



University  
of Houston  
Clear Lake

June 11, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

The 84<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature has now concluded and the University of Houston-Clear Lake fared very well with one of our best legislative sessions in the past twenty years. UHCL's success in this legislative session was due to a number of individuals. First, and foremost, special thanks go to Senator Larry Taylor and State Representatives Dennis Paul, Ed Thompson, and Greg Bonnen for their leadership and commitment to UHCL's legislative agenda. They spoke up for UHCL on numerous occasions, both individually and collectively, and the results listed below are evidence of their success. Also, thanks go to the members of the UH System Board of Regents, UH System Chancellor Renu Khator and Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Governmental and Community Relations Jason Smith.

The following is a brief overview of our successes in this legislative session:

1. An increase in formula funding for both the Instruction and Operations Formula and the Infrastructure Formula
2. Tuition Revenue Bonds/Capital Construction Funding for the STEM and Classroom Building at UHCL (\$54 million) and the Health Sciences and Classroom Building at the UHCL Pearland Campus (\$24.624 million)
3. Reauthorization of the Higher Education Fund, which is done every ten years, increasing UHCL's annual allocation from \$5.2 to \$8.0 million
4. Special Item Funding for our Downward Expansion/Four Year Initiative Start-Up of \$3.25 million per year
5. Special Item Funding for the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD) of \$200,000 per year
6. Representative Dennis Paul and Senator Larry Taylor also sponsored legislation which passed and gives UHCL legislative authority to assess a recreation and wellness facility fee for the construction and operation of such a facility. The fee may only be charged if approved by a student referendum and the UH System Board of Regents.

With regard to the above items, it should be noted that UHCL was one of only four universities to receive funding for two new buildings. Also, very, very few new special items were funded so for UHCL to receive funding for both our Four Year Initiative and the Center of Autism and Developmental Disabilities is a major accomplishment. In addition, funding of \$8.1 million has been allocated to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Autism Programs and our hope is that CADD will be able to apply for some of these funds. Special thanks to Dr. Dorothea Lerman for her work with legislative staff and for being a very articulate spokesperson for autism and CADD.

The new level of funding listed above will significantly enhance the continuing development of UHCL as a four-year university. We are very grateful for the support we have received.

Please also see the attachment to this email which is a communication from UH System Chancellor Renu Khator on the legislative session's impact on the UH System.

Best regards,

William A. Staples  
President