President’s Welcome Message to Students (Fall 2015)

Welcome to East Georgia State College and congratulations on choosing to pursue a college degree. You have made a wise and responsible choice.

- **Importance of a college degree in our dynamic world**
  Your world is changing at warp speed. In this dynamic world, the critical thinking skills you attain in college are your key to thriving. These will enable you to adapt to new opportunities. Someday, you may pursue a career in an area not yet invented!

- **Importance of earning your associates degree**
  On your road to a bachelor’s degree, don’t lose sight of the value of earning your associates degree along the way. Students who earn that associates degree are more likely to be successful in their upper-division studies. Employers place value on job applicants who have demonstrated the tenacity to earn both a bachelors and an associate’s degree.

- **Make the Most of your College experience**
  College is an amazing opportunity. You have the chance to reinvent yourself. Join a student organization which focuses on something you are passionate about. Attend college events. Explore the opportunity to study abroad. Serve your community. Students who learn to balance their academic and co-curricular pursuits typically perform better academically while learning the interpersonal skills craved by employers.

- **Use the Academic Center for Excellence**
  The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) is not only to be used when you are struggling. The ACE is a great source when that happens, but talented people continually seek out other talented people as they strive for excellence. Meet regularly with our talented ACE tutors.

- **Use of fitness and outdoor resources**
  Our Swainsboro Campus sits on well over 200 acres of beautiful pine forest (Land given to the college by Luck Gambrell). Learn to play disc golf. Run or walk on the 5k and 10K cross country course. Observe gopher tortoises in their natural habitat. Keep yourself fit and healthy by visiting the PE complex regularly.

- **Consider pursuing a bachelor’s degree at East Georgia**
  In the last several years, the college has introduced its first two bachelor’s degree programs: Biology; and Fire and Emergency Services Administration. Explore the possibility of earning a bachelor’s degree at the most affordable college in the State of Georgia (and one of the most affordable in the nation).

- **Join Faculty and Staff in enhancing our culture of respect**
  All members of our academic community- students, faculty and staff- are on a mission to pursue a lifetime of education. All members, regardless of title or position deserve respect. Please join us in building that culture.

- **New residence hall under construction**
  It is exciting to see the second phase of Bobcat Villas emerge. This will add 212 new spaces for student residents in the fall of 2016. Check out the construction when you visit the Shot Strange Clubhouse.
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- **Addition to the academic building will soon begin**
  The residence halls are not the only new construction taking place this year. A 25,000 square foot addition to our Academic Building will begin late this year. This building was made possible through the advocacy of our region’s strong legislative delegation. Please say thanks to Senator Jack Hill, Senator Jesse Stone, Representative Butch Parrish and Representative Jan Tankersley.

- **Students express support for our addition to student center**
  As we add new space in our Bobcat Villas and enrollment grows, our need to expand our student center (the Jean Anderson Morgan Student Center) also grows. The Student Government Association has wisely supported a future increase in student fees to enable us to afford the JAM Center. Although not yet approved at the state level, we will be working hard to gain approval this year.

- **Be part of the Bobcat nation**
  We have a new and outstanding Athletic Director (Chuck Wimberly) . We have four head coaches who are passionate about Bobcat Athletics (Coaches Jordan (Men’s Basketball), Pace (Women’s Basketball), Passauer (baseball) and Dennison (Softball). Come out and be part of the Bobcat Nation.

- **Be part of the community where you live**
  We are all part of the communities where we attend school. Whether you study at Augusta, Statesboro, or Swainsboro, be part of the community. Remember that the support of those communities is what makes your affordable college education possible.

- **The Morgan House of East Georgia State College**
  Our Student Center (the JAM Center) is named in honor of Jean Anderson Morgan, a long time Swainsboro resident. The Morgan family recently gifted their residence in Swainsboro to the College’s Foundation. Check out “First Friday’s” at the Morgan House at 5:30pm on the first Friday of each month. Inquire about holding a meeting of your student organization at the Morgan House.

- **Build your personal financial skills**
  Student loan debt it a major issue in the current presidential campaign. Be part of the solution to the problem of burgeoning student debt in the U.S. (now more than $1.2 trillion). Borrow only what you need (not the maximum possible). Find out exactly when repayments begin. Make sure the degree you are pursing will enable you to repay the loan. Take advantage of resources offered by the college to become financially literate. Trust me; you will be glad when you reach my age!

We are proud that you have chosen to attend EGSC. We look forward to celebrating your graduation from EGSC. We will take pride in your accomplishments as you put that degree to use.