

November 2017

# PROVOST'S UPDATE

## **Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,**

There's an anticipation that is almost palpable at Kennesaw State during this time as we start wrapping up our classes and end-of-semester projects, and start preparing for finals, graduation and the coming holidays.



I would like to wish each of you a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday. As you join with family and friends, I hope you will remember to be thankful for the things, big and small, that have meaning to you.

I am grateful for another opportunity to share news and information that I believe will be useful to you, or that you may find good to know.

### **New tool for student success**

This spring, Kennesaw State will be going live with EAB's SSC (Student Success Collaborative) Guide, a student-facing mobile app that gives students a real-time, self-service option for some of their most commonly asked questions about enrollment, campus resources, and progression to degree. Questions that cannot be answered via the app will automatically be routed to the appropriate resource – an academic advisor, tutoring coordinator, financial aid counselor, or a career and internship advisor, for example.

With the Guide, students can get reminders and alerts about upcoming deadlines. The app syncs classes and dates to students' calendars and will give automated "nudges" if they get off track or miss a critical deadline. We are very excited about the potential of the Guide, and will be reaching out to the campus community in the spring semester to seek input on the key

components of the application.

### **Campus Safety and Notifications**

In the ongoing effort to maintain and enhance a safe university environment, I would like to outline appropriate procedures to follow should you face situations involving a safety concern or concern about an individual.

1. **Campus Police:** When a threat is imminent or if you are in doubt about the appropriate person to notify, please contact KSU Police at **470-578-6666**. KSU Police have the expertise to assess whether a situation presents a current threat, and they can respond accordingly. They also have the appropriate vetting mechanisms to determine the nature of any campus communications required under the circumstances.

2. **Behavioral Response Team (BRT):** When you do not sense an imminent threat, yet you have concern about an individual, you should report that individual to the University's Behavioral Response Team (BRT) in as timely a manner as possible. This [website](#) has the reporting link and other important information about the BRT, along with resources and online training to help you identify at-risk individuals.

3. **Title IX Coordinator:** If you know anyone who has experienced an incident of sexual discrimination or sexual misconduct, please contact the KSU Title IX Coordinator via e-mail at [eeo@kennesaw.edu](mailto:eeo@kennesaw.edu) or at **470-578-2614**. It is best to report as soon as possible. Also, if you have any doubt whether reporting is necessary, it is best to contact the Title IX Coordinator's office and they will help make that determination.

### **Hickory Grove Farm's future**

In light of questions surrounding the future of Kennesaw State's sustainable Hickory Grove Farm, I am pleased to report that upon review, the farm will continue to operate as long as it remains financially viable. It is our hope that with a modest investment, the farm will continue to serve as an important learning lab across many of our academic disciplines and programs.

### **Another high score for KSU's core curriculum**

For the seventh consecutive year, Kennesaw State scored an "A" for its high-quality core curriculum in a nationwide study on the state of general education released earlier this month by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA).

We are among a select group of 24 colleges and universities that earned an

“A” in the annual “What Will They Learn?” report. In this year’s study, KSU ranked in the top 2 percent among 1,100 major public and private four-year institutions surveyed.

### **Lower debt for KSU Grads**

Kennesaw State’s graduates had the sixth lowest level of debt upon graduation among 32 public and private Georgia colleges, according to the *2017 Student Loan Report*. The average debt per KSU grad in 2016 was \$15,624, compared to the state average debt per grad of \$16,375, and the national average of \$17,126. That means our graduates are entering the workforce with less student debt than their counterparts at other schools.

The report draws from Peterson’s Financial Aid dataset, covering the most recent student debt data from the Class of 2016. You can view the full report [here](#).



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