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## Message from the President

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# Message from the President

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

To the University Community:

It is often in the midst of difficult circumstances that we see true strength, courage and resilience demonstrated, and Hurricane Irma definitely presented the southeastern United States with difficult, and sometimes tragic circumstances.

My heart goes out to the areas hurt most by this storm, which left serious devastation in its path. There are thousands of people without power or water, many who have no home to which they can return, and I offer my best wishes and thoughts to those victims and their families.

Here in Statesboro, we were spared the worst of the hurricane, and on campus there was only minor flooding, some water damage, a few limbs and trees knocked down, and a power outage. Throughout this storm, however, our faculty and staff were kept up to date, our on-campus students were given food and shelter, and our facilities were cleaned and repaired. We have extraordinary staff and community partners that made all of this possible, and I want to specifically thank those who helped Georgia Southern get back up and running:

- The Office of Public Safety and the Emergency Management teams, for all their efforts on campus;
- Facilities, who have cleaned up on campus and restored power the same day after Monday's campus-wide outage;
- Auxiliary Services, including Dining Services and Housing, who kept students housed and fed during and after the storm;
- Athletics, including the coaches and staff who made sure our athletics teams reached and returned from their destinations safely;
- Student Affairs for caring for our students and responding to concerned parents and students during this time; and
- The University Communications team, who kept everyone updated with Eagle Alerts and messaging by e-mail, the web and social media.

I would also like to thank our partners in state and local government, including the Georgia Governor's Office, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Power, Georgia Electric Membership Corp., Excelsior Electric Membership Corp., Bulloch County and the City of Statesboro, including the Statesboro Police Department.

Because of your efforts, Georgia Southern was able to prepare for the coming storm, care for our faculty, staff and students during its arrival, and work tirelessly to clean up its effects so that we could return to normal operations today.

All of you demonstrated the commitment and the sense of community that binds the Eagle Nation together in such a powerful way. Thank you all for your dedication to Georgia Southern.

I wish you all continued success during the rest of this semester, and I hope to see you all soon.

Jaimie Hebert

President