

News Release

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University of Houston President given NASPA National Award

Renu Khator recipient of the 2014 NASPA President's Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Renu Khator, chancellor of the University of Houston System and president of the University of Houston (UH), was selected to receive the 2014 NASPA President's Award. The award gives special recognition to a college or university president who has, over a sustained period of time, advanced the quality of student life on campus by supporting student affairs staff and programs.

As President of UH, Khator has championed an \$80 million university center to enhance the residential environment. That was much needed since 4,000 more students live on-campus than when she started. She supports Living and Learning Communities and has found ways for faculty to participate in what she calls a "Faculty in Residence" program.

Richard Walker, vice chancellor for Student Affairs at UH, says, "President Khator firmly believes in the role that students and student affairs staff play in guiding and improving programs and services within the Division of Student Affairs and throughout the institution. She supports an environment of innovation and creativity in meeting the needs of students."

Khator's goal when she was hired was to elevate UH to a Tier One university. She met that goal five years ahead of projections.

Colleagues say she listens to the faculty and students, supporting changes to the Financial Aid Office that improved customer service, enhanced web access and allows the university to better attract students.

She has monthly meetings with student government leaders and speaks to more than 9,000 new students in their classes each semester. And, she has more than 8,500 Twitter followers, most of whom are students.

Nelda Luce Blair, former chair of the UH System Board of Regents, says Khator's "personal connection with UH System students is nothing short of phenomenal. Suffice it to say, from personal experience, I can attest that she loves them and in turn, they adore her."

Khator and the other National Award winners will be honored in March at the 2014 NASPA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md.