

Honorary Degree Nominee
University of Houston-Downtown
November 20, 2025

Marilyn Davies

Marilyn Davies is a visionary entrepreneur, philanthropist, and advocate for higher education whose leadership has left an indelible mark on Houston's business and academic communities. A native Houstonian, Davies serves as Chief Executive Officer of Bailey Banks Seismic, L.P., a proprietary seismic data company that provides critical geophysical data to the energy industry.

After earning her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Texas Tech University in 1970, Davies began her career in computer sales before entering the oil and gas industry in 1980, a move that would define her professional path. When the energy market declined in the early 1980s, Davies demonstrated both foresight and resilience by purchasing the assets of Bailey Banks Seismic from a former employer. In 1991, she founded her own seismic data brokerage, marketing exploration data to major energy companies. Today, her firm manages the Professional Geophysics Inc. database, which includes over 25,000 miles of exploration data spanning basins across the United States.

Davies' enduring connection to the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) began when she took summer classes at South Texas Junior College, which later became UHD. Her admiration for the institution deepened as she witnessed her family's success - her son, Taylor Davies, earned a bachelor's degree in political science, and her brother, Kelly Davies, completed both his bachelor's degree in political science and later a Master of Security Management with a concentration in Cybersecurity.

Inspired by UHD students' perseverance and dedication, Davies made history with a \$10 million gift to the University, the largest in UHD's history establishing the Marilyn Davies College of Business. This landmark endowment not only elevated UHD's capacity to serve its students and faculty but also created the first college of business in Texas named for a woman, and only the fourth nationally.

In addition to her transformative philanthropy, Davies has been deeply engaged in professional and civic life. She has served on the Texas Christian University Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences Board of Visitors and has been active in organizations such as the Houston West Business Breakfast Club, Sales & Marketing Executives International – Houston Chapter, and Junior Achievement. A long-standing member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists for more than four decades, she has also advised the professional sales and marketing fraternity Pi Sigma Epsilon at both Sam Houston State University and the University of Houston.

Through her business leadership and enduring commitment to education, Marilyn Davies continues to inspire future generations of students and professionals to pursue excellence, resilience, and purpose in their fields.