

RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
MAY 14, 2013

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

■ At the Board of Regents retreat in October we talked about the need for the UH System to fulfill its mission of educating more students, thereby contributing to the region's workforce needs. The chart below confirms we are on the right path, with the UH System universities awarding a record number of degrees – 7,232 – at fourteen commencement ceremonies this spring. This figure shows a 20% increase in degrees awarded over a five-year period.

	Spring '09	Spring '13*	(percentage increase)
UH	3,779	4,438	17.4 %
UHCL	1,046	1,202	14.9 %
UHD	844	1,039	23.1 %
UHV	348	553	58.9 %

(*) Preliminary figures for all universities

■ The state's public universities producing the highest-earning graduates are not necessarily the traditionally recognized flagship institutions, according to a [report](#) from College Measures, a higher education research organization. All four UHS universities are among the top 10 in the state for median first-year earnings by bachelor's degree recipients. UH-Clear Lake is at the very top (\$48,086), with UH-Downtown number 3 (47,008), UH-Victoria number 4 (\$44,157), and UH number 9 (\$42,319).

■ An economic impact survey conducted by Barton Smith, UH professor emeritus of economics, shows that the UHS contributes \$2.2 billion to the GRP (gross regional product) and \$3.6 billion in total regional sales. The UH System disburses \$510 million in salaries and brings in \$121 million in outside research funding, all of which contributes to the vitality of the region's economy.

■ With the designation of UH-Victoria as an Hispanic Serving Institution, the UHS is now the nation's only university system so designated (see item under UH-Victoria Achievements)

■ Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board data show the UHS leads in the percentage of enrollments delivered through distance learning. This includes enrollments offered online or in a hybrid-format that reduces seat-time by at least 50%, allowing for more efficient use of classroom space. The UHS delivers 19.9% of all SCH through distance education, compared to UT System (6.5%), Texas A&M System (8.9%), Texas Tech System (6.4%), University of North Texas System (10.8%), and Texas State System (7.9%).

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Ognjen Miljanić**, assistant professor of chemistry, has been selected as a 2013 Cottrell Scholar, the first UH faculty member to receive this recognition and the *only* scholar from Texas among this year's 13 honorees. Awarded by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, the honor goes to early-career science educators in the physical sciences and related fields. The award is one of several recognized by the Top American Research Universities as defining Tier One universities. Cottrell Scholars meet in an annual forum to share methods to improve undergraduate science education and increase retention of undergraduate science majors.
- Continuing its commitment to education at UH, ConocoPhillips has added another \$1 million in support of the ConocoPhillips Petroleum Engineering Building in the growing Energy Research Park, bringing to \$3 million its contributions for this facility.
- **Mike Harold**, M.D. Anderson Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and department chair, has been awarded the 2013 Esther Farfel Award. The honor, which comes with a \$10,000 cash prize, is the highest accolade UH bestows on a faculty member and is given in recognition of excellence in research and scholarship, teaching, and service.
- Two new dual-degree programs will put UH undergraduates on a fast track to becoming physicians. Partnering with the UT Health Science Center at Houston and the UT Medical Branch at Galveston, UH will allow students to earn credit hours toward both a Bachelor of Science from UH and a Doctor of Medicine from either UTHealth or UTMB in seven years instead of the usual eight required for becoming a doctor.
- **Lindsey M. Brier**, mathematical biology major and Honors College student, has been awarded a prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship, one of the most competitive of all national scholarships. Brier plans to pursue a career conducting research in pharmaceutical chemistry and teaching at the university level.

UH-CLEAR LAKE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Houston Endowment Inc. awarded a \$1 million grant to support UH-Clear Lake's downward expansion. The transition to a four-year university will be the second most significant development in UHCL's history – second only to its opening in fall 1974. Future freshmen and sophomores may begin the application process as early as Fall 2013 for the fall 2014 semester.
- UHCL opened its new Cyber Security Institute in Spring 2013. It will offer free and fee-based services to organizations and companies in the region, including public seminars for small business owners and summer camps for high school and college students.
- UHCL's "The Choice is Clear" advertising campaign received three gold and three silver ADDY[®] Awards from the American Advertising Federation-Houston. Launched in 2012, the

campaign includes billboards, print ads, signs, and other materials featuring eye-catching slogans such as “What do you call a UHCL grad?... Boss!” ... “Created for NASA in 1974. Still Launching Careers”... and “We Never Made the List of Top Party Schools.”

UH-DOWNTOWN ACHIEVEMENTS

■ UH-Downtown has received a \$1 million grant from Houston Endowment to expand student advising services. Plans for a new Advising Center include the hiring of 13 new advisors and completion of new advising facilities. These efforts will support retention and graduation by helping students choose appropriate majors, make better course selections, and ensure that steady progress is made toward graduation.

■ **Trevor Hale**, associate professor of management, has been awarded his third Summer Faculty Fellowship by the Office of Naval Research (ONR). He will work with the Navy’s top scientists to determine the critical policies and associated infrastructure needed for various levels of cybersecurity. Each year, more than 1,000 faculty members from universities across the nation apply for approximately 100 Summer Faculty Fellowships offered by the ONR.

■ **Ping Chen**, professor of computer and mathematical sciences, has received two research grants totaling \$644,000. The first grant, from the National Institutes of Health, will fund “Efficiency and Discovery of Medical Associations.” The second award, from the National Science Foundation, will fund “Research Experiences in Algorithm Design and Analysis for Students in Undergraduate Institution.”

UH-VICTORIA ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Houston Endowment has awarded one of the largest grants in UH-Victoria’s history to help fund a graduate-level family nurse practitioner program. The \$800,000 grant is for the new Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner track. It will support students as well as provide for faculty development. UHV has received more than \$1.6 million in external gifts since September, and is on pace to set an all-time fundraising record this fiscal year.

■ The U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education has designated UHV as an Hispanic Serving Institution. The designation makes UHV eligible for Title III and V benefits, including a waiver of non-federal matching funds for programs such as Work Study, Opportunity Grants, and academic support services. Since UHV admitted freshmen three years ago, Hispanic enrollments have nearly doubled, and African American enrollment is up by two-thirds. With this designation, the UH System becomes the first higher education system in Texas in which *all* component institutions are HSIs.

■ For the first time, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the UHV School of Business Administration one of the nation’s best graduate schools. It is ranked No. 139 among graduate business programs with online delivery. The UHV School of Nursing came in at No. 295 for its rapidly-developing graduate nursing program.