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Georgia Southern combines two departments for enhanced student wellness

May 18, 2020

Georgia Southern University is combining education and service to achieve student wellness in new ways through the Office of Student Wellness and Health Promotion.

In January 2020, the University Wellness Program and the Office of Health Promotion and Education were combined to offer one centralized location that promotes student well-being by improving health, reducing health risks and maintaining positive health behaviors.

Director Gemma Skuraton, DrPH, said this will foster a culture of wellness that champions an environment focused on holistic wellness for students.

“I am looking forward to the opportunity to elevate student well-being through best practice public health, capacity building and linked wellness co-curriculum,” said Skuraton. “I believe holistic wellness is a learned skill that is just as important to learn while in college as academic coursework.”

The new office will provide students with a clear direction for wellness, support, advocacy, resources and education.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Melanie Miller, Ph.D., said they were able to create a more intentional strategic plan for student wellness that supports a holistic approach and that will contribute to student success.

“By creating one, single office, we can eliminate confusion for staff and for students,” Miller said. “This will enhance efficiencies and effectiveness by all resources being in one location, under one administrative structure.”

Public health major Ifeoluwa Kayode, who is on the pre-med track, has been involved with the health services department as a wellness ambassador for four semesters. She has high hopes for the program and thinks that this will continue to help educate her on the journey toward being a health care professional.

“Through this program, I am hoping to develop my health education and promotion skills,” she said. “I want to become more in tune with the public health inner workings and aspects of this program by advocating for university wellness.”

For more information on how to access the Office of Student Wellness and Health Promotion visit <https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/swhp/>.

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](https://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

Georgia Southern launches 'Finish Strong' campaign to ensure Eagle success

May 18, 2020



Today, Georgia Southern University launched a fundraising campaign to help students facing financial hardships during these unprecedented times.

The University kicked off the “Ensure Our Eagles Finish Strong” campaign with a goal of raising \$250,000 for up to 250 students on a need-based priority, as well as \$140,000 to assist up to 14 returning spring sport seniors who saw their 2019-20 collegiate seasons cut short.

“The Eagle Nation family cares deeply for this University and its students,” stated Georgia Southern President Kyle Marrero. “We invite them to support our mission of providing transformative learning opportunities, and contribute to the success of our students as they continue on their educational paths.”

For traditional students, the money raised will keep them from dropping out due to a lack of funding. For student-athletes, the campaign will ensure they can finish their seasons and reach their athletics goals.

“The student-athlete experience is paramount at Georgia Southern and any time we can do right by our student-athletes, we’re going to do that,” said Georgia Southern Athletics Director Jared Benko. “Dr. Marrero and everyone on our leadership staff were very supportive of ensuring that these young men and women have the chance to come back and have a fitting senior year. This move will allow some student-athletes to graduate, some will work toward their graduate degree and all of them will be afforded the opportunity to end their collegiate careers on their field or court of play.”

The “Ensure Our Eagles Finish Strong” campaign will run through July 2. For more information or to give online visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/FinishStrong.

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