

**2012 State of the University Address
President Daniel S. Papp
Kennesaw State University
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Good morning everyone and welcome to the 2012 State of the University address. Thank you for being here this morning to spend some time discussing the past, present and future of Kennesaw State University.

Much has changed at Kennesaw during its 49-year history, and much will continue to change. Indeed, one of the few constants here has been change. This morning, I'll address some of the past, present and future elements of change. I'll begin with a brief discussion of this institution's past, continue with an overview of some of the many programs and activities taking place here, and conclude with a discussion of six initiatives and challenges crucial to the future of Kennesaw State University.

I'll begin with the past. What is today Kennesaw State University was created by the Board of Regents 49 years ago

as a junior college. It was a college with no faculty, no staff, no students and no buildings. It didn't even have a name. Some wanted to call it Cobb County Junior College and others Kennesaw Mountain Junior College. Its first stationery said Marietta College. Finally, it became Kennesaw Junior College, a name it retained until 1977 when the Regents renamed it Kennesaw College to reflect the four-year status that had been approved a year earlier.

The new institution's first president, Dr. Horace Sturgis, had been Associate Registrar at Georgia Tech. As such, he was well aware of the rivalry between Tech and UGA. So when President Sturgis decided upon Kennesaw Junior College's colors he balanced the two choosing the black of UGA and the gold of Tech, colors which we retain to this day.

Kennesaw Junior College's first classes were held in September 1966 at what is today Southern Polytechnic State University. KJC had 1,014 students and 37 faculty, and moved to this site in January 1967 when the first three

buildings here were completed. KJC's first five graduates received associate degrees in June 1967.

With this as background, I am announcing this morning the formation of KSU's 50th Anniversary Committee, which will be tasked with planning and conducting the celebration of our first half-century. This celebration will begin on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, fifty years to the day after this institution was chartered, and end on Friday, June 9, 2017, fifty years to the day after it awarded its first degrees.

Mr. Stevan Crew was one of Kennesaw Junior College's original 1,014 students and a member of Kennesaw's second graduating class of 46 people. He has also been a long serving KSU Foundation trustee. I have asked Mr. Crew to serve as the committee's Honorary Chair, and he has kindly agreed. Over the next few weeks, I will ask others to serve on the committee. If I ask, please say yes!

Kennesaw College bestowed its first bachelor's degrees in 1980. Soon after, Dr. Sturgis retired and Dr. Betty Siegel

became president, the first female president in the USG. Dr. Siegel led Kennesaw for 25 years and presided over many changes. Some of the more significant were the 1982 start of intercollegiate athletics, master's degrees in 1985, and two name changes, one from Kennesaw College to Kennesaw State College in 1988 and another from Kennesaw State College to Kennesaw State University in 1996.

This morning, I am pleased to announce that on Saturday, the Board of Regents at its annual Salute to Education Gala will award Dr. Siegel the 2012 Elridge McMillan Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service to KSU and to Georgia. The award is given each year to a deserving individual in recognition of extraordinary service to higher education. Congratulations, President Emeritus Siegel!

Dr. Siegel is not the only person from KSU who will be recognized at the Gala. For the sixth consecutive year, the Regents will recognize a KSU faculty member with a system-wide award for teaching excellence. This is a great honor for the individual being recognized, and a great honor for KSU.

Please understand the significance of these awards: there are over 7,000 faculty members in the University System, and every one of them is eligible for an award. Only four or five are honored each year. The fact that KSU faculty have won awards six years running is an incredible accomplishment.

Five years ago, Randolph Smith from Psychology won the Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. Four years ago, it was Mary Garner from Math and Math Education. Three years ago, Matt Laposata from Biology and Physics won top honors. Two years ago, Karen Robinson from Theater and Performance Studies was recognized. Last year, it was Sabine Smith from German Studies. And this year, Tom Pusateri, Professor of Psychology and Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, is one of two Regents' "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" award winners. Congratulations, Tom!

