

# University of Houston selects new provost from California school

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Diane Chase is the University of Houston's next provost.

Courtesy of the University of Houston

The University of Houston has named its next provost after a months-long search to fill the institution's top academic post.

Diane Z. Chase, currently at Claremont Graduate University in Southern California, faces the immediate task of hiring four new academic deans – as well as a longer-term goal to push UH into an elite roster of U.S. public universities.

She will begin in February, pending a vote from the UH System Board of Regents.

"I am thrilled to have Dr. Chase lead academic affairs for UH and the UH System and join UH as our new provost," said UH System Chancellor Renu Khator, who is also the flagship's president. "She is well respected by her colleagues, known as a renowned researcher and administrator who is passionate about the success of students and faculty. She brings considerable experience to the position and transformational ideas that will elevate the student experience across the UH System."

A 16-member committee selected Chase after a nationwide search to replace former provost Paula Myrick Short, who retired in August 2022.

Chase, an archeologist and longtime administrator whose experience has spanned large undergraduate universities and mid-size graduate schools, will also serve as the UH flagship's senior vice president for academic affairs and the system's senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"It's kind of a soup to nuts experience that hopefully I bring to the table," she said. "I do believe that I'll be able to help facilitate that transition and work with the faculty and the staff to be able to do the things we need to do to progress. But Houston is already on that path."

Chase comes to UH following years of growth at the school's academic level and a continued push for higher esteem – the university is currently working to crack a list of Top 50 public universities in the U.S.

That growth hasn't come without some upheaval or dissension in its programs, however. Chase will need to help select new deans in the College of

Education, Graduate College of Social Work, Honors College and College of Technology.

As provost, Chase will oversee an annual budget of more than \$561 million and direct the academic policies of 17 colleges, according to the university. At the UH System, her job will include reviewing proposals for new programs and degrees for each of the four System universities.

With 40 years in academia – half of those in administrative roles – Chase has worked in provost’s offices at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Central Florida, the nation’s largest public university. She led the office at the Nevada institution and focused on boosting the reach of research and teaching efforts, as well as student success, according to the University of Houston.

At Claremont, Chase is the vice president for academic innovation, student success and strategic initiatives. She holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, and her research has since focused on the reconstruction of the city of ancient Maya.



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Samantha Ketterer is a Houston Chronicle reporter covering higher education.

She joined the staff as a breaking news reporter in 2018. She later covered criminal justice and the Harris County courthouse.

Samantha, who is from Houston's suburbs, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and is a proud alumna of The Daily Texan. She is a former reporting fellow for the Dallas Morning News' state bureau and a former city hall reporter for The Galveston County Daily News.