



MEMORANDUM

TO: UAH Faculty, Staff and Students

FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch, President

DATE: January 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Ray Vaughn announces retirement

Ray Vaughn has announced his intention to step down from his position as Vice President for Research and Economic Development at UAH effective May 2018.

Ray's valuable knowledge and expertise will be missed, although he will remain in the greater Huntsville area and plans to stay engaged with UAH as part of his retirement plans.

It has been my good fortune to work with Ray at both Mississippi State and now at UAH. The UAH campus has experienced numerous advances as a result of his efforts since he joined the University in May 2013. During his five years at UAH Ray:

- Developed a robust and growing cybersecurity program that is arguably one of the best in the nation. Ray acquired more than \$5 million to support it and established a successful Center for Cybersecurity Research and Education
- Managed the funding sources for a \$14.5 million building of a business incubator on campus, hired its first director, and established procedures for its operation
- Served as Principal Investigator or Co-PI on \$10 million in grants and co-PI on \$7 million in pending proposals
- Created a successful Office for Proposal Development to support faculty and research staff in proposal submissions
- Developed a more balanced portfolio of contracts and grants for UAH
- Acquired an economic development mission and engaged the University more effectively in economic development activities in our region
- Set the groundwork for the UAH lead of a state-wide \$20 million National Science Foundation EPSCoR award
- Reported the highest annual research expenditures in UAH history to NSF during the past five years
- Served an instrumental role in acquiring a \$1 million gift from Aerojet Rocketdyne.

We offer our best wishes to Ray and his wife, Dianne, and good fortune in their future.