Kennesaw State State receives Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State University has earned the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a highly sought-after designation among higher education institutions. The new classification places Kennesaw State among the top 10 percent of universities nationally that have earned recognition for ongoing collaborative efforts with their larger communities in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources. The newly earned designation is valid through 2025.

“This important and prestigious Carnegie classification recognizes the many ways that Kennesaw State connects with the community,” said Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp. “It validates the University’s core mission of serving the public good. There is a deep respect and passion for community engagement at KSU. Earning this classification deepens our commitment to this institutional priority that is well aligned with our focus on community-based teaching, learning and scholarship.”

In explaining their determination, Carnegie Foundation officials noted that Kennesaw State’s voluntary description of programs and processes demonstrated “excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.”

Kennesaw State was recognized for numerous initiatives and activities that create, expand and perpetuate community engagement.

Kennesaw State is one of 361 institutions – and one of only 10 in Georgia – that holds the Community Engagement Classification. In 2025, the University must complete a reclassification application and demonstrate how the University has expanded, deepened and integrated community engagement work.

The Office of Community Engagement at Kennesaw State was integral in providing evidence-based documentation of the institutional practices as part of the voluntary application process. The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education began classifying colleges and universities in 1970 to support its program of research and policy analysis. It is noteworthy community engagement.”

The Georgia Department of Transportation has awarded a $127,500 contract for the project, “Effects of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavements on RAP Contents and Sources on Dynamic Modulus (E) and Fatigue Performance of Asphalt Mixtures in Georgia.” The research will help GDOT understand the effects of RAP on pavement, potentially leading to longer lasting, cheaper pavements and reduced maintenance costs.

“Kennesaw State was integral in providing evidence-based documentation of the institutional practices as part of the voluntary application process,” said Daniel S. Papp, president of the consolidated University. “We are grateful that the Board has endorsed our plans for creating an exceptional university from two distinct institutions, and for combining our strengths and resources.”

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby expressed his thoughts on the consolidation of the two universities. “Our challenge and opportunity is to control the cost of college while strengthening the quality and accessibility of the programs and degrees we offer,” said Huckaby. “The new Kennesaw State University will expand opportunities for students and do so more efficiently.”

The new consolidated University will maintain campuses in Kennesaw and Marietta, the current sites of Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State, respectively. The institution will house 13 colleges.

With an expected student enrollment of 32,000 in fall 2015, Kennesaw State will be one of the 50 largest public universities in the country, with an economic impact of more than $1.2 billion.

The BOR’s vote to approve the consolidation came almost a month after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges — a regional higher education accrediting body — approved a prospectus and strategic plan for the proposed consolidation.
University acquires U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey’s official records

By Robert S. Godlewski 
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Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp and Rep. Phil Gingrey signed a Deed of Gift transferring to the University the official papers of the six-term Republican congressman and former state senator. Gingrey was elected as congressman for Georgia’s 11th District in 2002 and has served continuously in that role since assuming office in 2003. Prior to becoming a member of the U.S. Congress, Gingrey served as a Georgia state senator from 1999 to 2003, and also as a three-time chairman of the Marietta (Ga.) School Board. “Kennesaw State is honored to be the recipient of Rep. Gingrey’s official papers, and we take great pride in knowing that we have been entrusted with this important part of our state’s and the nation’s historical record,” said Papp.

Donated materials include records from Gingrey’s congressional assignments on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Administration Committee, as well as his earlier contributions on the Armed Services Committee, the Rules Committee, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Science and Technology Committee. The gift also includes his Georgia Senate papers.

Kennesaw State’s Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books provides stewardship for the collection.

“This donation marks Kennesaw State’s first congressional collection, and we hope others will follow Rep. Gingrey’s lead,” said Tamara Livingston, executive director of Museums, Archives and Rare Books. “Because of his strong ties to Marietta and Cobb County, Rep. Gingrey’s collection is of great importance to those interested in local history, as well as to political science students and researchers of national legislation.”

