



University of Houston Clear Lake

September 15, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

The 2016-2017 academic year marks the 43rd year of the University of Houston-Clear Lake and our third year as a four-year university. I have had the privilege and honor of serving as president of UH-Clear Lake since 1995, making this my 22nd year as president. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Alfred Neumann, Dr. Thomas Stauffer and Dr. Glenn Goerke. I joined UHCL in 1979 as an associate professor in what was then the School of Business and Public Administration, which makes this my 38th year at the university. I had the opportunity to serve that school as professor of marketing, program director, associate dean and dean before becoming president in 1995. I have come to the decision that the 2016-2017 academic year will be my last year as president of UHCL, and I will leave the position at the end of August 2017.

I am very proud of what we have achieved together at UHCL. These accomplishments will make UHCL a very attractive opportunity for the university's next president. I applaud the work of our faculty, staff and administration for reaching major milestones in UHCL's history, including our transition to a four-year university in 2014, the opening of the UHCL Pearland Campus in 2010, the approval of our first doctoral program in 2007, our entry into the Texas Medical Center with our healthcare administration programs and the opening of the Student Services and Classroom Building in 2004. I also acknowledge and thank the many donors and community partners who have helped us increase our number of endowments from less than 75 in 1999 to 158 in 2016.

This academic year will bring major new developments to UHCL including the groundbreaking for a number of new buildings: the STEM and Classroom Building, the Recreation and Wellness Center and the Police Building at UHCL, and the Health Sciences and Classroom Building at UHCL Pearland Campus. We also anticipate breaking ground for additional student housing at UHCL. These collective building projects will be the most significant new facility development in UHCL's history and are much needed as UHCL continues to develop as a four-year university. Beyond facilities, this year we start our third doctoral program – the doctorate in psychology (Psy. D.) in our College of Human Sciences and Humanities. We also will seek approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer the bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in our newly named College of Science and Engineering, which will represent a major step forward for UHCL in undergraduate engineering education.

Spring 2017 will bring the start of the 85th session of the Texas Legislature. We are very grateful for the new funding we received in the 2015 session, which was probably the best legislative session in UHCL's history due to the funding of both the STEM and Health Sciences Buildings, the start-up funding for our transition to a four-year university, the 50% increase in the Higher Education Fund and the new special item funding for our Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

Major projects for this coming year will include a comprehensive review of UHCL's graduate programs in light of the recent enrollment trends in all four colleges. Other key projects will include assessment of and planning for programs to be offered at UHCL Pearland Campus, as well as programs to be offered via UHCL Online.

I applaud the commitment to excellence of our faculty and staff at UHCL. We were very pleased to be recognized for the first time by U.S. News and World Report in 2016 as one of the best regional universities in the West with a ranking of 81st. We have just learned that for the coming year we will be on this list again, and rank in a tie for the 74th position. We can also be very proud

that in the annual survey of our graduating students, 92% of respondents indicated they would recommend UHCL to family and friends. Your efforts have made a significant difference in the success of UHCL.

I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead to continue to advance UHCL as a four-year university that is dedicated to student success.

Best regards,

William A. Staples
President