



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

**RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

- UH has been selected to lead a national research center, the Subsea Systems Institute, to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico. The institute will be led by UH, working with Rice, NASA's Johnson Space Center, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College, and Lone Star College, and serve as a liaison for industry and government regulators, developing new materials and science-based policies, as well as overseeing workforce training.
- Texas native Matthew McConaughey, Academy Award-winning actor and philanthropist, will deliver the inaugural university-wide Commencement address at TDECU Stadium Friday, May 15. The announcement produced considerable excitement within the campus community and the general public as well as unprecedented coverage in social and mainstream media. McConaughey's father, "Big Jim" McConaughey, played football at UH.
- UH has been included in the Princeton Review's recent guide "Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Best Value Colleges and What It Takes to Get In." The publication evaluates the nation's best and most affordable colleges that also have excellent records of alumni employment.
- Tom Herman, offensive coordinator for Ohio State's national champion team, has been named Head Coach of our football program. Before joining Ohio State, he spent more than a decade of his coaching career in Texas, including posts at Sam Houston State, Rice and the University of Texas. In related Athletics news, the UH baseball team received its highest preseason ranking in program history, at No. 3 in the nation, by Baseball America in its Top 25 poll.
- The Cougar Experience Scholarship program has been launched to help defray the costs of freshmen living on campus, with State Sen. John Whitmire making the first gift to this fund. Research shows that students who live on campus have slightly higher GPAs, take more credit hours, are less likely to withdraw, and are more likely to finish a degree in four years. Students can start applying for the \$4,000 scholarship this spring for on-campus living in Fall 2015.
- Recent community engagement activities include the CHAMP program directed by Mark Tomforde, associate professor of mathematics. This STEM program puts high school students in contact with UH professors, graduate students, and undergraduates. The program includes math lessons and tutoring on campus, and sessions at places such as the Good Hope Academy sponsored by the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Students also come from the neighboring College High School at Felix Fraga and Stephen F. Austin High School.