Cobb Chamber honors KSU president

By Robert S. Godlewski 
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For his commitment to higher education in Cobb County and Georgia, Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp was honored with the Leadership Award by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce during its annual dinner gala on Jan. 24. The Chamber’s Leadership Award honors an individual whose extraordinary leadership, vision and trailblazing efforts have significantly impacted Cobb County. According to the Chamber, Papp was recognized for his unwavering commitment to serve the community, by leading the university through its consolidation with Southern Polytechnic State University and starting a football program. “I have witnessed first-hand the challenges of mergers in the higher education business as a longtime board member of Chattahoochee Technical College, and I have watched Dr. Papp provide the vision and leadership needed to organize a process that ensured a smooth transition and a big step forward in creating a nationally recognized university,” said David Connell, president and CEO of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce. Papp, who has served as president of KSU since 2006, led the University during the consolidation process of Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State University over the past 16 months. Ben Mathis, outgoing chair of the Cobb Chamber Board of Directors and managing partner of Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP, presented the award to Papp during the black-tie dinner.

“The Leadership Award is not given each year, but only to recipients who have a profound impact on our community. Dan’s leadership of the merger between KSU and Southern Poly is having a transformational effect on our area,” Mathis said. “He has a vision and the ability – the proverbial right person, at the right time and right place.”

Papp received the award during Cobb Chamber’s 73rd annual black-tie dinner affair, which was attended by nearly 1,000 business and community leaders, including military leaders, economic development partners and elected officials.

Board of Regents approves Ph.D. in analytics and data science

By Robert S. Godlewski 
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The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved at its February meeting a new Ph.D. program in analytics and data science at Kennesaw State University. The program is one of the first of its kind in the nation.

The program, which will be launched in fall 2015, is designed to train individuals to translate complex large, structured and unstructured data into information to improve decision-making. The doctoral coursework will include programming, data mining, statistical modeling and the mathematical foundations to support these concepts.

The decision to develop a program in analytics and data science stems from the success of the university’s existing Master of Science in Applied Statistics, whose graduates are in great demand and continue to have a 100 percent placement. Another factor was the minor in applied statistics and data analysis, which has undergraduate demand from every college across the university and similarly strong placement.

“Given the success of our outstanding master’s degree program in applied statistics, it is natural to build upon that and create a Ph.D. program,” said Mark Anderson, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, which will house the new program. “This program will help close the talent gap in the area of data science and further enhance the university’s regional and national recognition in applied analytics, while expanding the pool for analytical talent in Georgia.”

Jennifer Lewis Priestley, professor of applied statistics and data science, will serve as the director of the Ph.D. program. Priestley, who also serves as director of the Center for Statistics and Analytical Services, was honored with the 2012 SAS Distinguished Professor award for her efforts toward educating and preparing students for a career in statistical analysis.

Athletics director represents Atlantic Sun Conference on NCAA council

Kennesaw State Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams is representing the Atlantic Sun Conference on the inaugural NCAA Division I Council, which began meeting in January during the NCAA Convention in Washington, D.C. The new Council, which conducts the day-to-day business of Division I, consists of 40 individuals composed of athletics directors, conference office delegates, faculty athletic representatives, senior women administrators and two student-athletes. Each of the 32 Division I conferences has a permanent seat on the Council.

“I am extremely excited to serve and represent the Atlantic Sun Conference on the Council,” Williams said. “As Division I college athletics continue to evolve, it is an honor to be nominated and appointed to serve on the Council with so many distinguished and accomplished administrators throughout the country as we work together to help shape the future.”

Submitted photo – Jason Braverman

Former U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey speaks during a ceremony for a gift of the congressman’s official papers to Kennesaw State University.

The papers will be made available to the public for research. The acquisition will allow scholars, students and members of the community to research the daily workings of the congressman and his interaction with constituents.

Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp receives the Leadership Award from former Cobb Chamber of Commerce Chair Ben Mathis.

Kennesaw State is honored to be the recipient of Rep. Gingrey’s official papers to Kennesaw State University.
Kennesaw State’s CYAAR director tapped for White House drug forum

By Robert S. Godlewski
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The leader of Kennesaw State’s Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery (CYAAR) was among a small group of experts convened by the White House for its first Office of National Drug Control Policy’s Meeting on Tackling Substance Use Disorders Today: Access, Recovery, and the Affordable Care Act.

