

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

## **Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Houston System Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston**

Our Chancellor and President says it best. “Our dream is to build...a powerhouse, and all of us are part of this dream... If you want to make a generational impact...If you want to be part of the solution...This is your chance. This is our chance.” As we launch our new strategic plan, the University of Houston System (UHS) and the University of Houston (UH) seek an exemplary leader to serve as the chief academic officer at one of the nation’s most dynamic systems of public higher education. In the concurrent roles of Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for UHS and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for UH, this key person will join a multi-talented and innovative public research university community making considerable progress on its determined course toward comprehensive excellence and impact. Houston is an energetic and diverse city with limitless potential.

### **The University of Houston**

Founded in 1927 and currently led by President [Renu Khator](#), the [University of Houston](#) is the largest public research university in Houston and the third largest university in Texas offering undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. Located in Houston’s historic [Third Ward](#) and dedicated to serving as an impactful partner within its community, UH is the oldest of the four UHS universities and recognized as an R1 institution by the Carnegie Foundation for its high level of research activity and home to a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. With a University footprint that encompasses its main campus in Houston and significant instructional sites in [Katy](#) and [Sugarland](#) that further UH’s learning, research, and community engagement endeavors, the University is home to more than 3,000 tenured, tenure-track, instructional, clinical and research faculty; distinguished faculty members include Tony Award winners as well as 20 members of the National Academies of Science and Engineering. As a complement to its traditional academic offerings, UH’s institutional presence also extends well beyond its campuses and into its students’ communities through thriving [extended education](#) and [online](#) programs.

Emblematic of its commitment to fostering a university environment dedicated to the success of students from diverse backgrounds, UH is proudly designated as a Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving (AANAPISI) institution. In Fall 2021, UH enrolled more than 47,000 students in more than 275 undergraduate and graduate academic programs with approximately 8,400 students housed in nine residential communities. With more than 445 registered student organizations and 17 NCAA Division 1 intercollegiate sports teams, campus life at UH is vibrant and engaging. UH’s student body ranks second in the nation among research universities for its ethnic diversity, with no majority race on campus, while also being very international in character with students from more than 130 nations. Students choose from 114 majors and more than 150 graduate and professional programs housed in 16 academic colleges and schools and an interdisciplinary Honors College. UH’s programs are nationally recognized, including 17 ranked among the Top 50 in the country.

With more than \$203 million in research expenditures in FY 2020, UH’s research enterprise includes eight national research centers, 25 university research centers and institutes, and the newly launched [Presidential Frontier Faculty program](#) to hire 100 university-wide integrated

interdisciplinary faculty. As an institution that ranks amongst the top 100 global universities for patents, UH fosters a research environment that enables scholars to explore emerging areas and work more effectively with industry, other research organizations, and the community. With this goal in mind, the University has established five interdisciplinary research areas – Cyber and Physical Security, Drug Discovery and Development, Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure, Accessible Health Care, and Energy Security and Transition – creating powerful hubs of creativity where teams of researchers from a wide range of disciplines collaborate across traditional boundaries to bring research knowledge to bear on issues of intellectual, scientific, social, economic, environmental and cultural importance.

Exemplifying its commitment to improving the lives of those it serves, in 2017 UH had an annual [economic impact](#) of \$6.4 billion on the Greater Houston area – and \$7.7 billion on Texas – awards more than 11,000 degrees annually, and has nearly 306,900 alumni, many of whom live and work in Texas. Moreover, UH is a member of the [Texas Medical Center](#), whose member institutions strive to advance patient care, research, and education in Houston and the founding partner of the [Houston GPS](#) initiative driven by a coalition of community colleges and universities dedicated to closing equity gaps in student success.

**UH Strategic Plan – “Together, We Rise. Together, We Soar.”**

UH’s bold plan for the future, “[Together, We Rise. Together, We Soar.](#)” Launched in 2020, pursues the University’s vision to build a top 50 public university by pursuing five over-arching goals:

- Goal 1 – Student Success – Provide a top tier, inclusive educational experience to all.
- Goal 2 – Nationally Competitive Research – Build a research powerhouse that impacts our region and the world.
- Goal 3 – Social Responsibility – Serve as an exemplar for equitable and inclusive community engagement.
- Goal 4 – Nationally Relevant Athletics – Build a competitive athletics program.
- Goal 5 – Competitive Funding – Build a sustainable funding base to support vision and goals.