At the same time, the Regents are well aware of the great work our staff is doing. Last year, for the third time, KSU

staff won the Chancellor's Customer Service Recognition Gold Award as the Institution of the Year. Our staff also won the award in 2007 and 2008, making this the third time in five years that the KSU staff has been so recognized.

With this kind of faculty and this kind of staff, no wonder students want to attend KSU. No wonder KSU is one of the fastest growing universities in Georgia. I'll repeat what I said last year: I am extremely proud of this faculty and staff. You are among the best I have seen in the University System, and I have been in the System for 39 years.

I will now turn to some of the many programs and activities taking place at KSU. I can't comment on everything, but I will provide examples that illustrate that the state of this university is excellent even with the budgetary constraints.

I'll start with the College of Science and Mathematics, which later this year will take possession of its new laboratory sciences building. This new building will provide much needed space for undergraduate labs and new graduate

teaching and research degrees in biology and chemistry. Related to this, the Regents recently approved a new Master's of Integrative Biology, which will begin operations this fall.

The College of Science and Mathematics also recently formed the Center for Statistics and Analytical Services. The Center provides research and scholarship support to departments and colleges across campus, and to clients such as the Southern Company, Alcan Cable, The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, and the Department of Community Affairs.

The College of Science and Mathematics, along with the Bagwell College, also plays a major role in the Noyce IMPACT program. Funded primarily by a \$2.84 million grant from the National Science Foundation, this program recruits academically qualified career-changers into the Master of Arts in Teaching Science program.

For the Bagwell College, which graduates more teachers than any other education program in Georgia, one of this year's highlights will be the ground breaking for a new Education Building. Last year, the state provided \$20 million for the building. This year, we will receive another \$2.3 million for equipment. The Bagwell College's Doctoral programs are also flourishing, with 90 students studying for their doctorate and 20 having already received their Ed.D.

The WellStar College of Health and Human Services is also proud of its Doctorate in Nursing Sciences, which in May will award its first degree. As more evidence of the WellStar College's academic prowess, the College's undergraduate Health, Physical Education, and Sport Science quiz bowl team took first place at the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine's 2012 competition, and will represent KSU at the national competition in San Francisco later this summer.

The College has also extended its international reach. Long-noted for its work in Mexico, the WellStar College this year

hosted two Egyptian post-doctoral fellows. Six more post docs are slated to arrive this fall, all funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Egypt.

In addition, the WellStar College continues its extensive engagement with local communities. For example, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce this year awarded Professor Donna Chambers this year's "Hero Award" for her patient care work at the KSU Clinic at MUST Ministries.

Meanwhile, in the Michael J. Coles College, the 2012 Bloomberg BusinessWeek national rankings of EMBA and part-time MBA programs show that the College continues to surge forward. After having not been ranked by Bloomberg in 2009, the last time Bloomberg rankings were released, the Coles EMBA program is now among the top 70 in the U.S. The Coles part-time MBA fared even better, moving up from 56th nationally in 2009 to 29th nationally today.

In addition, the Coles School of Accountancy re-launched its master's program last fall 2011 with 63 highly qualified

students. The students will complete the program in one year of coursework that will prepare them for leadership positions in accounting, auditing and taxation.

This has also been a good year for the College of the Arts, which last Sunday dedicated its new Black Box theater, the Onyx Theater, a gift from an anonymous donor. The College of the Arts is also anticipating the ground breaking of Phase Two of its Art Museum, funded via the generosity of Mr. Bernard Zuckerman. Next month, the College will also formally name the Morgan Concert Hall.

Our largest college, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), last fall introduced two new master's degrees, one in Criminal Justice and the other in Integrated Global Communications. In addition, the college provides extensive offerings in conferences and lectures. For example, in the next three weeks, HSS will host seven lectures and symposia on topics ranging from green policies to terrorism to the information revolution to suburban social problems to travel literature ... and all this in only three

weeks!

