As we turn another page in the history of University of Houston-Clear Lake, we take a moment to reflect with pride upon the past year and a significant milestone we have achieved in our educational journey. A record-breaking number of graduates crossed the stage this year, each embodying the success and ambition that UHCL has always nurtured.

Our commitment to excellence has been nationally recognized. In 2022, U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges elevated our designation from regional to national. This is not merely an honor, but a testament to the academic quality we offer and a reward for our unending pursuit of excellence.

Excellence is not achieved in isolation. We are deeply grateful to our student advocacy programs, which work tirelessly to remove barriers that could inhibit success. These initiatives are a cornerstone of our mission to guide every student on their unique path to professional and personal fulfillment.

Our success this year in securing grants and establishing strategic partnerships has expanded the horizons for UHCL. These opportunities benefit our current students, but they also amplify our role in serving the broader community. Our well-equipped and driven graduates are making substantial contributions to Texas' economy, thereby impacting positive change and growth at a grand scale.

None of this could be accomplished without our exceptional faculty. They are more than just educators; they are the architects of the future, shaping the minds of the students who will go on to become leaders in their respective fields.

As we unfold the pages of this report, you will find the stories of our accomplished students, alumni, and the remarkable staff and faculty who make UHCL a transformative experience. We owe a special note of gratitude to our donors. Your generosity has been the wind beneath the wings of our UHCL Hawks, helping them soar to new heights of success.

As we look ahead, let us take inspiration from our Impact 2025 Strategic Plan—Transform, Translate, Transcend—which will continue to guide our steps toward greater collaboration, innovation, and community engagement. Our intention remains clear: UHCL is the transformative ground for students aiming to become agents of change, standing at the vanguard of community growth.

With your continued support, the promise of UHCL's future is brighter than ever.

Sincerely,

Richard Walker, Ed.D.
President
By reaching for excellence in everything we do, we will climb every mountain that lies before us.
2,247 students received their diploma—the largest class UHCL has ever graduated.
The Counseling and Mental Health Center serves as a cornerstone of UHCL's commitment to student well-being, offering a broad spectrum of services. From individual, group, and couples therapy to psychiatric aid, self-help resources, workshops, and presentations, the university aims to cultivate a culture that prioritizes mental health.

Through educational opportunities, advocacy, and community building, the Center for Student Advocacy & Community (CSAC) supports the personal and professional development of UHCL students navigating the college experience. CSAC empowers students by providing essential services that meet basic needs, along with resources and education that foster student success.

UHCL has been recognized as one of 76 new members of the First Scholars Network, an initiative by the Center for First-generation Student Success. This membership underscores UHCL's ongoing commitment to enhancing the experiences and outcomes of first-generation college students through a four-phase approach that includes community building, resource sharing, and peer networking, placing the university among more than 350 institutions that are part of this network.
The Division of Student Affairs launched the Student Center Initiative, a student-driven effort to support the creation of UHCL’s first Student Center. Results of a student referendum overwhelmingly confirmed support for the project. The Student Center is intended to become the heart of the UHCL campus, as the central location for campus life.

In May, UHCL announced its strategic expansion into the Texas Medical Center. UHCL’s Healthcare Administration program will soon occupy the 14th floor of a building owned by Texas Children’s Hospital. This expansion places students at the educational epicenter of global medical research and education and epitomizes UHCL’s commitment to offering transformative learning opportunities.

UHCL’s Enrollment Welcome Center provides a one-stop shop that offers all academic journey guidance to prospective students touring the campus, as well as to current students navigating financial aid, course registration, or advising.
In September 2022, UHCL and Boeing forged a groundbreaking partnership, offering engineering students unique opportunities for entry-level employment experience. Students in mechanical, computer, and software engineering can now benefit from engaging in a wide array of design, engineering, and operations projects, gaining highly technical work experiences before graduation that are seldom found in academia.

UNITY IN VISION: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AT UHCL

389 community partners

110 business and industry partners

48 community and social services partners

AEROSPACE ALLIANCES

In September 2022, UHCL and Boeing forged a groundbreaking partnership, offering engineering students unique opportunities for entry-level employment experience. Students in mechanical, computer, and software engineering can now benefit from engaging in a wide array of design, engineering, and operations projects, gaining highly technical work experiences before graduation that are seldom found in academia.

UNITY IN VISION: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AT UHCL

TAKING FLIGHT

In summer 2023, UHCL at Pearland initiated a strategic partnership with the City of Houston Airport Systems, with a primary focus on Project Management Training—a key skill set in today’s fast-paced business world. The inaugural Project Management Certification course was custom-tailored for selected leaders from the Houston Airport System. Of the initial 30 students who enrolled, 29 successfully obtained their Project Management Certification, attesting to the course’s effectiveness.

