RENU KHATOR is president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the UH System, overseeing an organization that serves more than 65,000 students, has an annual budget that exceeds $1.3 billion, and generates a $3 billion-plus impact on the Greater Houston area’s economy each year.

During her tenure, UH has experienced record-breaking research funding, enrollment and private donations. In FY2010, UH brought in $114 million in research awards and enjoyed unprecedented community support with 25,000 donors contributing $102 million. UH began construction of its 75-acre Energy Research Park and became a full member of the Texas Medical Center. In 2011, UH became a Tier One university, with the Carnegie Foundation elevating it into the top category of research universities, joining UT, Texas A&M and Rice.

Khator, who was born in Uttar Pradesh, India, recently joined some of the world’s most respected leaders when she was named to the Indian Prime Minister’s Global Advisory Council. She serves on many local, state and international boards, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the American Council on Education, the Greater Houston Partnership, the Houston Technology Center, the Texas Medical Center CEO Group and the Business-Higher Education Forum Board of Directors. A noted scholar in the field of global environmental policy, she has published numerous books and articles on this subject.

The first Indian immigrant to head a comprehensive public research university in the United States, Khator was appointed in January 2008.

Quick Facts

Education

Ph.D. 1985 Purdue University (Political Science/Public Administration)
M.A. 1975 Purdue University (Political Science)
B.A. 1973 Kanpur University, India (Liberal Arts)

University of Houston

Founded in 1927, the University of Houston is Texas’ third-largest university and a Tier One research institution. With an enrollment of 39,000, UH awards 7,000 degrees annually, including approximately 200 Ph.D.s. Recognized for its student diversity, UH have no racial majority on campus and an international student body from 140 countries.

University of Houston System

The UH System, the state’s only metropolitan higher education system, includes the University of Houston, a doctoral degree-granting, comprehensive research university; UH-Downtown, a four-year undergraduate university with selected graduate programs; UH-Clear Lake, specializing in upper-level and graduate programs, including one Ph.D. program; and UH-Victoria, a four-year institution with master’s degree programs. In addition, the UH System consists of teaching centers at Cinco Ranch, Northwest Houston, Pearland and Sugar Land as well as KUHF-FM, Houston’s NPR and classical music station, and KUHT-TV, the nation’s first educational TV station.

Selected Awards and Honors

Outstanding American by Choice Award given by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to recognize the outstanding achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens.

Recipient of Hind Rattan (Jewel of India) award given to non-resident Indians who have made outstanding contributions in their field.

Education Excellence Award from the Greater Houston Women’s Chamber of Commerce.

Arrival Award Honoree (Recognizing Immigrant Achievement) from the UH Law Center.

Honored as one of Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women by Houston Woman Magazine.

Doctor of Social Sciences degree, honoris causa. Purdue University.

For more information, please visit www.uh.edu/president