



## Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2024

### Diane Z. Chase, PhD

Senior VP, Academic Affairs & Provost, University of Houston  
Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, UH System

*“Dr. Diane Z. Chase has authored more than 170 articles and book chapters, as well as monographs and edited books.”*

**D**r. Diane Z. Chase serves as senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost for the University of Houston and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of Houston System.

At UH, Dr. Chase is the institution's Chief Academic Officer, overseeing its academic programs, including graduate, undergraduate, continuing education and distance education programs. She also leads implementation of the university's ambitious strategic plan and its bold vision to become a Top 50 public university. Toward the achievement of this vision, Dr. Chase leads the Office of the Provost which includes Faculty Affairs, Faculty Recruitment and Retention, Undergraduate Student Success, Graduate School, Education and Innovation Technology, Institute of Global Engagement,

Institutional Research and Effectiveness, University of Houston at Sugar Land, University of Houston at Katy and Academic Finance and Administration.

Key initiatives across these units focus on facilitating student success and faculty excellence. Impactful programs are offered to support undergraduate and graduate students from enrollment to graduation. Leadership is also provided for Houston Guided Pathways to Success, a collaboration of 14 Houston area institutions of higher education that supports seamless transfer from community colleges to universities toward increasing degree attainment. Professors and scholars who make a difference in the classroom and the community are recognized through annual Teaching Excellence Awards. Faculty are also provided with opportunities to enhance their talents as teachers, researchers and mentors to students through a variety of professional development activities.

In her UH System role as senior vice chancellor, Dr. Chase oversees the academic quality and accreditation of all four UH System institutions: University of Houston, University of Houston–Downtown, University of Houston–Clear Lake and the University of Houston–Victoria. A higher education veteran with 40 years in academia and 20 years in leadership roles, Dr. Chase brings a wealth of

knowledge and practical experience to UH and the UH System.

Dr. Chase is dedicated to highlighting and celebrating exceptional students through her ongoing series, Provost Profiles. Recently, she has expanded her efforts to explore and showcase the most fascinating and innovative corners of campus life with her new series, Expedition: UH.

Previously, she served as vice president for Academic Innovation, Student Success and Strategic Initiatives at Claremont Graduate University. In that role, she guided a range of student success initiatives and was part of the campus' executive leadership team. Prior posts include executive vice president and provost at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a number of roles within the University of Central Florida.

Dr. Chase holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a highly regarded archaeologist and prolific scholar who is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Her research focuses on the nexus of history and archaeology, complex societies, sustainability and urbanism in reconstructing past lifeways of the ancient Maya. Her research is chronicled in print, video and electronic media. Her recent work incorporates the use of lidar to penetrate the jungle canopy and reconstruct the ancient city.