Meanwhile, the University College has as its lead tasks educating students during their first few semesters at KSU and improving retention, progression and graduation rates. For example, the Supplemental Instruction Program has reduced the DFW rate in participating courses from 35% to 17%. Another such program is the Thrive program, designed to help students maintain HOPE scholarships.

Another University College program I'll highlight is the President's Emerging Global Scholars, or PEGS, program, a four-year program for high-achieving students that begins in the freshman year with an international experience and continues in a different country in each of the next three years. PEGS students undertake civic engagement projects, participate in leadership workshops and work on research projects. The program's goal is to prepare students to win national scholarships like a Fulbright, Truman, or Rhodes.

As for the Graduate College, it helps coordinate master's and doctoral programs and expand research, scholarship, and creative activities. It is home to the KSU Research and Service Foundation, which has processed one full patent and 4 provisional patents for KSU faculty, with two more in the pipeline. In six years, the Graduate College has helped faculty and staff increase external grants and contracts from \$4 million per year to over \$16 million last year.

Our ninth college, Continuing and Professional Education, continued its excellent record of education and service. This year, the College will teach over 22,000 students. Its \$4.2 million endowment is the largest of all KSU colleges, and includes \$1 million from the Osher Foundation to help students between 25 and 50 return to college. In recognition of these and other successes, the College this month received the Innovative Marketing Award at the Georgia Adult Education Association meeting. At the same meeting, Dean Barbara Calhoun received the Exemplary Service Award.

What about KSU operations beyond academics? We have many activities here, all designed to support academics and education. Behind the scenes, University Advancement, Operations, Student Success, External Affairs, Athletics, Diversity and Inclusion, and Legal Affairs do much to aid our primary purpose, educating students.

Last year, KSU completed its first comprehensive capital campaign, a five-year \$75 million effort, a year ahead of schedule. Together, the Office of University Advancement and Development and the KSU Foundation played key roles in this success.

Among other things, the campaign generated the largest private contribution and the largest grant ever to the university. We also received 14 other gifts of at least one million dollars each, as well as 28 endowed scholarships and 22 Clendenin Graduate Fellowships. As part of the campaign, the Office of Advancement and Development initiated its Corporate Partners program, which now has 20 members.

Here, I want to recognize the tremendous work done by the KSU Foundation and its trustees to help KSU. All the Foundation trustees are volunteers, and all devote large quantities of time and attention to KSU. Indeed, it is not too much to say that without the Foundation and its trustees, the university would not be what it is. Our residence halls, parking decks, houses on Frey Road, the KSU Center, the Sports & Recreation Park, the Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center and Bailey Field.

Meanwhile, the Division of Operations keeps KSU running, and running well, on a very austere budget. The Division entails many different functions necessary for the campus including but not limited to information systems, facilities, financial services, enterprise information, public safety, and auxiliaries. I will comment on only three of these efforts.

First, in information systems, a second data center will open soon, improving campus-wide IT reliability, redundancy,

and recoverability. We will also soon bring on board a high performance computing system.

Second, Operations, in conjunction with Student Success, will open Phase III of the Sports & Recreation Park next month. The grand opening of the full complex, including Phase III's five fields, three sand volleyball courts, and a walking and jogging trail around the lake, as well as the Owls Nest and the KSU Stadium, is scheduled for April 30. Please do mark your calendars. I toured the facility last week, and the only word to describe it is "stunning." In addition, Operations is also exploring ways to open a second much-needed student culinary center.

Third, to improve internal controls and efficiency, Auxiliary Services is being restructured. An external consultant will soon be brought on board to aid in that effort.

As for Student Success, it has the challenging task of helping students become connected and stay connected to KSU to better help them succeed as students and citizens. Student

Success does this in many ways, but I will comment on only two: facilities and activities.

