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Message from the President

Georgia Southern University

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Good afternoon,

I'm writing to let you know about some staff changes that are under way in our marketing and communications division.

Jan Southern, Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications and Marketing, has resigned. We thank her for her service to Georgia Southern, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

As you know, Georgia Southern has a wonderful story to tell, and we cannot lose any ground in communicating our messages.

It is more important than ever that we showcase what is special about Georgia Southern – the transformative learning successes, the impact we have on our community, and the lives we change through higher education as the campus prepares for a new president and recruits perspective students and faculty to campus.

After much discussion and input from across the campuses, I recognize the need to improve and strengthen our efforts to be transparent, responsive, intentional, and impactful.

To help us work through this transition, I have asked Dr. John Lester from Columbus State University to assist, serving as our interim Vice President of Strategic Communications. John will report directly to me and will support the strong team of marketers and communicators that we have at Georgia Southern.

A former newspaper reporter, John has about 25 years of higher education communications experience. He helped lead the News & Public Affairs office at the University of Florida before moving to Columbus State University, where he currently serves as Chief of Staff to the president and directs their University Relations team. He is a graduate of the University System of Georgia's Executive Leadership Institute and has a doctorate in Public Administration with a focus on Higher Education Administration from Valdosta State University.

He has agreed to work with us until the new president is on board and able to select a permanent vice president.

Please join me in welcoming John to Georgia Southern University.

Sincerely,

Shelley C. Nickel