

# GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY



**Dr. Stuart Fagan**  
**President**

Governors State University (GSU) offered its first classes and enrolled its first students in fall 1971. Nearly 35 years since its founding, the university's core commitment has been to form a community of learners — a community that embraces all who join it and that challenges all to make learning integral to the world around them.

GSU's mission is to: 1) offer an excellent education that meets the demands of the state for engaged, knowledgeable citizens and highly-skilled professionals, and that is accessible to those traditionally underserved by higher education; 2) cultivate and enlarge a diverse and intellectually stimulating community of learners guided by a culture that embodies openness of communication, diversity of back-

grounds, experiences and perspectives, mutual respect and cooperation, critical inquiry, constant questioning and continuing assessment, and ongoing research and scholarship; and 3) strengthen and enhance the educational, cultural, social and economic development of the region through partnerships with governmental, business, educational, civic and other organizations.

GSU is an upper-division university offering junior- and senior-level courses for completion of bachelor's degrees in 21 majors and master's degrees in 25 majors. The university's annual enrollment of more than 9,300 students commute to the 760-acre campus in University Park from the Chicago metropolitan area, including Cook, DuPage, Kankakee, Kendall, Grundy and Will counties, and Lake County, Indiana. While students of all ages attend the university, the average student is in his or her mid-30s and employed full or part time outside the university. The university staff has developed special assistance programs for students returning to college, including adult re-entry programs, learning assistance, advisement and student services.

The university has a strong commitment to cultural diversity in every facet of university life. It also is nationally recognized for its innovative approaches to distance learning techniques (video courses, television instruction, Web-based and Web-assisted learning) that allow students to learn at their own pace at work or at home. Several GSU-produced, award-winning teleclasses are distributed throughout the world by cable and educational networks.

The university's outreach efforts include several national videoconferences that link hundreds of viewers to audio/video discussions on current issues. These presentations enable GSU students to be a part of those discussions from campus. The university also is involved in workforce development and retraining projects for regional businesses through curricula specially designed by GSU faculty and staff.

The university's involvement and service to its communities enables it to continually improve the quality and delivery of its academic programs. GSU offers degree programs that address the rapidly changing needs of its students and employers in the region. Special emphasis is given to fields in which entry-level employment and advanced-training opportunities exist within the GSU service area. The university takes a holistic approach to education and continually connects the university to the community. Through services offered by the university's South Metropolitan Regional Leadership

Center, the College of Business and Public Administration's CenterPoint program, the Learning in Context Partnership in the community of Ford Heights, and the Department of Human Services' Leadership Development Institute, GSU addresses issues that impact the way people live and creates a community of lifelong learners.

In serving its diverse population, GSU utilizes a blend of the traditional and more experiential instructional modes, including internships and practical field training. These on-site opportunities serve as an additional dimension to faculty instruction and provide an important link to community service.

The university's main facility, designed as seven buildings under one roof, covers 400,000 square feet. The setting enables interaction among the four colleges and offers a full-service music recital hall, student media labs, television studios, and state-of-the-art computer labs and recreational facilities, including an Olympic-style swimming pool. The 1,200-seat Center for Performing Arts brings world-class entertainment to the region, and the campus boasts the internationally renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, which has been described as "perhaps the finest exhibition of monumental sculpture in the country." GSU also has a new state-of-the-art Family Development Center.

## Academic Programs

The university is organized into four colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business and Public Administration, Education, and Health Professions. Each college offers undergraduate and graduate programs. Students prepare for professions in accounting, business, government, industry, teaching, counseling, school psychology, educational administration, nursing, health administration, social work, physical and occupational therapy, addictions studies, speech-language pathology, communications, the arts, computer science, chemistry, social sciences, political studies, biology, English, management information systems, public administration, and criminal justice.

GSU is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Individual programs have received accreditation or entitlement from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; the Illinois State Board of Education; the Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Sciences Administration; the Association of University Programs in Health Administration; the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs; the Council on Social Work Education; the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs; the National Association of School Psychologists; the Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association, Inc.; the American Chemical Society; the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association; the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy; and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

## Admissions and Enrollment

To be admitted into the university, undergraduates must have earned a minimum of 60 semester hours with at least a "C" average. Graduate admission is based on an undergraduate degree earned from a regionally accredited college or university and fulfillment of specific criteria for individual majors.

**Board of Trustees:** Jack Beaupre, Bourbonnais; Kristi DeLaurentis, Frankfort; Bruce Friefeld, Mokena; William D. McGee, Chicago Heights; Kathleen Field Orr, Flossmoor; Lorine Samuels, New Lenox; and student trustee Dwayne Williams.