Regarding facilities, the new University Place Apartments will open this fall, adding 451 full service apartments to our inventory and giving KSU almost 3,500 students living on campus. Also on the horizon is a new \$35 million Student Recreation and Activities Center, which we hope will be approved by the Board of Regents in August.

Student Success' co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are flourishing. As two examples, we now have 28 club sports, up from seven in 2008, with over 900 students participating now as compared to 186 then. And today, we have 21 Greek organizations as compared to 12 in 2006, with over 1,100 members now as opposed to about 700 then.

Intercollegiate Athletics also has had a busy year. KSU now fields 9 women's and 7 men's sports. In addition, in keeping with an obligation KSU took on when it joined the Atlantic

Sun Conference in 2005 when we became an NCAA Division I university, we will add Women's Lacrosse next spring.

Owl athletic squads enjoyed success this year as the men's golf team won the Atlantic Sun tournament and the men's track team won the Indoor Track Championship. Student athletes were also winners in the classroom, compiling a combined grade point average of 3.11 in Fall Semester 2011.

Intercollegiate Athletics also marked a significant first for Kennesaw State in December when the department hosted the NCAA Women's National Championship Soccer Tournament. This event showcased the KSU Stadium and the university nationally, and was an immense success.

The university also remains committed to moving forward with intercollegiate football. As before, significant funds must be raised before football becomes a reality, and Athletics is actively engaged in this effort. When we do start football, we will also add more women's intercollegiate sports programs to assure compliance with Title IX.

Responsibilities of the Office of External Affairs include improving the position of the university with external constituents including the legislature, media, and surrounding communities. Similarly, KSU's dialogue with local community leaders is solidified by External Affairs' coordination of the President's Community Advisory Board, which meets quarterly to share information and provide advice about the university's direction and priorities, and by its efforts to better position KSU with the Georgia General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

External Affairs also manages the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative, which is a national model on increasing the numbers of African-American males pursuing higher education.

Meanwhile, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion works closely with stakeholders and campus committees by overseeing diversity and inclusion education across the campus and by coordinating five presidential commissions

that work to make KSU more welcoming and inclusive via initiatives such as Safe Space training and exploring ways to provide on-campus or near-campus day care. The Office also supports the Diversity Forum and its efforts to develop a campus climate assessment to identify concerns and needs of KSU faculty, staff, and students.

Finally, Legal Affairs supports our operations by handling legal issues for faculty, staff, and administrators. This year alone, Legal Affairs vetted over 700 contracts; negotiated campus shuttle services; helped create the KSU Athletic Association; worked with the Graduate College on grants, contracts, and patents; and provided professional and legal workshops for faculty, staff and administrators.

I'll now turn to six initiatives and challenges that are critical to KSU's future. The first is Complete College Georgia, an initiative launched last month by Governor Deal, to increase the percentage of Georgians who hold college degrees.

Complete College Georgia includes all 35 USG institutions and the 27 colleges of Georgia's Technical College System.

Georgia is the 22nd state to join Complete College America, a privately funded national effort to raise the percentage of Americans with college degrees to 60% by 2020.

Governor Deal initiated Complete College Georgia last month with a four-hour program at the Governor's Mansion attended by every president of every Georgia public college and university. Last week, a KSU team headed by Provost Harmon and other delegations from public colleges and universities attended the two day Complete College Georgia Summit at UGA to learn more.

Details of Complete College Georgia (CCG) are not final, but this much is clear: 1) CCG's goal is to raise the percentage of Georgians who have college degrees from 42% to 60% by 2020; 2) the quality of higher education is expected to improve even as the percentage of people with college degrees increases; 3) each institution must develop a data-driven graduation target and achievement plan; and 4) CCG will tie economic development and college completion

together. Clearly, Complete College Georgia is going to be a major factor in public higher education, and at KSU.

Our 2012-17 Strategic Plan will also be a major factor in this university's future. For the past 18 months, the Strategic Thinking and Planning (STP) Committee has been developing the plan. The Committee began work in 2010 by hearing a series of presentations about the local, statewide, national, and global strategic environments in which KSU operates and will operate in the future.

