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Georgia Southern Generates a Half Billion Dollar Economic Impact

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The annual survey on the economic impact of the University System of Georgia (USG) reveals Georgia Southern University had a \$524 million economic impact on Statesboro and the Bulloch County area and accounted for more than 6,500 jobs in fiscal year (FY) 2012.

"Despite the tough economic times we faced in the last several years, Georgia Southern continues to grow, provide a high quality education and generate jobs for so many people," explained Brooks Keel, Ph.D., president of Georgia Southern. "Even with the financial challenges, people still value higher education and see it as a life-changing investment. We are so proud of what this University contributes to our community and so thankful for the tremendous support we receive in return."



According to the survey from the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia, Georgia Southern student spending accounted for \$272 million of the University's economic impact and resulted in nearly 3,500 jobs in the Statesboro and Bulloch County area. The research found that for every dollar of initial spending by a USG institution or its students, an additional 45 cents was generated for the local economy.

The study showed the USG's 31 colleges and universities combined to have a \$14.1 billion economic impact on the state. This is a \$980 million increase from FY 2011 and a \$7 billion boost since FY 1999. USG institutions account for more than 139,000 full and part-time jobs in Georgia. One job out of every 28 in the state is due to the University System.

"Even in the worst economic times in a generation or two, our colleges and universities proved to be strong pillars and drivers of the economies of their host communities, said Jeffrey Humphreys, Ph.D., president of the Selig Center. "Our studies focus on spending and its economic impact, but do not attempt to measure the value the University System adds in terms of quality of life, the creation of a highly educated workforce to meet the needs of businesses, government and communities or the overall health of communities."

The complete study with data for all 31 USG institutions is available at www.usg.edu/economic_development/documents/usg_Impact_fy2012.pdf.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

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