

This is a very exciting time at Governors State University. Big ideas that have been in development for a long time have become a reality as we've transformed into a vibrant, comprehensive University.

With a curriculum designed to support academic success and spark lifelong learning, GSU's freshman and sophomore classes can be seen thriving in the classroom, on the courts, and in civically engaged organizations across campus. The campus has been illuminated by these undergraduate students eager to learn and participate in the GSU community.

Transfer students from community colleges and other universities continue to be a vital part of our student body. Our nationally recognized Dual Degree Program (DDP) creates a seamless transition from associate's degree to bachelor's degree, while our master's and doctoral programs continue to draw the best and brightest from across the region, the nation, and internationally. Students also now have the opportunity to live on campus in *Prairie Place*, GSU's living learning community for students fostered by three full-time faculty-in-residence.

Governors State University strives to provide new majors and minors in all four of our colleges, as well as new offerings in our School of Extended Learning, designed to meet the needs of an increasingly global society, a shifting economy or an expanding need for specialized studies. In many cases, our programs may address all of these, providing the critical thinking skills needed in today's society.

We've also created a revitalized environment for learning. Our state-of-the-art Science Wing – the result of state support and a National Science Foundation grant – is allowing GSU students to experience state-of-the-art facilities before they take that new or improved job, or move on to graduate studies. In addition, GSU's recently renovated University Library and widely expanded technology offerings provide our students with the necessary tools to achieve academic excellence.

When I was named Provost in June 2013, I was truly honored. Leading the academic life of a university - one with innovation embedded in its DNA – is a wonderful responsibility and challenge. As a former GSU dean I know that our faculty is full of energy for pushing all of us, both colleagues and students, to pursue the big ideas that have been the hallmark of GSU since our founding in 1969. Academic excellence, engagement, and enthusiasm are everywhere you look.

Explore our website and see what we have to offer you as you pursue your academic and career goals. I look forward to meeting you.