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Message from the President

Georgia Southern University

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Eagle Nation:

Our efforts to build a safe, diverse and inclusive environment at Georgia Southern University continue, and today I would like to share an important update. In August, as part of our call to action, I told you that a nationally recognized consultant would be asked to assess our current strengths and weaknesses related to issues of diversity and inclusion.

I am pleased to announce Damon Williams, Ph.D., will be working with the University community through the entire 2018-19 academic year as we seek to establish an honest dialogue about these issues and build trust with one another.

The result of this work will be an actionable report and roadmap for diversity, equity and inclusion. In the long-term, it will also strengthen the culture of Georgia Southern.

As an expert in strategic diversity leadership, youth development, corporate responsibility, educational achievement, social impact and organizational change, Dr. Williams has worked with [more than 1,000 colleges and universities](#), [Fortune 100 companies](#), [foundations](#), and [government agencies](#). He is also a [respected keynote speaker](#), [strategist](#), educator and social impact leader. You can learn more about Dr. Williams at drdamonawilliams.com.

Dr. Williams will initially interact with members of the University community on Oct. 26 and Nov. 5-7 during visits to all three campuses. He will hold multiple meetings to hear from our students, faculty and staff, and hold two sessions of the keynote address, "Towards a Model of Inclusive Excellence and Change."

You may also preview his work in a webinar on Wednesday, Oct. 17. The webinar, entitled "The Cheetah and the Wolf: Crisis is Inevitable - Don't React...Respond!" is free to our entire University community. [Please register online to attend](#).

I look forward to our collaboration with Dr. Williams, and am excited for you to engage with him. The work ahead will not be easy or quick, but it is necessary for us to strengthen our core values of diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to making Eagle Nation a place where every Eagle can soar.

Sincerely,

Shelley C. Nickel