

BOBCAT SPOT PLUS!

— More of what's going on at your hometown college!

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Special SACSCOC Edition!

A Message from Dr. Boehmer

Important Dates

Healthcare Open Enrollment:
October 21 - November 6

Ethics Awareness Week 2020:
November 9-15, 2020

Thanksgiving Break for Students All Campuses
November 23 - 27

Thanksgiving Holidays
November 26 - 27

Fall Commencement Virtual Ceremony
(More details coming soon!)
December 12, 2020

Winter Break
December 23 - 31

Every ten years, every institution of higher education in the southern United States is required to participate in a rigorous process called “reaffirmation of accreditation.” This is an extremely important process because an institution like East Georgia State College must be accredited in order to receive federal funds. For example, accreditation is required in order for an institution to receive and disburse federal student financial aid. In addition, accreditation is critical to the reputation of a college like EGSC. Every student, of course, wants to earn a degree from an accredited institution.

This accreditation process is lengthy and complex. East Georgia State College began the process about 2 ½ years ago. There are two key components of the process. The first part requires presentation to the accrediting body of a document certifying our compliance with each of the Principles of Accreditation of the accrediting body – the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The second part requires the development of a plan – known as a Quality Enhancement Plan or QEP. That plan must be a comprehensive 5-year plan devoted to significantly improving some aspect of student learning unique to the institution.

EGSC completed both of these key steps in the accreditation process this year. In March of this year, EGSC submitted its Compliance Certification to SACSCOC (a document of more than 500 pages). In August of this year,

EGSC submitted its Quality Enhancement Plan to SACSCOC. That QEP is a plan to form “learning communities” to enable our amazing students to directly connect the material they learn in one important class with the material they learn in another important class. For example, a group of students might take a classes in English and History in one semester. The professors in those two classes would carefully coordinate the courses so that the material learned in one class is applied in the other class as well. This plan will, over five years, enable many classes and many students to be directly connected in this thoughtful manner. This process of forming learning communities of faculty and students will, I believe, dramatically improve student learning at EGSC over the next five years. Simply put, students learn more when they understand why the material they are learning is relevant and important. Students learn more when they work in small groups with faculty mentors.

All of this hard work (over two years of work) culminated last week at EGSC with a four day long visit to the College by a committee of our peers. Due to the pandemic, the entire visit was virtual (a “Zoom visit”). The committee consisted of senior administrators and faculty from other parts of the county. For example, the committee included a president of an institution from another state and the Chancellor of an institution from another state. It included committee members from

states ranging from California to Texas to Virginia. The committee conducted over 75 interviews of individuals and groups over the four day period. It was an intense process --- but a process which resulted in a highly positive outcome.

I am proud to report that the result of this visit was excellent. The committee recommended approval of the College’s QEP. Also, the committee made only one recommendation requiring follow up by the College concerning its compliance certification. This highly positive result will be considered by the full SACSCOC Board of Trustees at its meeting in June. Although the “reaffirmation of accreditation” is not final until the Board of Trustees of SACSCOC acts next June, the college does anticipate reaffirmation at that meeting.

This is a big step forward in the life of any college. It is the result of a lot of simple hard work by key faculty and staff and foundation members and students at EGSC over a long period of time. I extend to all of them my sincere thanks for their excellent work.

Thanks so much to the great community which this college serves. Support of our community is an essential component of this accreditation process and the reaffirmation committee was greatly impressed by the high level of support which we enjoy.

Thank you!
Bob Boehmer
President
East Georgia State College

MASK UP, BOBCATS!



Ribbon Cutting held for JAM Expansion Project

East Georgia State College held a ribbon cutting for the Jean Anderson Morgan Student Activities Center Expansion Project on Thursday, October 8, 2020. Local and state leaders were in attendance, as well as a limited number of community members, EGSC students, faculty and staff to remain within social distancing guidelines.

The expansion project, which began in 2018, was completed over the past

summer and has added approximately 15,000 square feet to the existing facility. The new addition has provided much-needed student activity space, including a large multi-purpose room, digital gaming, larger game room, offices and a meeting room for the Student Government Association, Student Publication offices, and Student Life administrative space. The existing portion of the JAM Center was re-

purposed for a larger College Bookstore, as well as open computing space and student group study nodes.

Dr. Steve Wrigley, the 13th Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, was also at the event to help EGSC celebrate. Chancellor Wrigley said the real reason for this special building is for students.

“That’s why this exists. We don’t do it just because we can and to brag about it. In

the end, the whole point of facilities is to teach students and give them a place to carry out leadership functions and SGA meetings and all the things students need to do,” said Wrigley.

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, a limited number of attendees were on site for the ceremony. To watch the ceremony, visit <http://www.ega.edu/2020JAMRibbonCutting>.

