



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UH SYSTEM REGENTS PASS RESOLUTION TO USHER IN THE HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Action is a Milestone in the Center's 30-Year History

HOUSTON, Aug. 26, 2013—The University of Houston System Board of Regents has passed a resolution in support of the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs.

Jim Granato, professor and director of the UH Hobby Center for Public Policy (HCPP), says the resolution begins the process to create the school.

“We are very grateful for the support from Chair Blair and the UH Board of Regents as we begin the process with the development of various education programs and enhanced fundraising moving in unison,” he said. “We also thank Chancellor Khator for setting a tone that allows for growth and innovation at our university.”

The HCPP's advisory board chairman Beverly Kauffman applauds the decision to name the school for the state's former lieutenant governor.

“It is completely appropriate that a school of public affairs be named after Bill Hobby, whose family has left its mark of public service on the state of Texas,” she said. “A school in his name means the researchers at the Hobby Center for Public Policy will do more and greater things.”

Hobby now will chair a fundraising committee in support of the school.

Growing into a school of public affairs would be a milestone in the more than 30 year history of the center.

The UH Center for Public Policy began in 1981 as an impartial research organization within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Its mission is to provide scientific, non-biased data and analysis to public officials, business professionals and community leaders in Houston and Texas. Recent studies have examined the Houston economy, use of Conducted Energy Devices at the Houston Police Department, the demographics of Texas Lottery players, and capacity evaluation for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. In 2010, it was renamed for former Lieutenant Governor of Texas Bill Hobby.

The Concept Visualization Lab was created in collaboration with former NASA researchers and presents statistical data using dynamic and interactive methods. Many HCPP research projects have been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), including one to conduct a panel survey of housing foreclosure trends in Houston. Educational expansion has occurred in the development of the Certified Public Manager's Program, and the extensive number of student internship programs, including the Hobby Fellows Program, the Leland Fellows Program, and the Civic Houston Internship Program. A new education initiative is the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), an annual summer training institute for graduate students pursuing research.

Bill Hobby has served as the Sid Richardson Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs in Austin (1991-1995) and was a Member, Visiting Committee, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1995-2001; University of Houston System Chancellor (1995-1997); and Commissioner of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (1993-1994). He also has served appointments to the boards of Rice University (1989-1993); University of Houston (1995-1997), Southwest Airlines (1990-2007), and St. Edward's University (1990-1995).

For more information on the UH Hobby Center for Public Policy:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsPepOqYNxY#at=57>

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best colleges for undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city, UH serves more than 40,700 students in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region in the country.

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