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Georgia Southern's Statesboro Campus celebrates state Arbor Day

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Save



Georgia Southern University celebrates Georgia's Arbor Day Friday, Feb. 15.

The Georgia Southern University Statesboro Campus is a little greener now thanks to the efforts of students, faculty and staff who took time to plant trees in celebration of Georgia's Arbor Day.

The University's Center for Sustainability (CfS) and Division of Facilities Services teamed up with volunteers to plant 75 trees this year in Jones Lane Park across from the Herty Pines Preserve off Highway 301, including two special trees.

"Today's Arbor Day celebration is extra special because on our Statesboro Campus, we are planting a Liberty Holly and a Savannah Holly tree to acknowledge that we're one University with three campuses," said Lissa Leege, Ph.D., director of the CfS.

Georgia celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday of February each year. While the national celebration takes place in April, the subtropical climate in Georgia is far more hospitable to plant life earlier in the year.

In addition to the benefits trees provide, like clean air, wildlife habitat and energy conservation, among others, Leege considers planting trees an investment in the community.

"Any time you plant a tree, you're planning for the future," she said. "A hundred years from now, there will still be benefits from the trees that we're planting today."

The CfS and Division of Facilities Services have teamed up to plant trees in celebration of Arbor Day for eight years on the Statesboro Campus. Previously, trees have been planted in the Herty Pines Nature Preserve, at the Shooting Sports Education Center and on the University's South Campus location near Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Business confidence is strong, but headwinds are present

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Save

Georgia business leaders have confidence that business is improving, but also have growing concerns over hiring and employment, according to the 2018 fourth-quarter (Q4) survey results by *Georgia CEO*, a news source that shares the state's most important features, videos and newswires with Georgia's top business leaders.

The purpose of the survey is to get the pulse of *Georgia CEO* subscribers on a quarterly basis in order to better understand how general business conditions are affecting Georgia markets and companies. The survey asks participants to reflect on and analyze the conditions of the current quarter while looking forward to and anticipating challenges in the next quarter. The news outlet partners with Georgia Southern University Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research (CBAER) to prepare and analyze the survey.

Looking toward Q1 of 2019, 51 percent of survey respondents believed the volume of business will increase but anticipate that sales will remain stable over this same time frame. At the same time, only 26 percent of respondents believed hiring conditions would improve, while 34 percent noted that the financial health of companies is improving. Hiring and keeping the right employees will be the key to many of these companies making the most of their opportunities.

"If we look at the overall impression of the current environment, we see that respondents are confident about the growth of business moving forward," said Ben McKay, CBAER assistant director. "At the same time, we did see a drop in confidence between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019. This could be related to the news about the partial government shutdown because our data was collected in January during this event."

When asked about the factors influencing the responses and decisions by survey participants, 28.5 percent said an increase in business demand had the biggest influence, while government policy was close behind at 25.8 percent, followed by concerns over competition for supplies at 11.8 percent. These answers point to favorable sentiment toward business conditions for the upcoming quarter.

A convenience sampling technique was used for this study, and the questionnaires were emailed to subscribers of each of the 12 *Georgia CEO* daily newsletters. *Georgia CEO* publishes newsletters in Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Gainesville, Middle Georgia, Newnan, Rome, Savannah, Tifton and Valdosta. The survey was open from January 8-28, with 208 valid responses recorded.

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