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DU *alumnus* Engineer Durga Agrawal honoured at University of Houston USA : Durga D and Shushila Agrawal Engineering Research Building 2019 dedicated



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DurgaAgrawal and his wife Sushila



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DurgaAgrawal

President CEO

Piping Technology and Products, IncUSA

BE DCE 1967/1968



DrDurga Das Agrawal and his wife Sushila with University of Houston Chancellor D. Renu Khator and her husband Dr. Suresh Khator at the dedication of the Department of Engineering Research Building

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DrDurga D. Agrawal, a longtime Houston resident, is well known for giving back to the community particularly to his alma mater – the University of Houston. One **26 April 2019**, the University recognized his sizable and generous gift by renaming the Engineering building as the **Durga D and SushilaAgrawal Engineering Research Building**. A floor is also named after the couple and the gift will provide ongoing support for faculty, students, research and building operations.

Chancellor RenuKhator, Consul General of India Dr. Anupam Ray, members of the Indian community, students, faculty, Dr. Agrawal's children, grandchildren and colleagues were present at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

In his remarks, Dr. Agrawal traced his values of compassion, giving back and respect for education to his parents and acknowledged his wife Sushila's support and patience without which, he said, he would not have completed his doctorate or built his business.

UH, he concluded, "has a very special place in my heart. We must keep the torch of knowledge, excellence and innovation growing and glowing."

Durgacame to Houston USA in 1968 with BE in **Mechanical Engineering** from **Delhi College of Engineering DCE**, then located within the historic **Kashmere Gate** and a proud constituent of the University of Delhi.

He earned his Master's and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from **UH Cullen College of Engineering**.

"My message to the students is to always be optimistic; one can achieve any goal with hard work, persistence and determination," says alumnus Durga.

Ms Eloise Brice, Vice President University Advancement, said the gift will benefit a number of key objectives. "Recruiting the best and brightest students and faculty is a key goal for the University of Houston, and this generous gift will allow the Cullen College of Engineering to make great strides in that arena," Brice said.

"...There is a huge shortage of engineers in the country, and it's vital to stay aggressively focused on STEM education. I do believe that higher graduation rates and advanced degrees have a direct impact on improving local economies..."

"I have been practicing yoga for the last 15 years. As a result, I have more energy today than I had five years ago. My family and I have benefited a lot from Pranayam – that is, focusing mind on body during the deep breathing exercise..."

Engineer DurgaAgrawal was appointed to the University of Houston System Board of Regents in 2013 by Governor Rick Perry and will serve through August 31, 2019.

For fiscal year 2018-2019, he serves as *Chair Endowment Management Committee*, Vice Chair Audit and Compliance Committee and Member Academic and Student Success Committee *University of Houston USA*.

He is also Member National and Texas Societies of Professional Engineers of his alma mater **Cullen College of Engineering** and serves on its Leadership Board, is past President Indo – American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston, also current Trustee India House Houston.

His deep seated value for education probably stems from his own early struggles for educational opportunities. He was born in Lakhanpur, a small village in Madhya Pradesh in India with a population of 700. The village did not have a water supply system, electricity or high school which meant that he had to cycle or sometimes even walk to the high school 13 miles away. He was also the bookkeeper for his father's prosperous business from the time he was in elementary school and reveals that "when you work in the family business, you learn a lot."

Encouraged by his parents, he attended one of the best engineering schools in India, **IIT, New Delhi**.

He is President and CEO of **Piping Technology and Products, Inc.**, a company providing products and services for industrial and construction needs.

13.10.2018 Millennium Post *adapted*

18.10.2018 University of Houston Magazine/downloaded

04.05.2019 Indo American News *adapted*

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We're ever so proud of this distinguished Engineer Son of India, our DU Fellow – alumnus. And wish Durga and his *BetterHalf*Sushila continued excellence, greater honoursand joys in the personal – professional Decades Ahead !