Teresa Wren Johnston, director of Kennesaw State’s CYAAR, was one of 40 experts who attended the summit, which was held in January in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building located next to the West Wing.

“The premise of this event was to discuss the opportunities of the Affordable Care Act to help improve behavioral health outcomes, particularly in the recovery community,” said Johnston, who in addition to her CYAAR duties also serves as state coordinator of the GA NETWORK, which coordinates state-wide efforts to address alcohol and other drug issues on college campuses.

The gathering, which was co-hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), was orchestrated by Michael Botticelli, acting director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. It brought together the nation’s leading experts in the fields of substance use disorders and mental health treatment to discuss the latest programs, policies and how the Affordable Care Act is expanding coverage and access.

The event included speakers David Mineta, deputy director of Demand Reduction for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Tom Codere, who was appointed by President Obama to serve as senior adviser in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

Johnston also met with fellow National Partners for Recovery to help plan SAMHSA’s 2015 National Recovery Month, which will be held in September. A national public service television announcement promoting the month will be filmed at Kennesaw State’s Fifth Third Bank Stadium.

Established in 1992 as arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA works to improve substance abuse and mental health services to those who are most in need of them through grants and research.

The agency’s mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America’s communities.

Online degree programs ranked among nation’s best

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State University’s online graduate degree programs were again ranked in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Online Programs.”

Among the eight online program categories evaluated by U.S. News & World Report, Kennesaw State ranked in three different degree program areas: master’s of business administration, graduate education and graduate computer information technology.

“Kennesaw State is dedicated to providing rigorous and high-quality online degree programs that appeal to talented and motivated students seeking a balance between the workplace, their families, and their education,” said Elke Leeds, assistant vice president for Technology Enhanced Learning at KSU.

“This national ranking shows our success in expanding our traditional academic programs to the online learning environment.”

In its fourth year, the U.S. News & World Report 2015 rankings evaluated more than 1,200 online degree programs at colleges and universities.

The online MBA program at Kennesaw State University’s Michael J. Coles College of Business was ranked 29th nationwide, moving up 35 spots from last year, and third among Georgia colleges and universities.

The graduate computer information technology program earned the No. 25 ranking on U.S. News & World Report’s annual list. The CIT degree program is offered in the College of Computing and Software Engineering at Southern Polytechnic State University, which recently consolidated with Kennesaw State. The program is one of three in Georgia to make the list.

Kennesaw State’s graduate education degree program in the Bagwell College of Education also made the top 100 for 2015. It is the first time this program has been named in the U.S. News ranking.

This is not the first time that Kennesaw State has been recognized for its online learning. OnlineU.com ranked KSU 136 in the nation as a “Best Value Online College,” and the Affordable Colleges Foundation, which publishes AffordableCollegesOnline.org, ranked KSU 17th in the nation for “Best Online Colleges.”

Kennesaw State faculty earn University System of Georgia awards

By Tiffany Capuano
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Three Kennesaw State University faculty were recognized for their efforts in transforming their use of textbooks and other learning materials into lower-cost options. The awards were given as part of a new University System of Georgia initiative, Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG).

“After tuition, textbooks are the second most costly thing a student is faced with. I’m a fan of making things affordable,” said Humayun Zafar, assistant professor of Information Security and Assurance at KSU. “Every class of mine is supplemented with open text. It provides an alternate view of topics to students and freshens up the course.”

In addition to Zafar, Kennesaw State professors Anissa Lokey-Vega, assistant professor of Instructional Technology, and Taha Mozoughi, professor of Physics Education, were also honored.

Vega and Zafar were nominated by the University’s Distance Learning Center for their work in creating open educational resources for KSU’s two Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and associated courses. Vega helped create KSU’s first MOOC in K-12 teacher professional development earlier this year, and Zafar’s development of a MOOC in cybersecurity will launch in 2015.

