Email from Dr. Flores to UHD Faculty and Staff
Re: Voting in the 2012 Presidential Election

As the 2012 presidential election draws near, we each have an opportunity to impact the future direction of our country at a most pivotal time.

This election is critical as our nation recovers from a recession and attempts to strengthen a weak economy and job market. The election also involves numerous local and state issues of importance to the future of our city, including bonds for schools and miles of hike-and-bike trails, among others.

Beginning today, you can cast your vote and I encourage you to vote early! You can take advantage of early voting through Friday, Nov. 2 in any polling location in your county of residence. You can find a Harris County polling location near you at [http://www.harrisvotes.com/VoterBallotSearch.aspx](http://www.harrisvotes.com/VoterBallotSearch.aspx). As state employees, you can take time off from work to vote with prior approval from your supervisor.

**You also can join our UHD “Walk to Vote” event on Thursday, Nov. 1,** as faculty, staff and students join Houston Mayor Annise Parker, City Councilman Ed Gonzalez and me at a rally on the South Deck at 1 p.m., followed by a walk to the Harris County Administration Building at 1001 Preston at 2 p.m. to cast our votes.

Additionally, I encourage you to participate in the more than 500 community-sponsored events during Citizenship Week from Nov. 11 – 17. These events, which you can access at [http://citizenshipweek.org/](http://citizenshipweek.org/), celebrate the diversity and civic engagement of our city. UHD will host a Citizenship Week event on Tuesday, Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Special Event Center to honor these unique characteristics of our city and campus.

Voting is integral to our role as engaged citizens of our city and country. President Franklin Roosevelt once said, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they can do this is by not voting.”

I urge you to exercise your right to vote, either in early voting or on Election Day Nov. 6. Through our votes, we can chart the future direction of our city and usher in a new era of prosperity for our country.