

**RENU KHATOR**  
**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**  
**UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**  
**AUGUST 20, 2014**

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## UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Preliminary figures show a 2% increase in enrollment throughout the UH System. As of yesterday, 67,299 students have enrolled, up from certified final figures of 65,952 system-wide in Fall 2013.

	2013 (certified final)	2014 (as of Aug. 19)
UH	39,540	39,974 (+1.1%)
UHCL	8,164	8,735 (+7)
UHD	13,757	14,032 (+2%)
UHV	4,491	4,558 (+1.5%)
<b>UHS Total</b>	<b>65,952</b>	<b>67,299 (+2%)</b>

■ Ninety-nine [online programs](#) are being offered by the UHS, making it easier for students to work toward their degrees at a time and place convenient for them. The programs include 29 certificates, 37 undergraduate degrees, and 33 master's degrees in business, computer science, construction management, criminal justice, and subsea engineering, among others. In addition, the UH System is offering 11 MOOCs this semester, including 10 from UH and 1 from UH-Victoria. As of yesterday, 55,000 students had enrolled in these MOOCs.

■ The UH System continues to expand its footprint, this time into [San Antonio](#), where the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management has started offering upper-division courses toward a bachelor of science degree in partnership with St. Philip's College, a longtime premier provider of hospitality education in that city. An inaugural class of 15 students has enrolled in this program, with more planning to enroll for the Spring 2015 semester.

## UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

■ The recruiting of women STEM faculty and other diversity-related initiatives at UH got a big boost recently with the announcement that the National Science Foundation is awarding UH a \$3.3 million [ADVANCE](#) Institutional Transformation grant to create a Center for Advancing Faculty Success. The goals of the Center are to recruit and retain more women STEM faculty and women STEM faculty of color, increase the number of, and support for, women faculty in

administrative leadership positions, and build the necessary infrastructure to make gender equity and diversity campus-wide priorities.

- Nearly 50% of the incoming Fall 2014 freshman class has signed up for “[UHin4](#),” the new program that helps students graduate in four years by providing systematic academic advising and degree plan monitoring. “UHin4” also offers a fixed-tuition plan option with the same rate for four years, allowing students and parents to accurately prepare their budgets.
- UH has been recognized as one of the “[50 Most Affordable Colleges with the Best Return](#)” by Affordable Schools, an online guide. In its rankings, Affordable Schools balanced the tuition costs of universities for the 2013-14 academic year with the expected income of students graduating with bachelor’s degrees. UH’s in-state undergraduate tuition was \$9,318. The salary for graduating students was approximately \$49,500, and mid-career earnings were approximately \$85,200. Based on the survey, the 15-year return on investment for students was \$1,010,250.
- Students from the C.T. Bauer College of Business swept the top three awards at a recent U.S. Energy Department National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition in Washington, D.C., besting teams from MIT and Michigan State, among others. The students are members of the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship. Their team, called [REEcycle](#), won the grand prize, the audience investor choice award, and the people’s choice award for their plan to recycle rare earth elements critical for clean energy technologies.
- UH’s successes in creating private sector partnerships attracted President Ivo Josipović of the Republic of Croatia to campus in May as part of a fact-finding U.S. tour. The [visit](#) set the stage for a Memorandum of Understanding between UH and Croatia’s University of Zagreb, which was signed in July. During his visit, the Moores School of Music honored Josipović, who is an accomplished classical composer, with a special performance of one of his piano compositions.
- Mayor Annise Parker proclaimed August 1 as [Houston Shakespeare Festival Day](#) in honor of the festival’s 40th anniversary. Produced annually by the School of Theatre and Dance, the festival has grown into one of the city’s major cultural events, presenting free performances of two Shakespearean productions in Miller Outdoor Theater each summer before audiences numbering in the thousands.

## **UH-CLEAR LAKE ACHIEVEMENTS**

- UHCL will welcome its first-ever [freshman](#) and sophomore students next Monday, a historic day for the university, which had been an upper-level institution since its establishment in 1974. Preliminary numbers indicate freshman and sophomore enrollment is on track to meet the university’s 300-plus goal. More than 2,500 prospective students applied.
- UHCL has added a [second doctoral degree](#) to its portfolio. In July, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted approval for a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with STEM-related focus. The new degree will be offered beginning Spring 2015. UHCL’s first doctoral degree, in Educational Leadership, was approved by THECB in 2006.

- UHCL continues to expand its international partnerships with the signing of a [2+2 agreement](#) with Vietnam National University-Hanoi. The program allows VNU engineering and technology students to complete their first two years in Vietnam before completing their Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at UHCL. The agreement, subject to approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is the second with VNU-Hanoi. UHCL also has partnerships with universities in China, Taiwan, Thailand, India, and Japan.

## **UH-DOWNTOWN ACHIEVEMENTS**

- UHD is the only institution in Houston – and one of only three in Texas – to receive a 2014 National Endowment for the Arts grant to host the [Big Read](#) program. The Big Read is designed to revitalize the role of reading by exposing citizens to great works of literature, encouraging them to read for pleasure, and supporting lifelong learning. UHD will host more than a dozen Big Read community events, including the UHD First-Year Common Reading Program for incoming freshmen. The UHD Big Read initiative includes a partnership with all Harmony Schools in the Southwest region, where more than 100 teachers will integrate the Big Read in their language arts curriculum, reaching thousands of high school students.

- A group of UHD [drama students](#) and faculty traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, in early August to participate in the Fringe Festival. The group gave nine performances of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” in the original pronunciation. The Fringe Festival is the largest arts festival in the world with over 45,000 performances of more than 2,750 shows within a three week period. The UHD performers were one of only two groups from Houston.

- Shell Oil Co. and the UHD Advanced Materials Lab have entered into an agreement to assess the chemical and physical stability and overall suitability of certain polymers for applications as thermal insulators. This project will involve a number of undergraduate student researchers from the College of Sciences and Technology, working alongside faculty researchers. The Advanced Materials Lab is unique among university labs of its kind.

## **UH-VICTORIA ACHIEVEMENTS**

- For the first time since UHV expanded downward in Fall 2010, new freshman enrollment is expected to reach 400 this fall. Freshman enrollment increased 15 percent from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013, when there were 311 freshmen on campus. Jaguar Village, where UHV’s residence halls are located, can house 615 students and is expected to be at capacity.

- The UHV Jaguars will join the [Red River Athletic Conference](#) beginning in the 2015-2016 competition year. The Jaguars have been members of the Association of Independent Institutions Conference for the past seven years and will continue to compete in the conference during the 2014-2015 season. The Red River Athletic Conference is comprised of 12 teams from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

- [Construction](#) projects are in full swing on campus to keep up with increasing enrollment. A three-story, \$12.7 million Academic and Regional Economic Development Building is scheduled

to open in Spring 2015. It will include a 200-seat auditorium, a 400-seat multipurpose room, the School of Business Administration, and the new Regional Center for Economic Development. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for a 2,400-square-foot Athletic Training Room took place in July. The university also is expanding a teaching science lab and Jaguar Hall Dining.