Boeing Student Development Partnership (SDP) participants
INSPIRING SUCCESS: STORIES FROM OUR ALUMNI

SHARON CONOVER

Recently, Conover was honored with the NASA Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of her remarkable career spanning various NASA human spaceflight programs, including Apollo-Soyuz. Reflecting on the profound impact of her studies at University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she earned her Master of Science in Engineering Management in 2010, Conover emphasized the significance of this education, referring to it as an “MBA for engineers.” This master’s program equipped her with invaluable analytical skills, enabling her to play a pivotal role in making substantial improvements to the International Space Station and effectively addressing mission delays.

RACHEL ALEX

Rachel Alex, Ed.D ’23, is part of the College of Education’s largest-ever cohort of doctoral students to graduate. She began her path by interacting with UHCL professors who came to work with her at the Region 4 Education Service Center. These professors encouraged her to begin her journey toward achieving her doctorate. She started in the 2020 cohort and graduated with 14 others, most of whom started and finished together. Her cohort was successful because it met often, wrote goals, held each other accountable, and became each other’s support system. She left UHCL with a doctorate and a close connection with brilliant colleagues and professors who believed in her success.

THOMAS DION

Thomas Dion, B.A. ’14, said he was amazed that he’d been recognized as Clear Creek High School’s Teacher of the Year for 2022-23. Now concluding his fourth year teaching English in Clear Creek Independent School District, Dion said he hopes to use his status as Teacher of the Year to advocate especially for immigrant students who struggle with the English language.

He’d heard that UHCL was a welcoming place for transfer students like him, and there were smaller class sizes and professors who were dedicated to their students’ success. “I wanted to work closely with professors,” he said. “In literature, class discussions are important, and I got that opportunity at UHCL.”

SHAUN MAYO

Shaun Mayo, MBA ‘11, said getting an MBA was always part of his career plan. He chose UHCL because he was impressed with the MBA program’s rigor and its high job placement rate.

Now, in his seventh year as the chief people officer for the Arizona Cardinals, Mayo said he knew he couldn’t advance without an education, and he believed his journey to success began at UHCL. “I moved forward with the MBA with a Concentration in Human Resources, and when I finished, I began my career in human resources in retail in Houston,” he said. “I came to Phoenix and started working with the Cardinals, and it all started with my degree program at UHCL.”

$995.9 Million IN ADDED INCOME

Our most recent economic study reports that the majority of UHCL alumni remain in the community. That’s one reason that Bay Area Houston continues to thrive: the workforce across all industries is enriched with Hawks whose impact on the $1.1 billion in growth in the local economy accounts for $995.9 million.
I felt very supported at UHCL. I am a first-generation college student and a young mother. The odds were not in my favor, but there is an awesome faculty here who makes you feel like you matter.

— Stephanie Martinez, B.S. ’23

I had great advisors and professors, and I got to participate in research along with my actual clinical experience. I got everything I need, and I’m well prepared for my career in the field of pediatric psychology.

— Megan Millmann, Psy.D ’22

I found the teaching certification in computer technology that I wanted from UHCL, and I also found a Master of Science in Instructional Technology. I wanted to support education outreach for space life sciences in K-12, and the big bonus for my career was my master’s degree from UHCL.

— Monica Trevathan, M.S. ’00, Ed.D ’18

My firm was about serving others and using our platform to help the community. I learned these skills at UHCL, and use them now in my role as Mayor of Tomball.

— Lori Klein Quinn, B.S. ’77

My professors’ teaching methods built a skill set from which I have been able to grow throughout my professional life.

— Mathew Timmons, MHA/MBA ’05

I felt UHCL empowered me not only with the degrees, but the methodologies that helped me solve the practical issues in the real corporate world. My education at UHCL empowered me to be a much stronger and confident business professional.

— Annabel Dixon, MBA, MS ’06

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Both Machine Learning (ML) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) exist under the umbrella of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is a subject that I like because it aims to simulate or imitate human thinking (natural intelligence) in solving problems. Nowadays, AI is the most important topic in the world. The bioinformatics subject is also one of my favorite areas of science and it also adapts and imports from AI.

Students and community members alike have benefitted from Dr. Al-Mubaid’s expertise over the years, as he gives at least one technical presentation annually. He developed four new courses for the university as well, but his contributions to the UHCL community didn’t end there. He also secured funding for five external grants and received an S-STEM grant from the National Science Foundation just under $1 million. As a result, students who needed financial assistance were able to complete their education and pursue a STEM-related profession.

