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Georgia Southern hires new director of EAGLE Academy, open house with meet and greet and information sessions on Nov. 19

November 14, 2019



Julie Pickens, Ph.D., is the new director of the EAGLE Academy, the Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Program at Georgia Southern University. The EAGLE Academy will host a meet and greet with Pickens and program volunteers on Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the College of Education (COE), room 3156, on the Statesboro Campus, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will also serve as an open house with information sessions at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Pickens, who previously served as a limited-term faculty member at Georgia Southern from 2015 to 2017, most recently was employed at the Savannah College of Art and Design. There she served as the head of the Jump Start program, which provides an extended orientation to increase awareness of services and resources to students with disabilities, ease their transition to the university and provide strategies for success.

“I was so excited to have the opportunity to return to Georgia Southern and to be a part of EAGLE Academy,” said Pickens. “EAGLE Academy was just getting started when I left in 2017, and it is so great to see the program it is becoming and to help grow it.”

Pickens completed a Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she served as a pre-service teacher supervisor and guest lecturer. She also holds a graduate-level certificate and licensure in rehabilitation counseling, a master’s in public and nonprofit management, and a bachelor’s in political science and public administration.

Her research focuses on transition-age students with severe disabilities, community-based instruction and employment support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“I have always had a passion and interest in assisting transition-age students,” said Pickens. “It is such an exciting and scary time in the lives of all students, but especially students with disabilities. There are so many changes happening in their lives and so many skills to target as students have the opportunity to be their own best advocate and make the life they want for themselves.”

EAGLE Academy, named for its commitment to Equal Access to Gainful Learning and Employment, is a comprehensive transitional program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Unique to most programs of their kind, Georgia Southern EAGLE Academy students are given a custom-built academic program based on their interests, giving the students the same opportunity that others on campus have to take courses for credit and work toward their career goals. Students also live on campus, allowing them to become fully immersed in campus life and have easy access to all campus amenities. Finally, students enrolled in the program are also trained for employment through internships or paid jobs which are secured with the assistance of the Academy’s team.

For more information, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/eagle-academy/>.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 26,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro,

Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern is a featured name 'Green College' for ninth consecutive year

November 14, 2019

Georgia Southern University is one of the 413 most environmentally responsible colleges in the country according to The Princeton Review for the ninth consecutive year. The education services company known for its test prep, tutoring services, books and college rankings features Georgia Southern in the 2019 edition of its free book, *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2019 Edition*.

The Princeton Review chose the schools it profiles in the guide based on a survey they conducted in 2018-19, which questioned administrators at hundreds of four-year colleges about their institutions' commitments to the environment and sustainability.

"We are proud to earn continued recognition as a leader in sustainability at the national level," said Lissa Leege, Ph.D., Center for Sustainability director. "We have increased our commitment to sustainability this year as an institution, with the incorporation of sustainability as a value that accompanies the university's mission, and as a pillar in our strategic plan. We look forward to the integration of these values on all three campuses and to new strides towards these goals in the years to come."

The profiles in *The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges* provide information about each school's admission requirements, cost and financial aid and student body statistics. They also include green facts about the schools with details on the availability of transportation alternatives and the percentage of food budget spent on local, organic food. In the Campus Life section of the profile, The Princeton Review posts the school's 2019 Princeton Review Green Rating score, and a more detailed Green Highlights narrative write-up.

According to the information listed on The Princeton Review website, "Georgia Southern emphasizes renewable energy and environmental science research through initiatives such as research on converting Georgia-grown agricultural products into marketable fuel. In addition, the university's Center for Sustainability hosts student-led sustainability action projects such as participating in 'No Impact Week,' every day of which was dedicated to a different way students could take on eco-responsible habits, such as reducing consumption, trash and alternative transportation."

“We salute—and strongly recommend Georgia Southern to many environmentally-minded students who want to study and live at a green college,” said The Princeton Review’s Robert Franek, editor-in-chief.

Franek noted that college applicants and their parents are increasingly concerned about the environment and sustainability issues. Among the 11,900 teens and parents The Princeton Review surveyed earlier this year for its 2019 “College Hopes & Worries Survey,” 64 percent said that having information about the college’s commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply to or attend the school.

The Princeton Review first published this guide in 2010. It remains the only free, annually updated downloadable guide to green colleges. The company is also known for its dozens of categories of college rankings in its annual books, *The Best 385 Colleges* and *Best Value Colleges*.

For more information regarding *The Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges: 2019 Edition* and to see a full list of this year’s recipients visit www.princetonreview.com/green-guide.

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