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GSU View

University Newsletters

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## GSU View, 2013-08-20

Office of Marketing and Communications

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## News and Events

### Special Convocation 2013 Edition of "FC14 In Motion"



#### **Significant Change with High Level Quality Control**

*Dr. Elaine P. Maimon*

Our regional accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central States has the responsibility for approving major changes in universities and colleges in our region. HLC sent a team to GSU in April to give final approval to our admission of lower-division students.

HLC considered this change "operational," not a change in mission, because they understood that GSU was founded to be inclusive.



I was confident, in fact excited, to show the visiting team the remarkable plans for our first freshman class. Nonetheless, whenever evaluation is part of the agenda, a tiny bit of nervousness is unavoidable.

Well, I did more than breathe a sigh of relief when we received the HLC report, which is now a public document. Here is an excerpt from their high praise:

"The types of preparation made for this very significant change are being made in tandem with other significant changes in general education programming, assessment processes, institutional research, faculty development and other key areas. Such deep and significant change with such a high level of quality control and in such a short timeframe is rare in higher education."

President Maimon

What a gratifying validation of the work being done by so many people across campus. The General Education Task Force, chaired by Professor Ann Vendrely, deserves special mention. This group decided to Think Big. They planned a first-year program that reflects decades of research on student success. But they did not stop there. They created an exceptional general education plan that imbues students, in the words of our mission statement, "with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society."

The Lower Division Steering Committee, chaired by Dean Reinhold Hill, continues to do extraordinary work in planning and organization. The freshmen are coming, and we will be

ready.

The HLC team encourages us to publish articles and to make presentations on our planning processes and on our program. We have already begun to do so. Please think about expanding your research agenda to take advantage of this distinctive opportunity. It is deeply satisfying to think that other universities will benefit from our thoughtful deliberations. It definitely takes an entire campus to prepare for such a Big Idea (a phrase that will figure significantly in my August 20 Convocation speech).

At GSU, in a great variety of ways, we are planning for Mission Forward (hint, another Convocation idea). Throughout the year, we will engage in more discussion and preparation. We are building something that will benefit our students for decades to come and sharing our innovative approaches with other colleges and universities.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone on this campus for contributing to Mission Forward. I am eagerly awaiting our next Big Idea. Our university was founded by people who looked both forward and upward. That proud heritage continues today through our collective efforts. Let's resolve to continue the momentum.

Read the special [Convocation 2013 edition of In Motion](#).



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