



SEARCH PROFILE

Interim Vice President for
Advancement and University
Relations

POSITION OVERVIEW

The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) seeks applications and nominations for the position of Interim Vice President for Advancement and University Relations (VPAUR). The successful candidate will be a strategic, collaborative, and innovative leader with demonstrated success in fundraising, institutional advancement, marketing, communications, and constituent engagement.

Reporting directly to the Interim President and serving as a member of the President's Cabinet, the Interim VPAUR will provide executive leadership for the University's advancement and university relations enterprise, including development, alumni relations, marketing, communications, digital engagement, and public relations. The Interim Vice President will play a critical role in strengthening UHD's philanthropic capacity, institutional visibility, and community partnerships while advancing the University's mission as a student-centered anchor institution located in the heart of downtown Houston.

The Interim position is a minimum one-year appointment with an anticipated start date of June 15, 2026.





ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) is a comprehensive four-year university that offers bachelor's and master's degree programs aimed at career preparation. UHD has served the educational needs of Houston, the fourth-largest city in the U.S., for more than 50 years. Located in the heart of downtown Houston, one of the nation's most culturally diverse metropolitan areas, UHD offers one of the lowest public university tuition rates in Houston and ranks No. 27 among Top Performers on Social Mobility by U.S. News & World Report (2023-24).

Serving more than 13,000 students, UHD is one of three distinct universities within the University of Houston System and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

MISSION

The University of Houston-Downtown is a dynamic and welcoming community of faculty, staff, students, and regional partners dedicated to nurturing talent, generating knowledge, and driving socioeconomic mobility for a just and sustainable future.

VISION

The University of Houston-Downtown will be the university of choice for Houstonians and all seeking to contribute to the social, intellectual, and cultural lives of their communities.

INTERIM PRESIDENT DEBORAH E. BORDELON

Deborah E. Bordelon became the eighth president of the University of Houston-Downtown on May 1, 2026. A respected higher education leader and scholar with extensive experience in academic affairs, faculty development, and student success initiatives, Dr. Bordelon has played a significant role in advancing UHD's mission and strategic priorities.

Prior to serving as Interim President, Dr. Bordelon held senior leadership roles at UHD, including Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to student achievement, academic excellence, inclusive leadership, and community engagement.



As Interim President, Dr. Bordelon is committed to sustaining UHD's momentum in student success, institutional visibility, strategic partnerships, and operational excellence while continuing to support the University's mission of transforming lives and communities through accessible higher education.



ABOUT THE DIVISION OF ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Division of Advancement and University Relations advances the mission, visibility, reputation, and philanthropic priorities of the University of Houston-Downtown through integrated fundraising, marketing, communications, alumni engagement, and constituent relations strategies.

The division serves as the University's central coordinating unit for institutional advancement and external engagement efforts and works collaboratively across academic and administrative units to strengthen relationships with alumni, donors, corporations, foundations, community leaders, media partners, and other stakeholders.

The division is accountable for the following functions:

ADVANCEMENT

- Major Gifts and Leadership Giving
- Annual Giving
- Corporate and Foundation Relations
- Planned and Legacy Giving
- Advancement Operations and Services
- Alumni Relations
- Campaigns and Special Initiatives
- Donor Stewardship and Engagement

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

- Marketing and Brand Strategy
- Communications and Public Relations
- Media Relations
- Digital Communications
- Web Strategy and Management
- Social Media and Content Development
- Executive Communication



THE POSITION

The Interim Vice President for Advancement and University Relations (VPAUR) reports directly to the President and serves on the President's Cabinet. This role serves as the University's chief development officer and chief marketing and communications officer and provides strategic, operational, and administrative leadership for all functions within the Division of Advancement and University Relations.

In partnership with the President, the VPAUR leads the University's fundraising strategy and advancement operations, including major gifts, annual giving, planned giving, corporate and foundation relations, alumni engagement, and campaign planning and execution. The VPAUR directly supports presidential fundraising priorities and serves as a key strategist and relationship manager for high-capacity donors, institutional partners, and community stakeholders.

