

TRANS⁴MATION

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Welcome to the new academic year. Trans4mation—thanks to our clever staff in marketing and communication for coming up with a unique way to signify today’s dynamic, creative, student-centered university. Education has always been about change—seeing experience from different perspectives, developing a more rewarding life, making the world a better place. More than ever before, this academic year brings positive change to Governors State University.

Change at GSU is not merely incremental but transformative, connecting the past, present, and future. GSU was founded in 1969 to be a change leader in higher education. We have always been ahead of the curve. Before the term Completion University was invented, GSU was distinctively committed to helping adults complete a bachelor’s degree and engage in life-long learning. That commitment has never been stronger. The campus will continue to be crowded to capacity in the evenings, so that students who are best served by once-per-week evening classes will find them in abundance. But we also know that online instruction is the right pathway for many students, those seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, for example. For the first time in our history we are providing better options to a long-neglected group of adults—parents of school-age children—who have persistently asked to attend classes while their children are in school. More choices have enabled students to take more credit hours and to finish more efficiently. GSU takes a student-centered approach to students’ needs.

GSU has addressed the problem of student debt head-on. Our tuition and fees continue to be the lowest in Illinois, and we did not increase costs for this academic year, avoiding a change that nobody wanted. Our Dual Degree students have access to the GSU Promise scholarships. Our new freshmen can seek sequential on-campus employment throughout their four years. GSU is committed to doing everything in our power to help students graduate debt-free. Without undergraduate debt, students are more likely to go on to graduate education, including the five doctoral degrees offered at GSU.

Our freshman program is high touch—small classes taught by full-time faculty members working together to illuminate connections among structured courses. Making connections is also the prevailing concept at Prairie Place, GSU’s first living/learning community. We don’t call Prairie Place a “dormitory” from the French word “dormir”—to sleep. Prairie Place is predominantly a place to learn and to realize that there is nothing more exhilarating than education, guided by three full-time faculty members living on site. Sleep is important, no doubt, but only after a full, stimulating day and evening.

Finally, we are connecting two terms that are often disconnected—“student” and “athlete.” As we launch our new sports program, we are committed to enhancing student life through athletic competition. Our new mascot, the Jaguar, gives material form to the speed and nimbleness that characterizes GSU’s transformational change. Go, Jaguars, as we move forward.

Warm regards,



Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President, Governors State University