

UH-Downtown Students Earn Insurance Council of Texas Scholarship Awards



Chris Alvarado, Recipient, Mark Hanna, ICT Executive Director, Amanda Underwood, Recipient, Gerald Ladner, IRM Advisory Council member, and Wendall Braniff, IRM Center Director

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) awarded academic scholarships to two University of Houston Downtown (UHD) Insurance and Risk Management students this week during the College of Business' first Career Day event. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship award.

ICT is the largest insurance association in Texas with over 500 insurance company members. The ICT Education Foundation recently added UHD to the list of university and college programs it supports through academic achievement funds and student scholarships. ICT also contributed \$2,500 to UHD's Insurance and Risk Management program.

Mark Hanna, ICT's Executive Director, made the awards saying, "The location of the University of Houston Downtown is critical in providing the insurance industry with well-qualified applicants."

Wendall Braniff, Director of the IRM Center at UHD noted that industry support has been a significant factor for the UHD IRM program, which incorporates professional designation courses for the Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Certified Risk Manager (CRM), Registered Health Underwriter (RHU), and Registered Employee Benefits Consultant (REBC) into its degree curriculum. "Strong ties to the

insurance and risk management industry through our Advisory Council, adjunct faculty and major contributors and supporters are an essential element in building the UHD program,” she said.

Gerald Ladner, State Auto Insurance Companies’ Regional President and UHD IRM Center Advisory Council member also participated in the Career Day activities, serving on an insurance and risk management panel that outlined the benefits of a career in insurance and risk management to students, along with Ken Hotchkiss of Hotchkiss Insurance Agency, Elizabeth Lineberger of State Farm Insurance Companies, and George Gonzales of Farmer’s Insurance Group.