

September 2017

PROVOST'S UPDATE

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

I hope you are all settling into the pace and routines of this new academic year. As I watch students scramble to classes and fill the libraries and student centers on our campuses, I am reminded in stark terms why we do what we do. While the enormous responsibility we have undertaken as stewards of the University's mission may not be front-of-mind as we go about our day-to-day tasks, I know it motivates each of us at some level. That is evident in your hard work, commitment and contributions, which keep the wheels of this great institution moving forward.



With this edition of the newsletter, I am maintaining my commitment to keep you informed and share information that I think will be beneficial as you perform your respective roles. Below are a few such items.

Reorganization of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) and Institutional Research (IR)

Several major changes are being implemented in these areas, beginning this semester.

- First and foremost, IR has been moved into IE, which now reports directly to President Sam Olens.
- Danielle Buehrer has assumed the role of interim vice president for IE.
- Michael Young is serving as interim associate vice president for IR, following Rob Smith's acceptance of a position in Pennsylvania.
- A search is underway to permanently fill the VP of IE and AVP of IR positions
- In a related development, Dr. Timothy Blumentritt, director of the

President's Emerging Global Scholars (PEGS) Program and associate professor of management in the Coles College of Business, has been appointed to lead Kennesaw State's strategic planning process.

Emphasis on Staff Development

There are many efforts underway at the University to encourage and facilitate ongoing professional development for staff. The President's office, Staff Senate and the Center for University Learning (CUL) are working together to put in place policies, programs and resources designed to assure that staff members have access to quality development opportunities that lead to improved individual and organizational performance.

I would like to add my voice in support of these efforts. I encourage all members of the KSU staff to seek out meaningful professional development opportunities, and to work with department or division administration to access formal training available through the CUL or externally, mentorships, participation in professional organizations and other resources to improve and expand your professional capabilities.

I am convinced that doing so makes KSU a stronger institution.

Faculty Applications for the G2C Course Redesign

I am pleased to announce a call for applications for the second cohort of the Gateways to Completion (G2C) Course Redesign Faculty Learning Community (FLC). This FLC is part of a national effort led by the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education to improve student success in large-enrollment gateway courses that traditionally have high failure rates. Participating faculty will receive funding to meet bi-weekly throughout spring 2018 to discuss effective teaching practices for improving student success. They also will participate in a five-day Course Redesign Lab in summer 2018, collect data on the implementation of their course redesign, and present their findings at the G2C Faculty Annual Colloquium in fall 2019.

This year, we are expanding the initiative to include all high-enrollment 1000- and 2000- level courses with a drop/fail/withdraw/incomplete rate of 20 percent or higher. If your course meets these requirements, I encourage you to get more information and apply [here](#).

A Farewell to Two Devoted Colleagues

It is difficult to lose any valued member of a family or community. To lose two in one week is devastating. I join with the entire Kennesaw State community

in expressing deepest condolences to the families of Dr. Kathryn Epps and Dr. Sandra Vasa-Sideris, both of whom made enormous contributions to our academic community and to the Coles College of Business.

As associate dean and director of the School of Accountancy, Dr. Epps will be remembered for her distinguished teaching, outstanding leadership and devotion to helping students enter the field of accounting equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for success. [Her many accomplishments and contributions](#) to Kennesaw State are numerous.

Dr. Vasai-Sideris, a professor of management in the School of Management and Entrepreneurship, leaves a [legacy of service to students](#), especially those she advised through their transition from Southern Polytechnic State University's MBA program to Kennesaw State's MBA program after the consolidation of the two institutions.

We are so grateful that they both chose to selflessly serve Kennesaw State in their unique ways.



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