

2018
University of Houston
JOURNEY



President's Report 2018





The French philosopher Voltaire observed that with great power

comes great responsibility. Here at the University of Houston, we certainly agree. And, as a powerhouse of higher education, we have acknowledged an equally powerful responsibility.

As a Tier One research university, we have an obligation to create knowledge—then do more than simply disseminate it. We must implement and engage and empower. We must serve as one of society’s brightest lights and help illuminate the darker corners. We do this through research that solves problems and offers new solutions, through community involvement that provides support and points the way to progress, through accessible, affordable education that produces a skilled workforce and impassioned leaders, through serving as an anchor institution and economic engine for our city and state.

Addressing these responsibilities takes many forms—some as grand as establishing a one-of-a-kind medical school or revitalizing a timeworn basketball arena into a spectacular showplace for athletics and entertainment events—and some as essential as tutoring at-risk elementary school kids or streamlining the path for community college students heading into four-year institutions. But what these all have in common is the University of Houston’s unshakable dedication to improve the quality of life in the city of Houston, the state of Texas and the world through quality education, productive research and beneficial service. UH has converted potential into power and commitment into responsibility. Every day, we use that power to meet those responsibilities.



It is not my story. It is your story—it is our story—it is a small window into ***our journey together***. Please know that no matter what your defined role in the University is, you individually and collectively ***make this journey possible.***”

Renu Khator

Renu Khator president

The regularity of the activities at a university can offer a comforting stability. Classes begin. Mid-terms. Finals. Commencement. Enthusiastic new students enter; enlightened graduates leave. It's a reassuring cycle.

Of course, that regularity shouldn't be mistaken for sameness and, here at the University of Houston, I find that each year is memorable in its own way. That is the purpose for presenting our annual report—to take note of what made this year special.

For example, 2018 was the year UH leapfrogged a remarkable 21 places ahead in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, making it the single biggest advance in the University's history. This was due, in large part, to the University's enhanced reputation among our peers (that is, top administrators at other universities) and high school counselors that were surveyed by U.S. News & World Report.

We certainly saw that reputational improvement confirmed in our continued, record-breaking enrollment growth, with more than 46,000 students on campus in 2018—and we're doing this without compromising our commitment to remain accessible and affordable. In

fact, we awarded an unprecedented amount of financial aid—\$364 million—to ensure funding is not a barrier to student success.

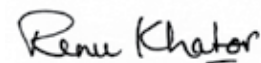
We also opened the doors to the Fertitta Center, the spectacularly renovated basketball arena and entertainment venue that is a tremendous addition not only to our campus, but also to the entire community.

And our “Here, We Go” campaign to support excellence at UH took bold strides forward toward its \$1 billion goal, thanks to the amazing number of individual donors and the city of Houston’s invaluable support.

Notably, 2018 was also the year that we made remarkable progress with our plans for a College of Medicine that will address our state’s troubling shortage of primary care physicians and other community health care disparities. After receiving unanimous approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the UH medical school, our Board of Regents earmarked funds to construct a building on campus that will serve as the College of Medicine’s permanent home. Choosing to locate it directly on campus, adjacent to some of the very communities that most need support, upholds our avowed mission to help remedy health care disparities in those areas. This location emphasizes how deeply committed we are to this concept.

UH’s journey toward overall excellence continues. Our destination remains the same, however, every year offers its own extraordinary path for us to follow. This report shows the route we took in 2018.

With warm regards,



Renu Khator,
President, University of Houston





The ***journey*** of a thousand
miles must begin with a
single step.

Lao Tzu



student

success

Like the most striking threads
that run throughout a tapestry,

student success is woven into just about every aspect of the University of Houston. It remains the first priority and the last word in the daily efforts and long-standing ideals of UH's faculty and staff. That is why it's so gratifying to see that both 4-year and 6-year graduation rates—a key marker of academic progress—have continued to climb steadily upward. Especially rewarding is the fact that this improvement has not come by leaving some groups behind. The so-called achievement gaps traditionally attributed to race, income or family education have been significantly reduced. For example, while the 4-year graduation rate for African-American students was 10 percent lower last year in comparison to their Caucasian counterparts, this year the gap is only 2 percent. Notably, the difference between those who receive Pell Grants and those who do not—an indicator of socioeconomic divide—now stands at zero for those graduating in six years.