The University is currently finalizing detailed implementation plans over a seven-year cycle.

**The University of Houston System**

Serving more than 76,000 students, [UHS](#) plays a transformational role in the economic development and well-being of the Greater Houston area and its surrounding regions. As the region’s largest provider of comprehensive university services, from the baccalaureate to the doctorate, UHS plays an essential role in meeting the higher education needs of the Houston metropolitan area and Texas.

UHS comprises four universities and six multi-institution instructional sites that offer degrees in partnership with the universities. In total, they serve 76,000 students of diverse backgrounds. All four universities are proudly designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education. Each UHS institution equips students with the education and real-life learning experiences that prepare them to succeed in their chosen professions and become enlightened and productive members of society. In addition to UH, UHS includes:

- [University of Houston-Clear Lake](#) – Nestled on a 524-acre wildlife and nature preserve near the NASA Johnson Space Center, UH-Clear Lake offers more than 90 degree programs across four colleges and has an alumni base of more than 75,000. The University expanded from an upper-level and graduate institution into a full, four-year university in 2014, welcoming freshmen and sophomores to campus.
- [University of Houston-Downtown](#) – The second largest university in Houston and the most ethnically diverse university in the state, UHD is a four-year institution located in the central business district, providing valuable opportunities for student experiential learning at major corporations as well as community-based agencies. Founded in 1974, UHD has a base of over 60,000 alumni, and offers 45 baccalaureate and 10 Master's degree programs across five colleges.
- [University of Houston-Victoria](#) – Located in the Coastal Bend region about two hours west/southwest of Houston and founded in 1973, UHV is an undergraduate and master's university that enrolled its first freshman class in fall 2010. UHV offers more than 80 academic programs, with concentrations in the liberal arts and social sciences; business; education and health professions; and natural and applied sciences; along with one of the most dynamic online educational programs in the state. UHV has over 23,000 alumni and is the only university within a 100-mile radius.

### **Houston, Texas**

Houston is a great global city, the nation's fourth largest, and its community is one of the youngest, fastest growing, and most diverse populations in the country with one in four of the region's 7 million residents being foreign born and where more than 145 languages are spoken. Reflective of its position as the Energy Capital of the World and a hub for global trade, 44 out of 113 U.S. publicly traded oil and gas companies are headquartered here, ranking Houston #3 among U.S. metro areas in *Fortune 500* headquarters. In addition, Houston is at the vanguard of the clean energy revolution and continues to grow with the energy transition. Houston is also home to the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, over 500 digital technology companies, and an aerospace community that is flourishing because of a close partnership between NASA and private space companies transforming its connection to space exploration.

With an incredibly rich quality of life with winning sports teams, world renowned cuisine, one of the largest collections of top-rated museums and cultural activities in the nation, and a low cost of living in addition to no state income tax—Houston is truly a great place to call home.

### **Position Summary**

The Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost) reports directly to Renu Khator, UH President and UHS Chancellor, and serves as the University's chief academic officer. In overseeing an Academic Affairs organization supported by an operational annual budget of more than \$561 million, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will be responsible for aligning academic and budgetary policy and priorities, ensuring the quality of the faculty and student body, helping to expand the research enterprise, and maintaining the educational excellence of the institution. In serving as a visible figure amongst an innovative community of scholars and students, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will provide leadership to support an interdisciplinary, student-centered culture across the campus. The academic mission is central to the University and as the chief academic officer, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost is central within UH's organizational structure. The role of UH's SVPAA & Provost includes responsibility to:

- Lead overall administration of all academic units through the establishment of academic priorities and supervision of the Deans of the [17 academic colleges and schools](#), the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and the Libraries;
- Lead implementation of the academic areas of the Strategic Plan;
- Promote diversity and inclusion in all matters of UH's academic affairs;
- Manage the organizational structure of the academic enterprise in order to foster student success, research excellence and faculty creativity;
- Provide leadership to encourage and facilitate teaching, research, and creative academic program development throughout UH;
- Participate in shared governance, in particular serving as the principal liaison with faculty through the Faculty Senate;
- Manage the strategy and operation of instructional sites;
- Support UH's research agenda in partnership with the Vice Chancellor / Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer;
- Facilitate partnerships and philanthropic opportunities in partnership with Vice Chancellor / Vice President for Advancement, among members of the UH community and a variety of external constituents, including alumni and donors, government and civic officials, and business and community leaders;
- Advise the Chancellor/President's Cabinet and System Executive Group on all matters relating to academic advancement.

