Welcome back to the University of Houston-Downtown. I hope you are all refreshed and ready to hit the ground running this semester! It feels like just yesterday that I arrived as the new Dean of the University College and Chief Student Success Officer, but it has been over six months! Time flies when you are having fun. This has been an amazing and fun-filled six months. Our college programs have record enrollment, our Student Support Services saw a record number of students, and the Academic Advising and Gator Success Centers helped more students succeed than ever before. While we have accomplished a tremendous amount together over the past six months, we continue to be “on the move” and will continue to work towards creating an environment that is student-centered and promotes student success, both personal and professional. I look forward to working with you to make it happen!!

In the News

Our BAAS-Applied Administration program was ranked among the best 100 Online Bachelor’s Programs in the nation. Even more impressive, our program was ranked 7th in Texas! “Being ranked by U.S. News & World Report is a tremendous honor for our university,” said UHD President, Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz. I am so proud of Dr. Karen Kaser, program director, for her leadership, our faculty for their commitment to our students’ success, and to our BAAS-AA students for choosing us to Finish UHD Strong!! As our BAAS-AA degree continues to evolve and continues to prepare our students with the 21st Century Skills needed to be successful in the workforce, I am confident our rankings will continue to improve. Great job BAAS-AA Team!!! This is a really awesome accomplishment!

What’s New in University College

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a peer academic support program. SI Leaders are UHD students that attend class with their students so they know exactly what topics are covered in class. Outside of class, SI Leaders hold study sessions and exam reviews weekly to reinforce content using collaborative group activities and games. All SI sessions and reviews are free to attend, no appointment required! A full schedule of sessions is available in The Learning Connection, 405-South (across from the library) or online at: www.uhd.edu/si.

This semester, SI is piloting the Brain Food Project as a way to ensure students are nutritionally equipped to take on their courses. Students who attend SI sessions can select from a small menu of food items they can eat during the study sessions.
College Spotlight: Free Tutoring Services to Support Students

The UHD Writing & Reading Center (WRC) opens to students on January 22, 2019. The WRC supports writers in a variety of ways, including: 1) 30- and 60-minute appointments with trained tutors; 2) assistance during face-to-face or online sessions; 3) support for all types of writing, from developing cover letters and scholarship applications to essays and laboratory reports; and 4) help with developing and organizing ideas to properly citing source material. For more information about location and hours of operation, visit the WRC online at: https://www.uhd.edu/wrc.

STUDENT SUCCESS TIP OF THE MONTH

Getting past the first few weeks of class can be tough! You have to make sure you check the syllabus, especially the due dates for all assignments. It is always a good thing to read and get informed about the lecture beforehand. It is better to work on your assignments and stay ahead instead of getting behind. There is help available all around campus, so don’t be afraid to reach out!

ALICIA GARCIA
Senior-Accounting Major