



Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: **Dr. Pamela Whitten**
Official College or University Name: **Kennesaw State University**

College or University Street
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I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.


(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Date: 2-10-2020

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

Name of Nominating Agency: **University System of Georgia**

Name of Nominating Authority: **Dr. Steve Wrigley**
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Signature in route

Date: **February 14, 2020**

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

Contact Information:

College/University Name: Kennesaw State University | Presidential Commission on Sustainability

Street Address: Kennesaw State University has two campus locations:

I. The Kennesaw Campus is located at: 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144

II. The Marietta Campus is located at: 1100 South Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060

Lead Applicant Name: Pegah Zamani, Ph.D., Chair | KSU Presidential Commission on Sustainability

Lead Applicant Email: pzamani@kennesaw.edu Phone Number: 404-917-4711

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

(X) Yes () No Program(s) and level(s) achieved

Kennesaw State University (KSU) has been a member of or signatory to several sustainability agreements, including [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#), [Second Nature's Carbon Commitment](#) (formerly American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)), *The Princeton Review's Guide to 353 Green Colleges (2012-2016)*, [Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education \(ARCHE\)](#), [the Tailloires Declaration](#), [the Georgia Campus Sustainability Network](#), and [the Southeast Campus Sustainability Coordinators Network](#). KSU's *Energy Star Purchasing Policy* was instituted in 2008.

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

(X) Yes Award(s) and year(s)

Numerous buildings on both the Kennesaw & Marietta campuses have received *The United States Green Building Council (USGBC)* certifications at the Gold and Silver levels of *LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)* – to name a few: Commons Student Dining Hall, Prillaman Hall, The Science Lab Addition are all awarded LEED Gold Certifications. The university has been among one of the most environmentally responsible colleges & universities in the United States and Canada named in the “*Green Colleges List*” issued by the Princeton Review in partnership with the U. S. Green Building Council. The *University System of Georgia Board of Regents* awarded Kennesaw State the *2012 Sustainability Award for Energy Performance*. Kennesaw State has also been named among the top 10 percent of institutions nationally, by the Carnegie Foundation, for its ongoing collaborative efforts on engaged citizenship to enhance the life on campus and larger community. Examples of grants dedicated to supporting such institutional engagement in advancing health: *Kaiser Permanente* to fund a patient education program focused on obesity, asthma, and breast health at the *KSU Community Clinic*. *Georgia General Assembly* funded inclusive post-secondary education for students with developmental disabilities through KSU's Academy for Inclusive Learning & Social Growth, which is housed in the *University's WellStar College of Health and Human Services*. Furthermore, the University won two national awards from the *National Restaurant Association* – “*Operator Innovations Award for Sustainability*” as well as “*2013 Innovator of the Year*” -- the first time an educational institution was selected to receive the prestigious “*Innovator of the Year*” award. The school made the *Newsweek* “*Top 25 Colleges for Food*” in 2011. Further examples include: *2013 Residential Dining Concepts Silver Award* and *2012 Bronze Award for Education and Outreach* from the *National Association for College and*

University Food Services (NACUFS). KSU received *Technical Assistance* grant from the *National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)*. KSU Recycling Program was awarded *The Coca-Cola/Keep America Beautiful Public Space Recycling Infrastructure Grant*. Our university is also designated as a *Bicycle Friendly University* by the *League of American Bicyclists*.

Summary Narrative:

A member of the University System of Georgia, Kennesaw State University (KSU) is the *third-largest* university in the state and one of the 50 largest public institutions in the nation -- a comprehensive, residential institution with 13 colleges on *two* metro Atlanta campus locations. On January 6, 2015, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the consolidation of Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State University. Kennesaw State brought strengths in the Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences, Health Sciences, and Arts. Southern Polytechnic brought Engineering, Architecture, and Construction Management. The new Kennesaw State University is a stronger Comprehensive University in that it houses a wider variety of academic specialties than either original institution. However, the consolidation also brought challenges in the area of *sustainability*. The two main campuses are in Kennesaw and Marietta, which are located about ten miles apart. In addition to transportation issues, consolidation brought challenges in the merging of infrastructure, campus operations, and campus cultures. Over the past several years, our students, faculty and staff have placed significant emphasis and efforts on enhancing, advancing and advocating *sustainability* through research, education, campus operations and community service. Thus, from seeds that were planted in the early years of Kennesaw Junior College as well as the Southern Polytechnic State University, a comprehensive and nationally recognized sustainability movement has emerged and taken roots on the joined campuses of the Kennesaw State University. On its two campuses, the university has conducted various initiatives on sustainability. The following is only a synopsis of our institution's numerous efforts to reduce its environmental impact, integrate the well-being into the campus life, and expand sustainability in the curriculum and extracurricular activities.

