

New Haven Register

University of Connecticut President Susan Herbst ranked 35th in total compensation among leaders of the nation's public colleges and universities in 2014-15, taking home \$656,769, according to the **Chronicle** of Higher Education.

Her base salary was \$551,769.

Herbst, who has led UConn since December 2010, sits in the top half of college and university presidents, according to the **Chronicle** of Higher Education, which released its annual listing Sunday. She earned \$575,000 in total compensation in the previous year, the **Chronicle** of Higher Education reported.

"She's ranked in the top 50. She's 35th," said **Dan Bauman**, data reporter for the **Chronicle** of Higher Education. "In terms of Ms. Herbst's pay, she's making more than the median of college presidents we looked at." The median is about \$431,000, he said.

As of fall 2015, UConn had 23,407 undergraduates and 8,217 graduate and professional students, according to spokesman Tom Breen.

The only other Connecticut public education leader on the **Chronicle** of Higher Education's list was Gregory Gray, former president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, who earned \$413,487 in total compensation and \$380,000 in base salary in 2014-15. He stepped down at the end of 2015 as head of the state's four regional universities, community colleges and its online university. His total package was just under the median, according to the **Chronicle** of Higher Education's listing.

"We are seeing, at least from last year, that the median total compensation is increasing," Bauman said.

Herbst's pay is low compared to her counterparts at private universities in Connecticut. Quinnipiac University's John Lahey earned \$1.25 million in total compensation in 2013, the most recent year reported by the **Chronicle** (Herbst, Page 4)

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of Higher Education. Four other college and university presidents earned more than Herbst, including two presidents of Yale University who each served only part of 2013.

Bauman said the compensation totals are reported by the universities themselves, and that presidents' paychecks tend to be hefty because of the complexity of the job. Trustees say "they're looking for really experienced people and people who have experience in running really complex systems," Bauman said. A university president may have to testify before the General Assembly, seek big donations from alumni and launch new initiatives during any given year, he said.

The highest-paid public university president on the **Chronicle** of Higher Education's list is Renu Khator of the University of Houston. Khator, who is also chancellor of the University of Houston system, was paid \$1.3 million in 2014-15. Four other university presidents also made more than \$1 million.

Lawrence McHugh, president of the UConn board of trustees, issued a statement calling Herbst "a bold, decisive and innovative leader whose most important priority has been and continues to be building the academic quality of the university on behalf of our students and the state of Connecticut."

McHugh said Herbst has hired more faculty in order to expand course offerings, "strengthened the research capability of the university; created the first comprehensive, long-term academic plan and master plan for the physical campus; placed a far greater emphasis on building private philanthropic support and enhancing

alumni relations," among other initiatives.

McHugh said the raise she received in 2014 came from private funds raised by the UConn Foundation.

"For all the success that UConn has seen, make no mistake: there is still a great deal of work to do to elevate the university to a level it is capable of reaching," McHugh's statement said. "President Herbst continues to be the right person to lead UConn forward."

The **Chronicle** of Higher Education's listing of college and university presidents' compensation can be seen at www.chronicle.com/compensation.

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