This admirable gap-closing has been fueled, in large part, by keeping costs relatively affordable, with a record \$364 million in financial aid awarded this year. In addition, thanks to the Cougar Promise program, tuition was waived for qualified students whose annual family income is under \$45,000. Starting next year, this cap goes up to \$50,000.

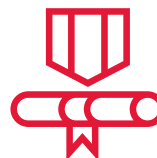
Playing an ever greater role in helping students complete their degrees as efficiently as possible is the UHin4 initiative, which reached a milestone this year. The burgeoning program, which offers incoming freshman students fixed tuition costs and provides rigorous year-by-year academic guidance and counseling, saw its first

graduating class. And participation continues to expand enthusiastically. When UHin4 was launched four years ago, not quite half of the incoming freshman class signed up. Today, that number is nearly three out of four eligible freshmen. Since UHin4 participants are retained at a higher rate and demonstrate superior academic progress, the program's success will continue to escalate.

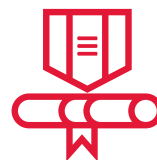
Of course, the University's commitment to student success spreads beyond the boundaries of our own physical campus and even its own student body. UH took a leading role in launching Houston Guided Pathways to Success (Houston GPS), an ambitious enterprise focused on connecting six community colleges and five public universities in our area to allow students one seamless pathway to complete their college education. Potentially, this program will impact 350,000 students in our region, and appropriately enough, given the scope of UH's aspirations is the largest of its kind in the nation.



7,415
Bachelor's Degrees



2,038
Master's Degrees



381
Doctoral Degrees



449
Professional Degrees

The sweeping, colorful triptych that stretches across much of the

Moore's Opera House seems far too fresh and energetic to have been created 20 years ago, but Frank Stella's dazzling composition "Euphonia" is indeed two decades old—an anniversary milestone. The University of Houston celebrated this year with an impressive program paying tribute to the eminent artist, whose presence provided a truly historic quality to the event.

Of course, that wasn't the only notable anniversary UH's extensive arts commemorated, with the venerable Immanuel and Helen Olshan Texas Music Festival reaching the 30-year mark. For three decades, the flourishing program has been establishing a reputation for excellence by providing promising young musicians with a challenging musical environment in which to develop skills in orchestral, chamber music and solo performance. Each year's month-long Texas Music Festival, which brings in nearly 100 college, graduate and fledgling professional players to UH, offers master classes and private instruction by top faculty as well as a series of memorable performances for an appreciative public.

Widening the focus from Texas to the international arena, the Concert Chorale racked up another impressive overseas achievement by winning the grand prize in Hungary's prestigious Béla Bartók International Choir Competition. Meanwhile, Moore's School of Music student Carlos Cordero also added to the school's international panache by winning the 2018 Japan International Choral Composition Competition in Nagano with his piece, "Ave, Regina Caelorum."

“

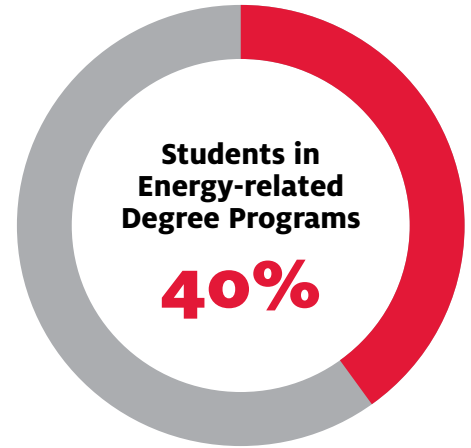
Art enables us
to ***find ourselves***
and ***lose***
ourselves at the
same time.”

Thomas Merton

It is fitting that a university based in the energy capital of the world

would have an outside footprint in the field, from training future petroleum engineers to the discovery of more efficient batteries. The Energy Advisory Board, made up of executives from top global energy firms, helps to set our lofty goals. And the connections between industry and UH Energy, which brings an interdisciplinary focus to policy, workforce training and cutting-edge R&D, extend much further. UH faculty are building industry-specific consortia to work on issues across the energy life cycle, including challenges facing the power grid. A \$1 million gift from National Oilwell Varco sends faculty and students to work alongside industry experts on topics including corrosion and the use of data analytics to predict equipment failure. In another targeted approach, a research agreement with ExxonMobil Chemical Company to improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of petrochemical manufacturing is expanding, reaching \$2.5 million by the end of the year.