Today, his research interests focus on natural language processing and bioinformatics and include data mining, machine learning, and biomedical text mining. He is actively working to prove the virtue of the context-based approach to natural language processing (NLP). He developed several algorithms and systems to prove the point, including detecting and correcting context-based errors, word prediction, word classification, text categorization, biomedical term disambiguation, and document clustering.

“Both Machine Learning (ML) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) exist under the umbrella of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is a subject that I like,” he said. “I like this subject (AI) because it wants to simulate or imitate human thinking (natural intelligence) in solving problems, and as you know nowadays AI is the most important topic in the world. The bioinformatics subject is also one of my favorite areas of science and it also adapts and imports from AI.”

He said prior to coming to UHCL, he entered the job market specifically to find a university just like UHCL. “While I enjoyed research, I really wanted to be in a place where I could interact more with students,” he said. “I wanted to be in the classroom, but I also wanted to work directly with them in a research lab so I could offer guidance and mentorship.”

Of the many lessons he learned as a graduate student, Professor of Psychology Christopher Ward said he remembered one professor who issued a challenge that he has kept top of mind throughout his career as an educator.

“He told us we should all try to leave our school a better place than the way we found it,” he said. “This is why I have been so involved in trying to make UHCL a better place.”

Ward said that his desire to serve the university beyond the classroom began upon his arrival as a new faculty member in 2008. “One of the first things I did was get involved in Faculty Senate because I wanted to contribute to the university,” he said. “I wanted to do my part to strengthen its mission and support the faculty and its ability to serve the students. It’s something that’s very important to me, and it’s critical to the mission of the university to keep everyone engaged in making it a better place for everyone.”

At UHCL, Ward said he had enjoyed the opportunity to work with students on the advising side of their academic journey. “There are many students who aren’t sure what they want their career path to be,” he said. “We have a non-traditional student population, with many students who are already employed and are parents. Being able to offer students guidance is an important part of why I feel I’m successful. Serving our unique student population informs the way I teach and conduct research.”

Ward believes his most significant contribution as a member of UHCL’s faculty was in 2014-15, as Faculty Senate President. “That’s the experience in which I take the most professional pride,” he said. “I organized a full faculty retreat, which had never been done before. We came out with a clear agenda of what we wanted to do, including rewriting the Faculty Senate Constitution, and restructuring committees to better address barriers faculty were facing regarding teaching and research.”

After 23 years as an educator, Ward said, he now sees himself as a source of support for other faculty members. “As I have been promoted to full professor and have become department chairperson, I have seen my role shifting from furthering my own career ambitions and goals,” he said. “I now see myself as someone who can facilitate that for others. I enjoy working with junior faculty and pre-tenured faculty so they have the opportunities to be as professionally successful as I have been.”

Ward remembered that years ago, he’d turned down a lucrative industry job to become an educator. “I have no regrets about turning that job down,” he said. “I wanted to be someone who worked with the mission of a university like UHCL. I hope, through my service, I have carried out the challenge from my professor—to make my institution a better place than when I got here.”
Many times, professors are asked what they teach. For Lynn Place, lecturer in UHCL’s College of Business, the answer goes far beyond simply answering, “I teach marketing.”

Place had a decades-long, comprehensive career in industry prior to coming to UHCL in 2017, including brand management for nationally-known brands including Pillsbury, Keebler, and Folgers. Her ties to SCORE have kept her involved with industry trends and leaders—a benefit she continues to pass on to her students. “I always ask everyone I meet if they need interns,” she said.

“I applied for a job here and was selected. It was not like being a superintendent,” Corrales said. “Teaching at UHCL ended up being the best decision of my life. I started writing books, attending conferences and helping school districts nationwide.”

With almost 20 years of experience as an educator, and seven of those being spent in UHCL’s College of Education, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership Antonio Corrales was named an endowed professor in 2023. He currently serves as the director for the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program. After fleeing Venezuela and starting a new life in the U.S., Corrales put his career as an engineer behind him and decided to focus on how he could make a difference. After obtaining his Master of Science in Educational Management, he earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from UHCL in 2015. He said he thought he would be a superintendent for life, but decided to become a university professor.

“I don’t mind the extra work of being a faculty advisor because I care about my students.”

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“I take my role very seriously. I want to teach, develop leaders, and train education professionals.”

Corrales said his objective is to always add value to organizations and anyone he is teaching. He said sometimes starting over is very challenging, but can be necessary to achieve a goal.