The VPAUR also provides strategic oversight for UH's marketing, communications, digital engagement, and web presence to ensure alignment with institutional priorities related to fundraising, enrollment, visibility, and reputation.

The successful candidate will be expected to strengthen advancement infrastructure, enhance cross-campus collaboration, support institutional storytelling, and position UH for continued philanthropic and reputational growth.

LEADERSHIP AGENDA

Advance UHD's Culture of Philanthropy

Strengthen and expand UHD's culture of philanthropy by building meaningful relationships with donors, alumni, corporations, foundations, and community stakeholders.

Elevate Institutional Visibility and Reputation

Lead integrated marketing and communications strategies that strengthen UHD's brand identity, increase institutional visibility, and communicate the transformative impact of the University.

Strengthen Advancement Infrastructure and Performance

Assess and strengthen advancement systems, processes, metrics, and operational effectiveness to improve fundraising outcomes and organizational sustainability.

Build Collaborative Campus Partnerships

Collaborate closely with academic leaders, enrollment management, faculty, and administrative units to align advancement and communications initiatives with institutional priorities.

Enhance Digital Engagement and Storytelling

Advance UHD's digital engagement strategies by improving web presence, strengthening storytelling, and leveraging integrated communications channels.

Develop and Support a High-Performing Team

Instill a culture of accountability, innovation, collaboration, and professional development within the Division of Advancement and University Relations.





PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide strategic, operational, and administrative leadership for the Division of Advancement and University Relations.
- Lead and execute comprehensive fundraising strategies that support institutional priorities and increase philanthropic support.
- Partner with the Interim President to cultivate, solicit, and steward major donors and institutional partners.
- Oversee alumni relations, advancement operations, annual giving, planned giving, and campaign planning efforts.
- Lead UHD's marketing, communications, digital engagement, and public relations functions.
- Strengthen UHD's institutional brand and reputation through integrated messaging and communications strategies.
- Oversee digital and web strategy to improve engagement, visibility, and user experience.
- Establish measurable goals and performance metrics across advancement and university relations functions.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with academic and administrative leaders to support institutional priorities.
- Represent UHD with external constituents, community organizations, foundations, corporations, and University of Houston System stakeholders.
- Ensure compliance with University policies, accreditation expectations, and applicable state and federal regulations.

REQUIRED AND DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND ATTRIBUTES

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in business, marketing, communication or related field.
- Minimum of ten years of progressive leadership experience in university advancement, fundraising, marketing, communications, or related fields; or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Demonstrated success in major gift fundraising, donor cultivation, and campaign leadership.
- Experience leading integrated marketing, communications, and public relations initiatives.
- Demonstrated ability to build and sustain relationships with donors, alumni, corporations, foundations, and community stakeholders.
- Experience managing teams, budgets, strategic planning initiatives, and performance metrics in a complex organization.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and collaborative leadership skills.

Desired Qualifications

- Master's degree from an accredited institution in business, marketing, communication or related field.
- Experience in higher education advancement and university relations leadership.
- Experience serving a mission-driven organization.
- Demonstrated success aligning fundraising and communications strategies with institutional priorities and enrollment goals.
- Experience leading digital engagement, web strategy, and multi-channel marketing campaigns.
- Experience supporting comprehensive or capital campaign planning and execution.

Attributes

- Strategic, visionary, and collaborative leadership style.
- Strong commitment to UHD's mission, vision, and student-centered culture.
- Innovative and solutions-oriented mindset.
- High level of integrity, professionalism, and accountability.
- Strong relationship-building and consensus-building abilities.
- Visible, accessible, and authentic leadership presence.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications and nominations accepted now through Friday, May 22 at 5 p.m.

Interested applicants should submit:

1. A letter of interest addressing qualifications and leadership experiences relevant to the position; and
2. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Apply online at:

<https://careers.uh.edu/jobs/interim-vice-president-advancement-university-relations-houston-texas-united-states>

Position inquiries should be directed to careers@uhd.edu.



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