UH faculty have been recognized for transformational work in energy, including Zhifeng Ren, director of the Texas Center for Superconductivity at UH, who was honored this year by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and Jeffrey Rimer, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, who received the 2018 Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research. Other faculty engage with one another, industry and society at large as UH Energy Fellows, driving the national and international energy conversation through a popular blog hosted on Forbes.com and, starting this year, a white paper series offering a deeper dive into the biggest issues of the day.



Those issues don't stop at the border, so UH Energy has to move beyond Texas and the United States. Our relationship with Oil India has grown as faculty and students prepare to use carbon dioxide captured from nearby petrochemical plants to boost the productivity of an Indian oilfield, introducing a technology not previously available there to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

The partnership with Oil India also includes internships for graduate students, just one example of our efforts to build the future workforce. Members of the Energy Coalition—the University's largest student organization, with more than 5,000 members—are also primed to work in industry, bringing full circle the relationship between UH Energy and the companies who power our energy present and future.



3

Scientists from the University of Houston have been elected as fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, joining a select group of researchers recognized by their peers as among the best in their fields.



9

Energy-related Colleges

With the creation of a College of Medicine leading the way, health

and health care took several confident steps forward this year at the University of Houston. The proposed medical school, which will focus on providing primary care physicians for underserved communities, moved from the category of inspiring vision to real-world option after receiving a unanimous vote of approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. UH is forging strategic associations with powerful health care partners such as Humana and HCA Houston Healthcare and enjoying generous philanthropic backing to support the school's singular mission. As UH prepares for accreditation from the regulatory Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME), the University kept moving forward with the decision to build the medical school on campus, earmarking \$65 million for the four-story, 150,000 square-foot construction on a 43-acre parcel adjacent to MacGregor Park. Locating the school on campus, in close proximity to the communities that suffer from inadequate health care resources, perfectly aligns with its overall mission to address such disparities.

It is that same commitment that serves as the driving force behind the HEALTH Research Institute (Helping Everyone Achieve a LifeTime of Health), an interdisciplinary alliance of researchers focusing on innovative prevention and intervention strategies to address a broad range of unmet health care needs in the community. HRI relies on partnerships with community stakeholders and at-risk populations that allow publicizing and improving a growing challenge through multi-site cooperative trials, public health initiatives and empowering activities that are already embedded in the community's cultural fabric.

One of the most effective of these HRI-based programs is a formidable new partnership with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, UHAND aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate the cancer inequities experienced by African-American and Hispanics in our city. Utilizing educational, outreach and research initiatives, UHAND is challenging these disparities directly, but also preparing a cadre of diverse, interdisciplinary scholars who will examine and address the social determinants of health behind them. This long-term collaboration between two of the city's top health care institutions is another prescription for success.



10

**Colleges Offer
Health-related
Educational
Programs**



25%

**of UH Students are
Enrolled in Health-
related Majors**



To **travel** hopefully is a better thing than to arrive.

Robert Louis Stevenson



Research knows no boundaries and, by its nature, is interested

in everything. What is common among all these inquiries and projects is a growing reliance on data. In fact, the management and analysis of data has become a discipline in itself—one of ever-increasing importance. So the University of Houston finds itself singularly well positioned to assume a leading role in this vital field thanks to a significant new partnership with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), including a \$10 million gift from HPE to enhance the University Data Science Institute. This not only directly benefits UH, with applications as diverse as health care diagnostics to the safety of offshore drilling, but also makes a crucial contribution to the city's larger movement to accelerate the development of Houston's innovation economy.

That parallels another exciting change at UH, with a five-year plan being launched to better realign the 74-acre Energy Research Park with the city's growing innovation ecosystem. As part of the plan, the site name was changed to the UH Technology Bridge, better reflecting the mission of bridging the gap between research and commercialization. As the plan advances, the Technology Bridge is expected to create \$1 billion in cumulative economic development for Houston over the five-year period by bringing in five additional large industrial partners, an additional 25 startups and three new research collaborations to the facility.

