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GSU View, September 25, 2018 Special Edition

Office of Marketing and Communications

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



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SPECIAL EDITION

A Special Thank You for Gebe: Mr. GSU



If [Governors State University \(GSU\)](#) were the whimsical Land of Oz, Gebeyehu “Gebe” Ejigu would be the wizard, operating behind the scenes at the university for more than a decade to ensure a quality education for thousands of students in Chicago’s Southland.

As a passionate academic and driven leader with a GPS-like genius for finance, Ejigu served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, Visiting Professor, and Special Advisor to President Elaine P. Maimon, who calls her longtime colleague “a key builder of GSU.”

Moreover, the native Ethiopian is a visionary and a strategist whose indelible imprint on GSU spans from boardroom to the classroom reaching from athletics to the arts.

On Aug. 31, Ejigu—affectionately known as Gebe—retired from the university, bringing to a close almost five decades of service to higher education—the last 11 years of which were at GSU. His contributions are inextricable from the institution’s transformation, and his exit comes as the university marks its beginnings 50 years ago.

[Read the full story here.](#)

GSU 2.0

Gebe’s quiet demeanor played in stark contrast to an outsized reputation that spoke volumes about his integrity and commitment to Governors State University, its faculty, staff, and, most of all, students during his 11-year tenure as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, and Special Advisor to President Maimon.

“One of Gebe’s many contributions to GSU will be a shift in the university’s culture. He was a major force in maturing the environment of GSU—in developing a GSU 2.0, if you will,” said Nick Battaglia, who retired in 2016, after having served in a variety of roles including Assistant VP for Enrollment Management, and later coordinator of the Ellucian Colleague implementation.

[Read comments from others across the community here.](#)

A Key Builder of GSU

President Maimon called Gebe a “key builder of GSU” as he stepped down in August. “Your leadership in managing GSU’s fiscal health helped create a culture of strategic investment. All major initiatives—the Dual Degree Program, the structured four-year undergraduate program, student housing, athletics, and the projects



recommended this summer by the Enrollment Task Force—bear your signature,” Dr. Maimon recently wrote in an email to Gebe.

[Read how Gebe describes his own legacy here.](#)



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