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Kennesaw State was one of the first public universities in the University System of Georgia to complete a project certified by *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)*. There are 22 LEED buildings across both campuses. Throughout the several past years, the university has developed various green initiatives on its two campuses to decrease its environmental impact and costs, to name a few: *increased recycling on campuses; alternative transportation; and motion detectors for lighting in classrooms and meeting places*. The Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability works to improve sustainability outcomes on KSU campuses in a number of ways - as a case, *The Energy and Water Dashboard* is a joint initiative of The Office of Sustainability and Maintenance and Operations to allow students, staff, and faculty to view real-time and historical utility data for select buildings. The university has updated design standards for new building and major renovations and created operating standards that include sustainability provisions and energy & water use intensity goals. KSU's *Energy Star Purchasing Policy* was instituted in 2008. The University System of Georgia Board of Regents awarded Kennesaw State the *2012 Sustainability Award for Energy Performance*.

In 2007, Kennesaw State signed onto the *American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)*, which is now *Second Nature's Carbon Commitment*. As part of the agreement, Kennesaw State pledges to proactively engage students,



faculty and staff in measuring and reducing the carbon footprint of the campus. Since 2008, there has been a vast improvement in the reduction of greenhouse gas production on campus. Enrollment grew by about 8 percent (between 2010 and 2012); greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by nearly 6 percent in that same period -- The growth of greenhouse gas emissions has not kept up with campus growth over years. Commuting accounts for 76 percent of KSU's annual greenhouse gas emissions. The university offers a number of commute alternatives to help campus save money, conserve resources and be mobile without having to rely on a car – For instance through: the *Public Transit of KSU's Big Owl Bus (BOB)*; Biking with a number of off-street bike paths and amenities for cyclists; Walking campuses; Carpooling, *Ridesharing, and Zipcar*; Telecommuting, Compressed Work Week, and Flextime; and Georgia Commute Options.

The university has been named among one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada by the annual edition of “*The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges.*” Kennesaw State’s LEED-certified buildings and its farm-to-campus program are highlighted in the guide. The university student dining hall, The Commons, has also been garnering national accolades for its *Farm-to-Campus- to-Farm Program*. On the heels of the “*Green Colleges*” recognition, the University won two national awards from the National Restaurant Association: The *Operator Innovations Award for Sustainability* and “*Innovator of the Year.*” Citing its “*Comprehensive, Closed-loop Waste Management Program*” and “*Farm-to-Campus-to-Farm*” initiative, the University bested finalists Walt Disney Parks and Resorts and the U.S. Air Force. This was the first time an educational institution was selected to receive the prestigious “*Innovator of the Year*” award. The KSU *Farm-to-Campus-to-Farm* program expanded in 2013 to an additional 25-acres farm in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Transportation, located approximately two miles from the Kennesaw Campus – the farm is named the Kennesaw State Field Station in 2019.

For further information see the detailed narrative of PILLAR I

Pillar II- Improve the health and wellness of student, faculty and staff

Kennesaw State has been a destination campus offering students a broad spectrum of quality academics, a growing and vibrant campus life, award-winning dining facilities, and a wide array of athletic offerings. KSU boasts two compact, walkable campuses with access to an extensive county-wide trail network, an on-campus and off-campus bike share program, and on-campus amenities such as a bike shop, showers, fix-it stations, and numerous bike racks. In recognition of Kennesaw State’s commitment to sustainability and achievements in promoting and enabling safe, accessible bicycling on campus, the University has been designated as a *Bicycle Friendly University* by the *League of American Bicyclists*. KSU’s *NCAA Division I* athletics program includes 18 varsity sports teams, with multiple national, regional and conference championships in baseball, softball, soccer and men’s basketball.

The university represents high standards of synchronized efforts on health, nutrition, outdoor physical education, counseling, and psychological services for students, faculty and staff. *KSU Health Promotion and Wellness* is a unit of the *Division of Student Affairs* and serves to improve the balance of the intellectual, emotional, physical, social, environmental, and spiritual development of students through awareness and education. To support a healthy learning environment for students, *Health Promotion and Wellness* offers a variety of services and programs at a free or discounted cost. The programs and services offered support students’



overall wellness through health promotion workshops and events including, but not limited to, stress management programs, nutrition consultations and workshops, risk reduction education, CPR certification and more.

Kennesaw State is one of the first schools in the nation to establish a new program to help its homeless student population. *Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE)* collaborates with the community and other departments across KSU, such as admissions, financial aid, and campus housing to provide students a wide range of offerings in addition to the food *Campus Pantry*, one-on-one *Case Management*, personal care items, temporary housing, job coaching, temporary job placement, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities.

Facilities Services strives to provide the highest level of service to both internal and external users while creating and maintaining an attractive, comfortable and safe environment for KSU students, faculty, staff and visitors each day. The *Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS)* has been KSU's source of expertise and assistance on environmental and occupational safety matters and continuously works to keep KSU in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental health and safety laws, rules and regulations. Furthermore, *KSU Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)* is aimed to be a resource for KSU administrators, personnel, faculty, and students to assist with information and provide safety guidelines for crisis planning and response.

Pillar III- Effective environmental and sustainability education

Kennesaw State is a Carnegie-designated doctoral research institution (R2), placing it among an elite group of only 6 percent of U.S. colleges and universities with an R1 or R2 status, and one of the 50 largest public institutions in the country. The University's national reputation continues to gain steam -- recognized for its first-year experience program for ten consecutive years and as one of the top universities in the region by *U.S. News & World Report* in its *America's Best Colleges* issue. Kennesaw State has also been ranked among only 19 universities in the country that scored an A by the *American Council of Trustees and Alumni* in its "What Will They Learn?" guide.