As those exceptional efforts to enhance UH's role in this region's expanding innovation environment proceed, general research at the University has now been structured into four areas of interest—or "thrusters"—that can best spur economic development and address

quality of life issues. They are: Cyber and Physical Security, which includes such areas as LiDar, surveillance technology, super-conductive materials and flexible electronics; Drug Discovery and Development, which includes genomic sequencing, advanced light microscopy and synthesis of bioactive agents; Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure, which includes self-regulating utility networks, corrosion bacterial bio-marking and sustainable composites; and Accessible Health Care, which includes remote diagnostics and intervention, high-throughput imaging and autonomous medical devices. In the increasingly competitive world of research and development in the United States, with federal research budgets under pressure and an increasing number of universities seeking to be research-intensive, a purposeful and highly focused plan, such as this, is no longer an aspiration but a necessity.

1,079

Ranked Faculty

\$177M

Research Expenditures

\$109M

Sponsored Funding

57

**Total Winners of
National Science
Foundation
Career Award**

19

**National Academy
Members**



campus infrastructure

As Houston's population continues to increase and spread

out, the University of Houston continues to expand accordingly, bringing its educational resources to wherever they are genuinely needed. Two concrete examples of that are the new three-story, 100,000-square-foot College of Technology Building being constructed at UH's Sugar Land location as well as the inaugural building at UH's Katy location, an 80,000-square-foot facility to accommodate students with the College of Nursing and the Cullen College of Engineering. These two extensions of the core campus reflect UH's philosophy that, as "Houston's University," it must provide the education and training that best support the city's strengths and make that available to all our citizens, not just those able to travel across the urban sprawl to a central location.

Of course, there continues to be substantial developments at the Houston location—most notably the unveiling of the Fertitta Center, the spectacularly transformed basketball arena that opened its doors at the end of the year. The 50-year-old arena formerly known as Hofheinz Pavilion has become a state-of-the-art venue that will serve both as the home for Cougars basketball and also a site to host entertainment events—making it an even more valuable community resource.

Named after Tilman Fertitta, the well-known hospitality magnate and chair of the UH System Board of Regents who contributed \$20 million to support the extensive renovation. The Center has been substantially enhanced, though, in a nod to nostalgia, the distinctive exterior structure has been preserved. Inside, the seating bowl has been skillfully reconfigured to optimize sight lines and to allow for

prime seating opportunities, including two large club areas with VIP amenities. In addition to the new court and scoreboard that have been installed, the facility boasts new food service and retail locations as well as significant upgrades to what many consider the most important feature of any sports arena—the restrooms.

UH Katy Location

- ▶ 3 floors and a state-of-the-art engineering lab
- ▶ simulation rooms for the nursing program



UH Sugar Land Location

- ▶ 10 state-of-the-art research labs
- ▶ Opening Fall 2019





Fertitta Center

- ▶ Seating capacity of over 7,000
- ▶ New expanded concession stands, audio system and LED video boards, and premium fan amenities, including a courtside club along with a premium club area



Although the University of Houston has undertaken an

array of challenging initiatives over the years, there is only one that can be applauded as a sure thing. Rather, a SURE thing—as in Stimulating Urban Renewal through Enterprise. The ambitious program, which was founded in 2012 by Saleha Khumawala, Robert Grinaker Professor of Accounting at the Bauer College of Business, uses UH students and industry experts to teach the fundamentals of business and entrepreneurship to community members who have an idea for a business but no formal training. The program, rooted in the University's neighborhood-enhancing Third Ward Initiative, is open to members of all underserved communities in the area, keeps turning out newly empowered graduates and bringing in accolades. To date, SURE has helped nearly 700 aspiring entrepreneurs, with three-quarters of them women, half African-American and a quarter Hispanic, resulting in more than 120 startup businesses ... so far. The program's beneficial impact was honored with the Governor's Higher Education Community Impact Award last year and continues to garner praise and media attention.

Another far-reaching, high-impact effort in community improvement is the TOUCH program, in which UH draws on several health care-based partnerships to address issues related to obesity and diabetes, initially in the Third Ward and, more recently, expanding into the East End. Funded by a \$2 million grant from the United Health Foundation, TOUCH (Treating Obesity in Underserved Communities in Houston) has already assisted nearly 1,400 patients and plans to scale up operations and eventually engage with 5,000 families by the program's conclusion.