Mozoughi was nominated for his work in creating a delivery platform for different technology-enhanced learning methods, as well as creating an online homework question bank for each of the courses he teaches.

The Affordable Learning Georgia initiative presented these recognition awards for innovation and early success in textbook transformation to highlight the efforts of faculty who improve access and affordability of learning materials for their students by reducing the costs of textbooks and enhancing GALILEO, Georgia’s virtual library.

The Kennesaw State professors were among 30 faculty members around the state to receive these inaugural awards. Winners were recognized at the “Symposium on the Future of the Textbook” Dec. 12 at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

Faculty member funds first endowed study abroad scholarship

By Sabbaye McGriff
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A $25,000 gift from Christie Emerson, RN, MSN, FNP, and senior lecturer for Kennesaw State University’s WellStar School of Nursing and her husband, Tom, will provide financial assistance for students annually to study abroad in a program administered by the University’s Division of Global Affairs.

The Emersons will present the first $8003 scholarship during Kennesaw State’s second annual International Achievement Awards ceremony March 26 at the Marietta Country Club in Kennesaw.

“We believe that a structured education abroad experience can be transformational for students,” Christie Emerson said. “The experience often causes them to look at the world with a new global perspective. Our goal is to make the opportunity more affordable for deserving students each year.”

Emerson, who represents WellStar College on the University’s Global Engagement Committee, has been involved in planning study abroad and international education programs. In 2010, she developed a 19-day study abroad for nursing students in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and will take another 12 students there in May. She also helped plan the “Year of the Arabian Peninsula,” the 2014-15 iteration of Kennesaw State’s 30-year program that annually studies a country or region of the world. As part of that commitment, she travelled with senior University officials to Oman and the UAE last year and participates in a faculty learning community that meets monthly.

“This endowed scholarship represents a very significant contribution to the global education of students from someone who clearly recognizes and values the tremendous influence that an international study abroad can have on shaping a student’s world view,” said Lance Askildson, Kennesaw State vice provost and chief international officer. “We are truly grateful to the Emersons for this generous gift.”

Kennesaw State ranked in 2015 rankings evaluated by the University’s Division of Global Affairs.

abroad in a program administered by the University’s computer information technology.
**Bagwell College kicks off second session of university’s first MOOC**

**By Jennifer Hafer** jhafer@kennesaw.edu

Building upon the success of Kennesaw State University’s first Massive Open Online Course last year, the Bagwell College of Education kicked off a second session of the MOOC.

“We’ve updated the content a little bit because of some new standards, but the biggest difference is I have an expert in online learning who was willing to make counterpoints in the course,” said Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology Anissa Vega. “Jordan Cameron, who helped me design the course, and I wanted it to be a bit more edutainment, so students can learn about the challenges to K-12 online learning.”

The MOOC is designed to prepare Georgia’s K-12 educators to facilitate student online learning in their own classrooms. The K-12 Blended and Online Learning course enables participants to earn up to five professional learning units, which are required for teacher certification renewal. The open course is free, including nearly 30 instructional videos to replace the cost of textbooks, and runs for eight weeks. More than 10,000 participants enrolled in the first MOOC, including students from across Georgia and 160 countries.

“In addition to Georgia teacher credits for completing the course, we were one of 50 MOOCs selected by Coursea and the U.S. Department of Education, so now teachers in all states in the U.S. can get professional licensing credits through our course,” Vega said.

The Online Learning Consortium, an international online learning research group, has partnered with Kennesaw State to help promote the course and provide supplemental materials for course content.

“This partnership puts Kennesaw on the forefront of K-12 online learning as far as the organization goes, and they are a big organization,” Vega said. “It makes us look very good.”

**Kennesaw State among top 10 in class for education abroad**

**By Patrick Harbin** pharbin3@kennesaw.edu

For the third year in a row, the Institute of International Education ranked Kennesaw State University among the top 10 master-level U.S. institutions for student participation in education abroad programs. The University was ranked eighth in the country, with 766 students studying abroad during the 2012-2013 academic year.