“I base a lot of my approach on strategic planning.” He said. “I teach strategic planning and everything we do is based on that. It’s more dynamic and allows stakeholder involvement.”

Corrales said he is committed to developing individuals who have a strong work ethic and grill, are flexible and adaptable, and can perform in school achievement.

“I always tell my applicants for the doctoral program that we are not a number-based program; we accept students based on our needs. Most importantly, we want students who have a reason ‘why,’” he said. “We want students that really want to make a change in society.”

Corrales added that when he became director of the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program, there was work to do with increasing enrollment, and he is glad he could make a difference.

“Enrollment has tripled, and there are over 100 students in the program today. It’s one of the best programs in the state of Texas,” Corrales said. “We have produced many superintendents, higher education professionals, and administrators. Eighty percent of our students secure better jobs while in the program.”

Corrales said he is able to fulfill his life mission at UHCL and is devoted to helping students reach their potential. He helps students discover their “superpowers” that develop them into being outstanding leaders.

“I take my role very seriously. All I want to do is teach, develop leaders and train education professionals,” he said.
In January 2023, Richard Walker was invested as UH-Clear Lake’s sixth president, having previously served as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services for the University of Houston System and Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services for the University of Houston.

The theme for his investiture was “Climb Every Mountain,” in keeping with Walker’s 41-year professional commitment to student success.

To mark the occasion and to highlight Walker’s ongoing commitment to removing financial barriers for those seeking higher education, the President’s Excellence Scholarship Fund was established. To date, has collected over $300,000.

Jareli Olvera, a freshman pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies, is the inaugural recipient of the President’s Excellence Scholarship. “I am a first-generation college student,” Olvera said. “I knew I would have to get scholarships and financial aid to go to college. I am at UHCL now, starting my path toward law school, and I can do it because I have received this scholarship.”

Vice President of University Advancement Joe Staley said that numerous UHCL friends and alumni believed that developing this scholarship was a fitting way to help launch a new president, and a signal to the university and its stakeholders of the level of priority that Dr. Walker assigns to student success.

“[This scholarship helps students who have real potential find their way here with the financial assistance it provides, but the academic rigor associated with it is also important to the president,” he said. “[It’s a demonstration of the president’s commitment to finding support for students, but also the community’s willingness to partner with him in order to make that happen. We are so fortunate to have so many donors who are willing to help students come to UHCL and achieve their dream.”

Staley said Walker, with UHCL alumni Marilyn Sims, Sandy Johnson, and Denise Navarro, all made significant contributions and led the way in inspiring other to give.

“It impressed me that Dr. Walker wanted to make a statement like this as part of his investiture,” Johnson said. “It demonstrated how important this is to him and his legacy as president. His focus is clearly on students and finding ways to attract the best and brightest to UHCL.”

Olvera said she was honored to be the first recipient of the President’s Excellence Scholarship. “I know I can do it. I am grateful to all those who contributed to the scholarship. It makes a true difference to us who want to be Hawks.”
COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT: APPRECIATING THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the generous donors who have made this remarkable journey possible. Your support has transformed the lives of countless students and served as a launching pad for the UHCL Hawks to reach new heights of success.

MEAH FAMILY

In November 2022 Nizam and Jesmin Meah of the Meah Family Foundation pledged $500,000 for the creation of a new comprehensive vocational program in the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD). Led by Professor of Behavior Analysis and CADD Director Dorothea Lerman and Loukia Tsami, MA, BCBA, LBA, the program initially assesses and trains persons on the autism spectrum for employment providing social skills support and career planning. Also, as part of helping participants find and continue in meaningful, appropriate jobs, the program can arrange short-term employment and coaching with local companies and organizations. Finally, through research and training, the program will assist employers to provide accommodations and best practices for the inclusion of neurodiverse individuals.

DAVE AND PAULA MYER

Paula Myer and her husband, Dave, have included UHCL in their estate plans to establish the Dave and Paula Myer Endowment Scholarship for Business. As a UHCL student, Paula aspired to become a business professional. She was a hard worker who just needed some financial support to reach her dreams. Paula intends for this scholarship endowment to impact deserving students who share the same vision of becoming a business professional. “I got my degree, got a great job in accounting, and it changed my life’s course. I am pleased to be able to give back to UHCL with financial support for hard-working students,” she said.

