus, \$100,000 receives a 50% match, \$1 million receives a 75% match, and \$2 million to \$10 million receives a 100% match. Gifts over \$10 million are not matched. All gifts must be cash received, not pledges or gifts-in-kind. Qualifying gifts include chairs, fellowships, direct research support, labs and capital construction gifts for research space and facilities, and similar support of research activity. The key is that we have clear donor documentation that the gift is supporting research.

This is a tremendous matching opportunity for UH and our donors. TRIP is awarded on a first-come-first-matched basis and qualifying gifts are queued according to deposit date. Therefore, the more gifts submitted earlier in the queue, the more likely UH would receive a larger piece of the pie.

President Khator has urged us to not just maintain TRIP as a priority, but to finish in first place. The good news is that funding for chairs and various research activities is already a significant priority for our university.

Also, we are initiating a change that I think provides tremendous opportunities for deans. I have the president's support to allow 50% of matching funds received to remain in the college, either to supplement the original gift or be used by the dean for a different research purpose.

In other words, for example, you might reach agreement with a donor who will make an \$800,000 gift for a chair and have \$200,000 of the \$400,000 match also go to the chair, bringing it to the \$1 million minimum level for a named chair at UH. Or, maybe you have a donor who is willing to make a \$100,000 gift for fellowships and \$25,000 of the \$50,000 match is retained by the dean to use at hers/his discretion on a separate research priority within the college. The key is being transparent with donors when discussing their gift opportunities.

President Khator and I see the value in incentivizing donors to consider supporting research as they plan their gifts. The tricky part of course is that we cannot promise donors that their gifts will be matched by TRIP, only that there is that possibility. Nevertheless, we believe there are donors who will appreciate the opportunity and strongly consider research as a viable option for their support.

The Advancement team is prepared to continue working with you and your development staff if you need assistance with or have questions about a particular donor situation. They can also help you with the TRIP process, such as making absolutely sure you have correct wording in a donor agreement.

We have 30 days from the time the gift is deposited to be submitted to the state, so all gifts that you think might apply, please do not hesitate to contact Eli Cipriano or Lisa Holdeman to ascertain the proper documentation required.

Thank you.