Along with those focused initiatives to help members of underserved communities improve their economic and physical well-being, UH continued its seminal ACES (Advancing Community Engagement and Service) Institute support of a wide variety of projects to improve the quality of life in the greater Houston region through strong neighborhood partnerships and enhanced student learning opportunities. In other words, win-win.

1,400
**patients assisted by
the TOUCH program**

700
**aspiring entrepreneurs
took advantage of the
SURE program**

SURE

Rooted in the University's neighborhood-enhancing Third Ward Initiative and is open to members of all underserved communities in the area, keeps turning out newly empowered graduates





The ***journey*** is its own reward.

Homer



The University of Houston is moving the needle toward accomplishing

its \$1 billion goal in the historic “Here, We Go” Campaign. UH’s first comprehensive campaign in 25 years is transforming our University into a model for higher education and student success.

The grassroots nature of the “Here, We Go” Campaign has become a source of considerable pride, with more than 178,000 individual donors (and counting) fueling the effort. This culture of philanthropy speaks to the resounding vote of confidence in the University and our enduring commitment to our students’ long-term success.

This past year, the University was able to continue this life-changing journey through several notable gifts, including a \$10 million donation to launch the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute (HPE DSI). The HPE DSI will build collaborative programs with public and private sector partners to advance data science and scientific computing.

In addition, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) received a generous \$4 million anonymous gift to support its renowned Creative Writing Program and several other units within CLASS, such as funding for a Graduate Student Diversity Endowment.

First-time donors to the University, Andy (J.D. ’73) and Andrea (J.D. ’76) Diamond, came forward with a \$17 million gift to support youth transitioning from the foster care system to higher education. The Diamond Family Scholars Endowment will offer financial, academic, mentoring and other assistance for this vulnerable population of UH scholars.

\$984 Million

Raised to Date

as of December 21, 2018

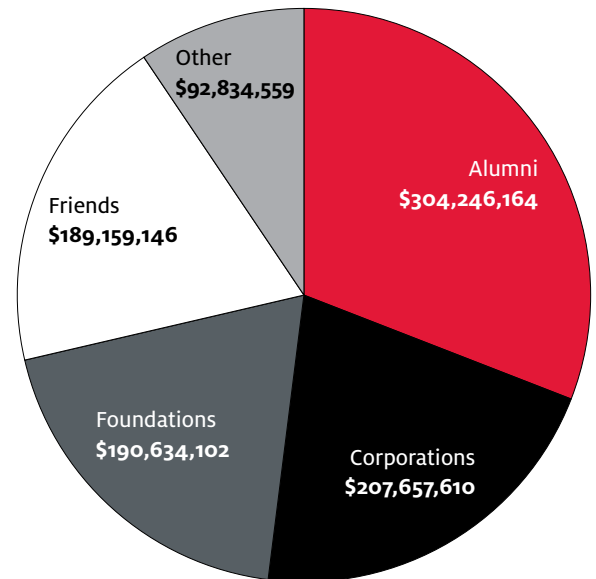
\$1 Billion

Goal

Other donors came to our students' aid this year through an anonymous \$3 million gift that will cover the full tuition for the inaugural class at the College of Medicine. Additionally, a \$3.5 million donation from the John M. O'Quinn Foundation will pay for one-third of the tuition for the second year's incoming class of aspiring physicians.

The College of Medicine was the principal beneficiary of an exceptional \$15 million contribution from health care insurance giant, Humana, to underwrite a strategic partnership with UH and launch the Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute. Through the Institute, the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Optometry and Graduate College of Social Work will engage in research to contribute to the training of health care professionals through a team-based model of care.

These thoughtful contributions truly show that philanthropy is alive and well at the University of



Houston. While we have accomplished significant milestones through our Campaign, there are still more mountains to climb as we advance in our mission and as an institution.