In addition, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will also play a critical role within UHS as its Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs by providing academic leadership for the four UHS universities that results in optimal coordination and integration of the academic affairs of UHS. The ability to coordinate priorities amongst the UH campuses will be crucial to the success of UHS initiatives. The role of UHS's Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs includes responsibility to:

- Work closely with the Academic and Student Success Committee of the UHS Board of Regents which includes presentation of proposals for the establishment of new programs and degrees for each campus within the System;
- Oversee all UHS and UH matters relating to intra-system cooperation;
- Regularly convene the Provosts' Council within the UHS to review proposals for new academic programs in preparation for System and Board consideration and to discuss matters surrounding regional accreditation, quality instruction, faculty excellence, student success and productivity in research, scholarship and creative activities;
- Serve as the UHS liaison to the University Faculty Executive Committee (Faculty Senate leaders from each UH campus) during monthly meetings;
- Serve as a resource to UHS campus leaders who seek advice/feedback on academic issues encountered on their respective campuses;
- Manage and update System policies pertaining to the academic enterprise and presenting them for Board consideration;
- Play a leading role with the Houston Guided Pathways to Success initiative that fosters collaboration among UHS campuses and community colleges in ensuring smooth transitions for transfer students; and
- Serve as the liaison on academic matters to the UHS Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

### **Opportunities and Challenges**

The next SVCAA, SVPAA and Provost will join the University of Houston at a crucial moment in its history. Embracing UH's spirit of entrepreneurship, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost must have the ability to set priorities, determine a plan to achieve them, and communicate effectively with multiple constituencies to implement them. Specifically, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will work to address the following opportunities and challenges:

- **Implementing the University's New Strategic Plan** – In supporting and implementing the University's new strategic plan the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will serve as a catalyst inspiring university and external stakeholders to focus their collective energy on a shared vision for excellence and maximizing their contributions in realizing the University's full potential. Ultimately, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will work in collaboration with the faculty to chart a pathway that will lead to UH being recognized among the top 50 public universities in the nation.
- **Strengthening Diversity** – UH is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and fostering an environment that is welcoming to students and faculty who come from all over the world. The next SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will play an essential part in promoting inclusive excellence across the University and strengthening a university culture supportive of and dedicated to the success of a diverse faculty, staff, and students.
- **Increasing the University's National and International Presence** – The SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will be expected to spearhead an aggressive vision for increasing the University's visibility and reputation within the Greater Houston Region, nationally, and internationally to create new opportunities for building upon the University's distinguished history, contributions, and impact on a global scale.
- **Increasing Research and Creative Activity** – In joining UH, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will assume a key leadership role at an institution committed to further accelerating its research efforts through fostering a culture of curiosity, collaboration, and ambition. With this in mind, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost must be prepared to capitalize on the University's successes in research and creative activity over the last decade to identify and implement strategies that guide UH's journey toward achieving its goal of building a nationally competitive research powerhouse that shapes lives and creates innovations for the greater good.
- **Promoting Student Success** – In addition to a focus on growing the impact of the University's scholarly and research activity, UH possesses a strong history and tradition of creating effective and welcoming teaching and learning environments for students. The next SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost must be dedicated to upholding this commitment to its students and in collaboration with the faculty, guide the University's efforts in: improving academic services; prioritizing future program development; and exploring new methods to promote teaching excellence and distinction that will further elevate the student experience in meaningful ways.
- **Navigating an Evolving Higher Education and Economic Environment** – Providing a framework for the long-term sustainability of the University will be a key priority for the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost. To do so, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost must couple thoughtful, collaborative process with strategic, decisive action to capitalize on opportunities for efficiencies while identifying new and enhancing existing revenue streams for the University. In addition, the SVCAA, SVPAA & Provost will work closely

with leaders of key internal and external stakeholders to enrich their understanding of the importance of higher education and the impact UH has on its communities.