IIE released the rankings in November as part of its 15th annual “Open Doors” report, which surveys approximately 3,000 accredited universities. According to the report, a record 289,408 American students studied abroad during the 2012-2013 academic year – a 2 percent increase from the previous year.

Kennesaw State’s ranking reflects several years of increased focus on international education. In 2006, Kennesaw State ranked 36th in the Open Doors report, with 335 students participating in education abroad programs. By 2009 – the year Kennesaw State first appeared on the top 10 – that number had grown to 618 students. With 766 students today, education abroad enrollment has more than doubled among Kennesaw State University students in less than a decade.

Several factors have contributed to this increase, says Lynika Straw-Valcy, director of education abroad and exchanges. She attributes the greatest increase to the introduction of the Global Learning Scholarship in 2007.

“This scholarship has enabled students who otherwise would not be able to fund an education abroad experience to participate,” Straw-Valcy said. “It has also enhanced awareness of study abroad opportunities for KSU students.”

She also cited the support of collaborating faculty members and colleges, the work of the education abroad faculty senate committee formed in 2011, and increased training and support for the Education Abroad Office staff as reasons for increased student participation.

The Division of Global Affairs, which houses the Education Abroad Office, is also increasing students to enroll by creating new education opportunities to attract students.

“Building upon dozens of close international partnerships, the Division of Global Affairs is developing new and innovative models for students to study, conduct research and participate in internships around the world, particularly within developing economies and societies,” said Lance Askildson, Kennesaw State’s vice provost for global affairs and chief international officer.

**Kennesaw State to offer a bachelor’s degree in public relations**

**By Sabbaye McGriff** sm McGriff@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University will begin offering a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations in the fall of 2015. The new major will be available fall 2015. The new stand-alone degree represents an expansion of the University’s program in public relations, which previously was offered as a concentration within the Bachelor of Science in Communication.

“The new B.S. in public relations demonstrates Kennesaw State’s commitment to providing professionally focused, market-driven and academically rigorous degree programs that best prepare our students to meet critical needs in our local communities, the region and state,” said W. Ken Harmon, the University’s provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The creation of degree programs in public relations — Georgia Southern and University of Georgia also offer the degree — reflects both an increase in student interest and employment opportunities.

At Kennesaw State, 139 of the 336 students who graduated in FY 2014 with a B.S. in communication concentrated in public relations. Public relations officials expect that a minimum of 550 students will major in the field by 2019.

To earn the new bachelor’s degree, students must complete 123 hours of study, including courses focusing on PR theory, research and practice, as well as an opportunity to complete an internship in the field.

Course content will be taught in traditional face-to-face and online formats, and in a hybrid format that mixes face-to-face and online delivery. Existing faculty, as well as lecturers and adjunct professors among the many PR professionals practicing in the Atlanta Metro and Northwest Georgia regions, will teach courses.

**Board of Regents approves acquisition of BrandsMart property**

**By Sabbaye McGriff** sm McGriff@kennesaw.edu

In the final phase of Kennesaw State University’s acquisition of the property formerly occupied by the Kennesaw BrandsMart USA store, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved $12.55 million for the purchase.

The Kennesaw State University Foundation previously acquired the property — approximately 16.775 acres at 3105 Busbee Drive — in 2014 on behalf of the University. The action by the BOR on Feb. 11 formally transfers ownership of the property to the University, nearly a year after the University’s lease of the retail store and its expansive parking lot from the Foundation in order to allow development to begin.

The development includes repurposing the retail space to create a classroom for a student health center, additional laboratory space, a new marching band program and critically needed storage. In addition, the property will add 720 new parking spaces that will be accessible through Kennesaw State’s park-and-ride bus shuttle program.

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp called the acquisition and development of the project “very strategic,” noting that the property would link the KSU Center on Busbee Drive — home of the College of Continuing and Professional Education — with the 88-acre KSU Sports and Recreation Park, creating 120 acres of contiguous land east of the main campus.

“We thank the Board of Regents for finalizing this acquisition and extending KSU’s presence in our community,” Papp said. “The KSU Center on Busbee Drive does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin or disability.