South Florida Educator Likely New UH President
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By: Jack Williams

The number two administrator at the University of South Florida is the sole finalist to become the new president at University of Houston and Chancellor of the U of H System. Houston Public Radio's Jack Williams reports.

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After 22 years of working her way up through the ranks at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Dr. Renu Khator will begin a new challenge after the University of Houston Board of Regents officially confirms her as the System and University's leader next month. The 52-year-old Khator is currently provost and senior vice president at USF, a school with 45,000 students at four campuses.

"I am so honored that I was considered for the position and I feel very fortunate that I have won their faith. I really thank the Board of Regents and the faculty, students, staff, community, alumni, donors because they all had representation in the search committee."

Khator would replace Dr. Jay Gogue, who became the president of Auburn University earlier this year. She's the top academic officer at a school that's considered a top-tier research university. She says the University of Houston has a lot going for it.

"I like the fact that it is committed to its metropolitan mission, which means providing access at an affordable cost to students. I particularly like the bold vision of the University of Houston. They want to be a nationally-ranked, top tier public research university. I like the diversity at the University of Houston and their commitment to it. I think that all of these things put together and the top-notch faculty that are at the University of Houston, I find it to be a phenomenal place."

Under state law, the University of Houston's Board of Regents must wait 21-days before confirming Dr. Khator as president. Interim chancellor and President John Rudley is expected to serve until Khator begins here, likely in January of next year.