The STP Committee used these presentations and its own discussions to design, in conjunction with the Burrus Institute of Public Service and Research, an on-line survey to solicit student, faculty, staff, alumni, and community supporter views about KSU's future. Last fall, the survey was opened to 43,177 people, 11,013 of whom responded. The STP Committee used the survey results and its own discussions to develop draft vision and mission statements, and a draft set of goals. These drafts were tested via another survey sent early this year to all 2,521 members of the KSU

faculty, staff, and administration, as well as to the executive boards of the Alumni Association and the Foundation. A total of 1,323 people responded, a 56% response rate.

Since then, the STP Committee has modified the draft vision, mission, and goals, is developing objectives under each goal, and identifying action steps under each objective. KSU's new Strategic Plan will be presented to the university in my August 15 "Opening of the University" address. This Strategic Plan will set the stage for KSU to become a nationally-recognized university fully engaged with our community, state, nation, and world as we celebrate the end of our first half-century and the beginning of our second.

The third initiative that will have a major impact on KSU's future is the large number of senior level personnel changes that recently have been completed or are underway.

First, after a national search, Dr. Ken Harmon in December 2011 was named Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Congratulations, Ken!

Second, last April, again after a national search, Vaughn Williams left the University of Connecticut to become KSU's Athletics Director. Welcome on board, Vaughn!

Third, in January, and again after a national search, Mike Harders from Missouri State was named Vice President for University Advancement and Development. Mike will assume his new position at KSU this Monday. And I would also like to thank Dean Joe Meeks who is serving as Interim Vice President for Advancement and Development.

These three new Cabinet members will soon be joined by two other new Cabinet members. For the last few months, we have been conducting a national search for a permanent Chief Diversity Officer. We will soon complete this search. And I stress again, as I have stressed in the past and will continue to stress in the future, that KSU's view of diversity is expansive. We will make this campus as welcoming and inclusive as possible for all who wish to join our community.

At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Linda Lyons and publicly acknowledge her for the excellent work she has been doing for the past year and a half as Interim Chief Diversity Officer. Linda, thank you!

In a similar vein, for the past three years, Dr. Jorge Perez has served as Faculty Executive Assistant to the President. Jorge has done an exemplary job in this non-renewable three-year position, but as of July 1, his three years as FEA will draw to a close. I thank Jorge for his superb work!

We will open the search for a new Faculty Executive Assistant immediately. The position is open to all tenured KSU faculty who have an earned doctorate or appropriate terminal degree with at least five years experience at KSU. A full position description, with application information, is on the KSU website. The application deadline is April 20.

We also have three on-going searches for Deans, all of which are proceeding apace. We intend to have all three new deans

named and in place by Fall Semester, if not sooner. But I first need to thank three people for the work they have done.

First, in the College of Science and Math, thanks to Dr. Ron Matson for his superb work in the last two years as Interim Dean. We owe you a debt of gratitude. Thanks, Ron!

Second, in Humanities and Social Science, thanks to Dr. Rich Vengroff, who when he became Dean six years ago said he intended to be Dean for no more than six years. He is retiring as Dean, but I am pleased to announce that he has won a Fulbright Scholarship to Canada. Congratulations!

Finally, thanks to Dr. Kat Schwaig, who has served as Interim Dean of the Coles College of Business for two years and done an exemplary job. Thank you, Kat!

Let me now turn to a fourth initiative critical for the future of this university, our reaccreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is hard to believe, but we are once again coming

up on re-accreditation deadlines. Next March, we must submit our Fifth-Year Interim Report. Between 2013 and 2015, we must decide upon our next Quality Enhancement Plan. A year later, we must submit our Compliance Certification for Accreditation Reaffirmation.