BARRIOS TECHNOLOGY

Barrios has established a scholarship endowment for UH-Clear Lake students in the College of Science and Engineering. Barrios structured this endowment to make use of matching funds available from a Supporting Diversity in STEM Careers grant UHCL received from the U.S. Department of Education. The scholarship endowment will provide funds for financially insecure undergraduates pursuing a degree in the College of Science and Engineering with a broad applicability to the aerospace industry. UHCL Distinguished Alumna Sandy Johnson is a part of the group that founded Barrios Technology in 1980. Her daughter, Kelly Page, currently serves as president.

JANE TAYLOR

The Taylor family has a close and committed history with UHCL going back to 1980, when her father, Joe Taylor, became a faculty member in the Healthcare Administration (HADM) program, and later, chair of the department. It continued with his daughter Jane Taylor, who completed her HADM degree at UHCL in 1985. The family’s dedication to the university is evident in the Joe and Lou Taylor Scholarship Fund, established in 1996. Jane has continued to donate to the scholarship for the last 21 years, including a $20,000 gift in 2023. Through the Taylor Family’s generosity, two to four College of Business students each year can receive financial support to complete their education. This year, three students received funds, each for $775.
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University of Houston-Clear Lake is proud to be a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), with more than 40% of UH-Clear Lake students who identify as Hispanic. UHCL is also a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI). More than 65% of students identify as Hispanic, Black, Asian, or International.

### Demographics

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### Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>6,524</td>
<td>2,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>4,064</td>
<td>4,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tuition and Fees

- **Total Tuition and Fees**: $82,361,091
  - Designated Tuition: $44,316,515
  - Tuition: $18,033,465
  - Student Fees: $19,011,111

### Major Sources of Revenue

- **Total Revenue**: $177,632,562
  - Tuition and Fees: $82,361,091
  - State Appropriations: $40,199,556
  - Contracts and Grants: $36,157,044
  - Capital Appropriations, M & O: $7,728,043
  - Other Operating and Non-Operating Income: $8,157,077
  - Contracts and Grants: $3,029,751

### University Expenditures

- **Total Expenditures**: $136,076,753
  - Salaries, Wages & Benefits: $89,940,774
  - Other Operating/Non-Operating Expenses: $1,425,028
  - Scholarships/Financial Aid: $143,928
  - Other Operating/Non-Operating: $2,000,000
  - Materials and Supplies: $6,187,035
  - Professional Fees & Services: $10,240,375
  - Communication & Utilities: $3,079,455
  - Capital Expenditures: $3,777,250
  - Sustaining Operations: $5,717,130
UHCL received a $950K grant from the U.S. Department of Education to bolster its Basic Needs Program, expanding financial assistance for students in critical areas such as food, housing, and medical care. This initiative aims to improve student retention and speed up graduation timelines, thereby laying the groundwork for future generational mobility and impactful careers.

The university received funding for 53 grants, totaling $7,285,677 in funding.

GRANTS HIGHLIGHTS

$149,859
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities: Building Capacity Among Health Care Professionals to Provide Inclusive Health Care Services
Dr. Dorothea Lerman, PI

$499,999
Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust: Microplastic Distribution and Impacts to Diamond-back Terrapin, Highlighting Public Education and Future Effects of Sea-Level Rise
Ms. Mandi Gordon, PI
Dr. Marc Mokrech, Co-PI
Professor Wendy Reistle, Co-PI
Rowena McDermid, Co-PI

$159,963
Targeted Training for Construction Fall Prevention
Dr. Robert Phalen, PI
Dr. Magdy Akladios, Co-PI

$1,599,669
US Department of Education Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program: STEM4ALL
Takisha Bolden-Gastile, PI
Jana Willis, Co-PI
Quiennise Miller, Co-PI
Lisa Jones, Co-PI

$1,034,675
U.S. Department of Education Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration: Empowering Horizons
Dr. Gill Strait, PI
Dr. Emily Horton, Co-PI

$9,265
National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance for Smaller Institutions
Matthew Peak, PI

$46,706
NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site: Advancing Data-Driven Deep Coupling of Computational Simulations and Experiments
Dr. Xiaokun Yang, UHCL PI

$349,549
NSF MRI: Track 1 Acquisition of a MALDI-TOF/FTIR System to Support Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences in Biological and Computational Sciences at an HSI
Dr. Michael LaMontagne, PI
Dr. Soma Datta, Co-PI
Dr. Lory Santiago-Vazquez, Co-PI
Dr. Chulong Zhang, Senior Researcher
Dr. Kennda Lynch, Co-PI from Lunar and Planetary Institute
Dr. Julia Shamsahi, Co-PI from Texas Tech University

UHCL received almost $950K from the U.S. Department of Education.