- **Enhancing the Collective Strength of the University of Houston System** –The SVCAA, SVCAA & Provost will be expected to explore strategies for enhancing a high-functioning and cohesive University and System organization that showcases the unique attributes and strengths of each campus while maximizing the collective intellectual capital and resources of the System in a manner that will better serve the region. In this capacity, the SVCAA, SVCAA & Provost will advocate boldly on behalf of UHS and its campuses and promoting its compelling vision for the future that will inspire continued investment in the University. In doing so, this individual will create and foster an institutional environment with a shared sense of mission, culture, and esprit-de-corps.

### **Qualities and Characteristics**

The University of Houston seeks candidates whose perspectives, leadership, and personal and professional experiences have together prepared them to serve as an effective and collaborative leader of UH's efforts to achieve the visionary goals set forth in its new Strategic Plan. The successful candidate will possess many of the following qualities and characteristics:

- The ability to implement effective strategies for strengthening a cohesive and well-integrated university that maximizes resources and the intellectual capital of the faculty;
- The ability to foster positive working relationships with legislators and other key stakeholders and advocate on behalf of UHS and each of its campuses;
- The ability to foster an environment that recruits, supports, and retains a world-class faculty and staff;
- The ability to serve as a passionate advocate for promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging;
- Demonstrated experience as a persuasive and articulate communicator with the ability to translate the University's mission and vision in a manner that inspires and engages a broad audience of internal and external stakeholders;
- The ability to serve as a visible and vocal leader within the higher education community, statewide and nationally, and serve as an influential voice in the national dialogue regarding key issues impacting higher education in general, UH, and UHS;
- The ability to work effectively with constituent UHS campus leaders in helping them reach their academic, research/scholarship and student success goals;
- A strong history of developing programs and creating effective and welcoming teaching and learning environments that have had a positive impact on student success;
- A demonstrated commitment and proven record of supporting a diverse student body that includes many first-generation college students;
- A record of success in building, inspiring, and leading highly effective teams;
- An understanding and respect for the roles and responsibilities of the faculty and the tenets of shared governance;
- A compassionate, approachable, and data-informed leadership style that invites collaboration and demonstrates transparency in decision making;
- The ability to foster an environment that exemplifies respect, innovation, and shared accountability;

- An understanding of the importance of creating and fostering a culture that promotes, rewards, and enhances academic excellence;
- A deep commitment to and expectation of accountability for clear strategic and tactical goals and meaningful metrics of progress;
- The ability to lead a complex institution with a track record of success;
- An appreciation for the significant role of intercollegiate athletics in the life of the University; and
- Enthusiasm to build on the deep community cultural wealth present within the universities in the System.

### **Required Qualifications**

Qualifications for the position include a distinguished record of academic leadership and accomplishment commensurate with appointment at the rank of full professor with tenure at a research university and administrative experience in such a university. The successful candidate would have a deep understanding of interactions across a system of universities. The successful candidate will demonstrate high academic standards and a broad understanding of the disciplines and professions represented at the University of Houston, will be an outstanding communicator, demonstrate commitment to improving access to higher education, and will value and practice teamwork.

### **Application and Nomination Process**

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. Applicants must submit: a current resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter describing relevant experience and interest in the position. Nomination letters should include the name, position, address, and telephone number of the nominee. All applications and nominations will be handled in confidence.

**Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted by email to:**



**Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner**  
**Sal Venegas Jr., Principal**

Email: [apsearch@spaexec.com](mailto:apsearch@spaexec.com)

Refer to code "UH-SVCAASVPAAProvost" in the subject line

SP&A Executive Search  
 6512 Painter Avenue  
 Whittier, CA 90601

***The University of Houston is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.***

***Minorities, women, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.***

***The University of Houston is responsive to the needs of dual career couples.***