Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Paula Myrick Short champions the alliance between the University of Houston and Swansea University, reaffirming the desire to draw on the shared synergies of the two institutions. Short hosted a luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 28, the last day of the UH leg of the Texas Research Excellence Showcase, during which she expressed her hopes for an academically vibrant future with Swansea University.

“Swansea University is our strongest European partner,” Provost Short said during her opening remarks at lunch. “Over the last three days, we have seen the stellar work of Swansea University in the fields of medicine and nanotechnology, law and society, science and engineering, and art and the humanities. We are just beginning to scratch the surface, and excited to see what the future holds.”

Swansea University Chancellor Rhodri Morgan, former First Minister of Wales, offered his own hopeful sentiments for the blossoming partnership. He spoke on the importance of international relationships and friendships, which are essential to produce graduates ready to enter the global workforce.

“An example of a smart university is taking Wales to the world, and bringing the world to Wales,” Morgan stated. “The way to do this is through strategic partnerships with an institution that provides a complementary set of competencies from which to draw. From developing the right kind of academic enhancements, with the right faculty, to producing the right type of research.”

The Provost lunch became the capstone for solidifying the partnership’s momentum as UH faculty sought out their SU counterparts to exchange research ideas and discuss the lectures series.

“Academic programs, faculty, and student exchanges are forthcoming,” said Jaime Ortiz, Vice Provost for Global Strategies and Studies. “Perhaps very soon, as we’ve already seen substantial activity with Swansea from the Graduate College of Social Work, the Department of Political Science, and Learning Abroad.”

The Tuesday series of the Texas Research Excellence Showcase featured Swansea University faculty with their UH counterparts, including:

- **Ben Evans**, Aerospace Engineer and member of the design team for the BLOODHOUND SSC Land Speed Record project, co-chaired by **Bonnie Dunbar**, Aerospace Engineering professor and director of the STEM Center at UH and **Suresh Khator**, associate dean of the Cullen College of Engineering;
- **Rory Wilson**, lead consulting scientist for the National Geographic groundbreaking series, “Great Migration” with an introduction provided by Gemunu Gunaratne, professor and chair of the Physics Department;
- **David Worsley**, head of the SU Research Centre focusing on “buildings as power stations delivering clean renewable energy from the built environment”, with responses provided by **Ramanan Krishnamoorti**, Chief Energy Officer at UH; and
- a lecture and panel discussion on the Human Rights of Children and Young People with the Rt. Honorable Chancellor **Rhodri Morgan**; **Jane Williams**, former Shadow Minister of the First Assembly of Wales; **Helen Mary Jones**, Shadow Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning,
and Sir Roderick Evans, Pro Chancellor of the Council of Swansea University and former High Court judge of the Queen’s Bench Division, with responses from Dean Leonard Baynes of the UH Law Center, and Interim Dean Paul Raffoul from the Graduate School of Social Work at UH.