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GSU View

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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News and Events

Holiday Wishes 2012

GSU View extends best wishes to the university community for a peaceful, joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

GSU will be closed for winter break beginning Saturday, December 22. The university will reopen for all regular business, including the GSU Library and the Recreation and Fitness Center, on Wednesday, January 2. The spring semester begins January 22. For more information, visit www.govst.edu.

Keeping Our Campus Safe

James McGee, interim chief of GSU's Department of Public Safety, this week issued a letter following the December shooting deaths in Newtown, Connecticut. The letter outlines steps that DPS has taken to prepare for emergencies.

You can read Chief McGee's [letter](#).

State Leaders Discuss Degree Completion

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon joined other Illinois education and government leaders at a December 14 meeting focusing on implementation strategies for increasing college completion and student success. The meeting was hosted by Complete College America and included teams from 33 states and the District of Columbia.

Under the theme of *Building Guided Pathways to Success for States and Students*, participants heard presentations on directing student choice and reducing time to graduation; new structures at community colleges, including changes to remediation; and the use of metrics, dashboards, and value-added funding for data driven changes.



Team Illinois members

GSU has moved to the forefront of degree completion efforts with the university's innovative Dual Degree Program, which uses financial incentives and advising at the community college level to ensure a seamless transfer and achievement of both associate and bachelor's degrees. The DDP is already recognized as a model for successful degree completion in Illinois and across the nation.

Team Illinois members met with Mike Baumgartner, vice president for finance and special projects at CCA (shown at right hand corner). Team members (from left to right) are Rep. Bob Pritchard, minority spokesperson, House Higher Education Committee; Cheryl Hyman, chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago and CCA Board member; Elaine Johnson, vice-president for academic affairs and workforce development, Illinois Community College Board; President Maimon; Harry Berman, interim executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Peg Lee, president, Oakton Community College; Eric Zarnikow, executive director, Illinois Student Assistance Commission; Lynne Haeffle, senior education policy director, Lt. Governor's Office; and Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, chairwoman, House Higher Education Committee.

Illinois joined CCA's inaugural alliance states in 2009. Illinois continues to pursue plans at the state and campus levels to meet the goal of 60 percent of all state residents holding a postsecondary degree or credential of marketable value by 2025.

Science Renovation Continues Over Break

The renovation of GSU's science facilities will continue over the university's winter break. Several construction projects in F-wing are scheduled, including:

- Connecting the hot water heating system
- Connecting the cold water/chiller system
- Connecting the domestic water
- Connecting the emergency power panels

Welding will take place in the basement of the biology offices and associated fumes and odors can be expected. No lab experiments or student activities should be planned during this time.

Dates for construction in occupied F-wing are December 26, 27, 28, and 31.

In other news the Phase 1 construction project has a May 1 delivery date. The CAS Science Division has set a goal to move all labs into the new space by May 20, the beginning of summer term. Thanks to science faculty, staff, and student workers who participated in a recent inventory project, the Science Division has identified equipment that will be moved into the new space, and items that will be turned into scrap and surplus.

Anyone who is planning to spend any extended time inside of F-wing during the construction days should contact [Karen D'Arcy](#) or [Steve Shih](#).

Advancing Diversity and Social Justice at GSU

The Offices of Student Life and International Students are accepting applications for the Student Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice. The coalition's mission is to encourage an accepting environment where students can embark upon a journey of education and empowerment by discovering similarities, differences, and challenges.

Representatives will challenge stereotypes, biases, and prejudices through advocacy, education, and building community awareness. Applicants must be committed to diversity and social justice issues and willing to commit to a one-year term. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Applications are available at www.govst.edu/diversity. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on February 1.

For additional information, contact [Vanessa Newby](#), Director of Student Life at 708.534.4551.



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