I am confident we are in good shape to submit our Interim Report next year, but these are critical deadlines. To underline the importance of reaccreditation and to assure we focus on what we must do to achieve it, the Office of Institutional Accreditation will report to me effective immediately. Its director, Dr. Leigh Funk, will assume the title of Special Assistant to the President for Accreditation.

Fifth, space shortages, traffic congestion, and parking are challenges that we must resolve. The good news here is that as far as space is concerned, we have eight projects recently completed, underway, or about to be approved. I have already mentioned all eight, but will repeat them briefly: a new laboratory building, a new education building, new residence halls, a new Sports and Recreation Park, a new

Student Recreation and Activity Center, a new Art Museum, a new Blackbox theater, and a second dining hall.

These projects will not end our space shortages, but they will help address them, as will moving to a full five-day-a week schedule. By doing this, we are more likely to receive state funding in future years for buildings such as the Student Learning Center and the Business Education Building.

As for traffic congestion and parking, three projects are underway. First, the Big Shanty Connector underpass of I-75 will be completed this year. When finished, this will greatly reduce traffic congestion on Chastain.

A second bit of good news is the Busbee-Frey Connector, an overpass of I-75 coming out of the East Deck, crossing I-75, and connecting with Busbee Parkway to the east of I-75. This project is still several years in the future, but when completed, it will also reduce traffic congestion on Chastain.

Third, regarding parking, last year we initiated a shuttle to off-campus parking sites. The good news is that the shuttle works and has helped alleviate parking problems. However, next year's growth will again lead to over-crowded parking.

When last fall, we explored zoned parking to respond to next year's expected crunch, the idea was soundly rejected. Thus, we must expand the off-campus shuttle program. This will lead to additional costs that must be covered by a modest increase in parking fees. In April, we will have a series of town-hall meetings to address the parking situation.

Finally, let me turn to engagement as a sixth initiative critical to KSU's future. As you may recall from last year's State of the University address, I asked what has happened to the word "academic" during the last few decades. I observed that in the 60s and 70s, "academic" was a word that denoted something worthy of intellectual respect, a word that indicated that a person or thought was wise, enlightened, or involved with deep understanding and

thought. Cycle forward to 2012. What does “academic” mean today?

Think about it ... “Oh, that’s just academic.” Today, to many people, if something is “academic,” they mean it is irrelevant, not worthy of serious thought or consideration; or as one on-line dictionary puts it, and I quote, “having no practical purpose or use.” This is not good news.

Thus, we must ask another question, “How and why did this take place?” How did “academic” change from a word that meant “enlightened” to a word that means “irrelevant?”

The answer I offered last year was that we academics spend too much time talking with each other and not enough time talking with people in the broader community. Thus, in the eyes of many, we are pointy-headed intellectuals who don’t have a clue about what goes on in the real world.

Last year, I suggested we needed to change that, and proposed that we become fully committed to engagement with our local community, state, nation, and world, even as

we become a nationally-recognized university. We began this effort by launching Engage KSU, this university's most comprehensive community engagement initiative to date. Since then, faculty, staff, administrators, and students have been hard at work on five teams focused on different dimensions of engagement: teaching, research and scholarship, service, infrastructure, and partnerships.

To be sure, in a certain sense, Engage KSU is not new. KSU has always been deeply involved with the communities of which it is a part. This solid foundation of involvement is central to this institution's history, and Engage KSU teams are building on this to make community engagement a strategic focus. The reciprocal relationships and partnerships that are the hallmarks of community engagement will take KSU to new levels of achievement, recognition, and prominence. When it comes to community engagement, the best is yet to come.

Let me repeat what I said earlier: I am extremely proud of this university and its faculty, staff, and students. With this

kind of faculty and staff, no wonder students want to attend KSU. No wonder that KSU is one of the fastest growing university's in Georgia.

I'll end this State of the University address with the simple observation that the state of this university is excellent, and getting even better. Thank you for your attention this morning, and for all that you do for KSU and our students. I look forward to continuing to work with you.