

Georgia Southern University

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8-2-2021

### Message from the President

Georgia Southern University

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## Dear Colleagues,

August 2, 2021

As we embark on a new academic year where we expect to welcome in a record freshman class and over 27,000 students, we are diligently preparing and ready to meet the continuing challenges of this COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to monitor the impact of the virus daily and are in frequent communication with state and local public health officials, the University System of Georgia, as well as local government and healthcare administrators so that we can continue to make informed decisions as we navigate this changing environment.

**There are no changes in our current plan to be fully open and engaged.** Though face masks are not required, they are encouraged while inside campus facilities. I want to also encourage you strongly, if you have not already, to get vaccinated. My wife and I have been vaccinated and as soon as my daughter turns 12, she wants to be vaccinated also.

We continue to provide [opportunity for vaccination on campus, including mass vaccination appointments](#) for August 10 (Statesboro) and 12 (Armstrong). To date, we have already

provided almost 8,000 shots on our campuses. This is the most important step you can take to protect yourself and the Georgia Southern community.

The [CARES Center](#) continues to provide real-time support, reporting, and contact notification to help mitigate the spread and exposure of the virus on our campuses. If you have any questions specific to contract tracing and notifications, you can contact them directly at [covidsupport@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:covidsupport@georgiasouthern.edu). I want to thank our colleagues for their willingness to continue this important service to the institution. Remember, most people who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated will not be asked to self-quarantine if they are exposed.

We will continue to communicate frequently via email, updated FAQs, bi-monthly meetings with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Staff Council. Please plan to join me in person or via livestream on August 4th (Armstrong) or 5th (Statesboro), at 10 a.m., for **our annual State of the University Address**. I look forward to sharing institutional successes, updates, and future plans with you as we set the stage for the upcoming academic year. More details on the State of the University Address will be emailed on the morning of each event.

I ask that you continue to remain flexible as new information is provided. Please continue to read and share the information that is communicated (see the attached COVID-19 information for Fall 2021). It is each of our responsibility to remain informed and up to date with current protocols and practices that will allow us to navigate this coming semester successfully.

Colleagues -- we navigated challenging times last year demonstrating how resilient we are at Georgia Southern. We

will support each other, inform each other, and continue to fulfill our mission of student success. Thank you for your continued flexibility, support, and hard work for Eagle Nation.

Sincerely,  
Kyle

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Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro • Savannah • Hinesville

**PEOPLE...PURPOSE...ACTION:**  
*Growing ourselves to grow others*