

THE TIMES OPINION

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The Times was established in December 1880 and is a publicati

GSU is a model for the 21st century

The year 2012 dawns bright for Governors State University, the regional public university for Chicago's Southland. As I complete my fifth year as president, GSU is establishing itself as a model 21st century public university.

The ivory tower was the predominant symbol of universities in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Many were gated communities built on hills, looking down on the population below. GSU is not an ivory tower but a public square — inclusive in its philosophy and practice.

2011 was a miraculous year for GSU. After 10 years of waiting, we finally tore down the 20th century walls of our outdated science labs to make way for state-of-the-art science facilities, a game-changer providing our dedicated faculty researchers an appropriate setting for instilling students with knowledge.

In late November, the Kresge Foundation, one of the nation's largest and most prestigious funders of education reform, awarded a major grant — \$875,000 — to GSU to support the dual degree program, our exemplary partnership with eight community colleges (Prairie State, South Suburban, Moraine Valley, Joliet, Kankakee, DuPage, Triton and Morton).

In September, during her visit to GSU, U.S. Undersecretary of Education Martha Kanter said, "We are going to shine a spotlight on the dual degree program. This is absolutely the right direction in which to go." The Kresge Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education see the dual degree program as a national model.

It's a point of pride for Chicago's Southland to lead the nation in providing a quality, seamless pathway from a community college associate's degree to university graduation. Our partnership with Ivy Tech creates opportunities for Indiana residents, under our Good Neighbor policy, to pay Illinois-resident tuition rates to complete bachelor's

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD



BY ELAINE MAIMON

degrees at GSU

On Dec. 6, the Illinois Board of Higher Education endorsed the resolution of the GSU trustees, allowing the admission of freshmen in 2014. By this action, GSU becomes a full-service public university.

GSU faculty members are already hard at work developing the most exciting first-year courses anywhere. In 2014, we will admit up to 270 full-time, daytime freshmen, organized in three cohorts to study the core courses prescribed by the Illinois Articulation Initiative.

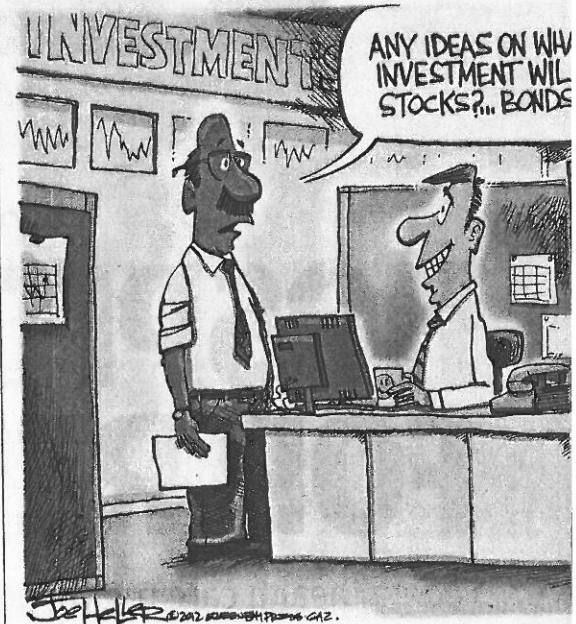
On Dec. 9, the GSU board of trustees approved a plan for student housing in living and learning communities to be completed in August 2014, in time for the arrival of the first freshmen. First-year students will live in a family atmosphere with juniors, seniors, and graduate students, some in GSU's highly competitive doctoral programs.

Undergraduates from Indiana now will be able to avoid a long commute, pay Illinois in-state tuition and live on this beautiful campus.

While making full use of our resources during the day, GSU continues its exemplary service to working adults in the evening. In these ways, GSU fulfills its promise as a model 21st century university — a public square serving Chicago's south suburbs, 24/7.

Elaine Maimon is president of Governors State University. The opinions are the writer's.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Write to the editor

Letters must be 150 words or less, signed and include a phone number. **FAX:** (219) 933-3249 or (219) 465-7298. **MAIL:** The Times, 60