August 2017

PROVOST'S UPDATE

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all those who are joining Kennesaw State for the first time this fall 2017 semester, and to those who are returning to campus. Each new fall semester represents an opportunity to renew, refresh and recommit. I think it's that sense of new possibilities that generates such a feeling of excitement and energy.

Each of you plays a significant role in advancing the academic mission of the University. So, I renew my commitment to communicate on a regular basis and keep you informed about developments and issues that impact the academic life of KSU. Below are a few items I'd like to share with you:

Faculty/Staff Awards

Congratulations to all those who were recognized for their excellence during the faculty/staff awards at the Opening of the University. I would especially like to congratulate Philosophy Professor David Jones, who received the top honor – the University's Distinguished Professor Award – recognizing his teaching, research and service. In all, 24 faculty members and 16 staff members were recognized for their outstanding performance and contributions. I'd like to offer a special note of praise for the KSU Foundation, which generously funded these monetary awards for faculty and staff excellence.

Low-Producing Programs

Academic programs that are deemed to be "under-performing" or "low-producing" are a concern for all university constituents. They potentially impact students, faculty and staff. For this reason, I have been working with colleagues across the institution to help identify and provide support to struggling programs. It is my hope that we can work together to carefully monitor Kennesaw State's programs and proactively initiate measures to assure their health before they reach thresholds that have been identified by the University System of Georgia. To reiterate, the USG uses the following criteria to define low-producing programs, based on a three-year average:

Program level	Criteria
Bachelor's programs	Fewer than 10 graduates
Master's programs	Fewer than 5 graduates
Specialist in Education programs	Fewer than 5 graduates
Doctoral programs	Fewer than 3 graduates

Accessibility

As part of Kennesaw State's [2017-2018 Bridge Strategic Plan](#), the University has adopted priorities and action steps designed to improve collaboration and climate related to diversity, equity and inclusion. Making our learning environments more inclusive and accessible is an important step towards achieving the critical goal of improving retention, progression and graduation rates.

Classrooms and technology-enhanced-learning environments where faculty members encounter students with a wide range of backgrounds and learning needs must be accessible to everyone. Federal compliance requirements and a commitment to the diverse learning needs of our students compels us to incorporate inclusivity and accessibility into our approaches to course design.

I hope you will do your part to support the University's commitment to creating an inclusive environment. I encourage faculty and staff members to learn more about the resources below that are designed to help us advance this goal. Registration for accessibility-related professional learning is now available at http://accessibility.kennesaw.edu/getting-help.php.

- **The Distance Learning Center's Office of Academic Web Accessibility** provides professional learning to faculty and staff on designing and developing accessible course materials, captioning videos and testing the accessibility of new software and hardware.

- **Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)** produces research-based high-quality programs, services, and resources that enhance, document, and recognize teaching effectiveness.

- **University Information Technology Services (UITS)** provides guides for technology services available on campus, including learning technologies. Visit the UITS Documentation Center for information about the accessibility features of campus technology services.

- **Student Disability Services (SDS)** facilitates academic accommodation efforts to ensure access and legal compliance for students with disabilities. SDS provides faculty consultation and guidance on how to implement accommodations without fundamentally altering course standards.

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs

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