In Athletics, the University of Houston enjoyed another

high-flying, headline-grabbing year of accomplishments, one filled with rousing victories and a few frustrations. UH's sports programs brought home a remarkable six American Athletic Conference championships during the spring semester, with trophies in Women's Swimming & Diving, Men's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Golf, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field and Baseball. This, by the way, was the second straight year the University led the conference in championships. Meanwhile, the Men's Basketball program, under the tutelage of AAC Coach of the Year Kelvin Sampson, was making history of another sort, earning its first NCAA Tournament victory since 1984—and falling just a dramatic buzzer-beater away from advancing to the Sweet 16 in a loss to the eventual National Championship Game finalist University of Michigan.

Perhaps the single biggest spotlight shone on the Men's Football Team thanks in large part to the national recognition received by stellar defensive lineman Ed Oliver, who was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated and celebrated by ESPN as the top player in the country in a preseason article. After an exhilarating 7-1 start—and placement in the Top 20 rankings—the football team faced a considerable handicap with serious injuries both to Oliver and extraordinary quarterback D'Eriq King, the key to their powerhouse offense. Despite the adversity, the team nevertheless earned its record-setting sixth consecutive bowl bid, appearing in the 2018 Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth. Overall, it was a season of great expectations and unexpected setbacks—precisely the kind of character-building experience that benefits UH's student athletes in the long run.



UH Men's Track & Field

UH Men have won four straight American Athletic Conference Indoor championships and three straight American Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships.

Conference Championships

(Indoor and Outdoor)

35
Men



16
Women



UH Men's Basketball

The Houston Cougars Men's Basketball team celebrates as their team shocks #5 Cincinnati on February 15, 2018. The win for the Coogs ended a 16-game winning streak for the Bearcats.



UH Football

In June, Sports Illustrated named Ed Oliver its No. 1 college football player entering the season. This marks the second member of the #HTownTakeover to grace the SI cover in the last three years.

UH Women's Swim & Dive

The UH Women's Swimming & Diving program earned its second straight American Athletic Conference Championship in 2018.





Over every mountain there is
a ***path***, though it may not be
seen from the valley.

Theodore Roethke



BOARD OF REGENTS

Tilman J. Fertitta ('78), Chairman

Peter K. Taaffe, J.D. ('97), Vice Chairman

Paula M. Mendoza, UHCL ('95), M.S. ('17), Secretary

Durga D. Agrawal, M.S. ('69), Ph.D. ('74)

Doug H. Brooks ('75)

Steve I. Chazen, UHCL, M.S. ('77)

Beth Madison ('72)

Gerald W. McElvy ('75)

Jack B. Moore ('77)

Andrew Z. Teoh

PRESIDENT AND CABINET

Renu Khator

President

Paula Myrick Short

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Jim McShan

Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Eloise Dunn Brice

Vice President for University Advancement

Dona Hamilton Cornell

Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

Amr Elnashai

Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer

Lisa K. Holdeman

Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Catherine Horn

President, UH Faculty Senate

Michael Johnson

Chief of Staff

Ramanan Krishnamoorti

Chief Energy Officer

Elwyn C. Lee

Vice President for Neighborhood and Strategic Initiatives

Michael Pede

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

Chris Pezman

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletics Director

Jason Smith

Vice President for Governmental Relations

Stephen J. Spann

Chief Health Officer and Founding Dean for College of Medicine

J. Richard Walker

Vice President for Student Affairs and
Enrollment Services

**DEANS OF ACADEMIC COLLEGES
AND LIBRARIES**

Dean Patricia Belton Oliver

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture
and Design

Founding Dean Andrew Davis

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Interim Dean Tom George

C. T. Bauer College of Business

Dean Robert McPherson

College of Education

Dean Joseph W. Tedesco

Cullen College of Engineering

Dean William Monroe

Honors College

Dean Dennis Reynolds

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel
and Restaurant Management

Dean Leonard Baynes

UH Law Center

Dean Antonio D. Tillis

College of Liberal Arts and
Social Sciences

Founding Dean Stephen J. Spann

College of Medicine

Dean Dan Wells

College of Natural Sciences
and Mathematics

Founding Dean Kathryn Tart

College of Nursing

Dean Earl Smith

College of Optometry

Dean F. Lamar Pritchard

College of Pharmacy

Dean Anthony P. Ambler

College of Technology

Dean Lisa A. German

University of Houston Libraries

Dean Alan J. Dettlaff

Graduate College of Social Work