The university's vibrant campus culture, diverse population, strong global ties and entrepreneurial spirit draw students from throughout the region and from 130 countries across the globe. A Carnegie-designated doctoral institution, the university offers more than 150 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees to its more than 35,000 growing student population. The Kennesaw State alumni network is 100,000 strong. Our students, faculty, staff and alumni cultivate and advance strong relationships in the civic, academic, and economic communities.

In terms of socio-cultural dimension of sustainability, Kennesaw State prides itself on offering a premiere, personalized educational experience for leadership and engagement within a diverse nation and world. This educational experience is achieved through recognition and appreciation of the differing backgrounds and experiences reflected within the University community. We firmly believe that sensitivity to diversity, equity, and global interdependence is central to fostering supportive living, learning, and working environments – as stated in the university Diversity Statement. The university has received distinctions recognizing its leadership in the area of diversity. *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine ranked the University among the top 100 colleges and universities in the nation in degrees conferred to minorities. *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine has for the second consecutive ED-GRS (2019-2021)

year designated KSU a “Diversity Champion,” one of only 12 schools nationwide to be honored for 2017. In The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), the six Presidential Commissions -- *Sustainability, Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Disability Strategies and Resources, Gender and Work Life Issues, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) Initiatives, and Veterans Affairs* -- serve as advisory committees to the President and Chief Diversity Officer to address issues and challenges that their constituencies encounter on campus. Under the guidance of ODI, the commissions are tasked with identifying, implementing, and suggesting activities, programming, actions, and policies that will lead to an increased understanding and acceptance of diverse viewpoints and perspectives between and among different members and groups of KSU’s diverse community. The *Presidential Commission on Sustainability* serves as an advisory body at the university to promote and support collaborative efforts of faculty, staff and students toward sustainable development goals within and across KSU's colleges, departments, and external partners. Specifically, The Commission's efforts impact the following areas founded in its Mission Statement:

1. *EDUCATION: Promote and support innovative sustainability education within and across KSU's curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular programming.*
2. *OPERATIONS: Promote and support sustainable practices within and across KSU's campuses and local communities by fostering equal access to and the responsible use of natural resources.*

As a case, one of the commission initiatives is the *KSU Annual EQUINOX Week* dedicated to *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals* and multi-sponsored by the *KSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Research, College of Architecture and Construction Management, CIFAL Atlanta (Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders), UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), and Division of Global Affairs*. Established in 2017, the initiative seeks to catalyze and advance pathways of multidisciplinary scholarship and partnership among institutions of higher education, policymakers, and community members. Throughout that week in March, a diverse set of multidisciplinary programs are organized on our both campuses including *Annual EQUINOX Symposium: UN SDGs; EQUINOX_Exhibit; Sustainable Development Awards; and Sustainable Development Career Pathways*. As a comprehensive, engaged university, Kennesaw State creates and maintains strategic, interactive partnerships in our professional and civic communities. There have been various opportunities for students, faculty and staff to be introduced, connected to and engaged in sustainability initiatives with the external community. Our multi-disciplinary partnerships provide deeper understating of the real-world issues on sustainably such as climate action, and energy conservation to open up multiple green career pathways.

An R2 institution, the university has commitments to offer high-quality and productive undergraduate, graduate, continuing education and co-curricular programs. On the both KSU campuses, there are growing demands and interests in multidisciplinary education on sustainability, as well as the civic skills and impact of sustainability. There have been initiatives to expand sustainability research & service-learning opportunities, for instance, faculty has been offered *Sustainability Across the Curriculum Faculty Workshops, and Sustainability Faculty Fellowships*.

We have various outdoor Twenty–five years ago, KSU set aside part of the campus's original forest on Marietta Drive as a natural resource where students can study centuries–old trees, learn about density, the distribution of trees and plants and natural history. Farm-to-campus programs also include educational opportunities for KSU students. The *Kennesaw State Field Station*, managed by the *KSU Office of Research*, supports scholarship and research that are aligned to real-world applications.

PILLAR I: REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND COSTS

Kennesaw State is located just northwest of Atlanta in Cobb County near historic Kennesaw Mountain; allowing students to experience the best of Atlanta while enjoying the serenity of two campuses. The Kennesaw Campus is situated on a 380-acre landscaped campus near Kennesaw, Georgia. The Marietta Campus, formerly Southern Polytechnic State University, is a 280-acre campus located in the City of Marietta. The university is a member of or signatory to several sustainability agreements, including [Second Nature's Carbon Commitment](#), [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#), [Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education \(ARCHE\)](#), the [Tailloires Declaration](#), the [Georgia Campus Sustainability Network](#), and the [Southeast Campus Sustainability Coordinators Network](#).

Several buildings on both the Kennesaw & Marietta campuses have received *The United States Green Building Council (USGBC)* certifications at the Gold and Silver levels of *LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)* – to name a few here: Prillaman Hall has awarded (LEED) Gold certification. The Social Sciences Building was the first LEED-certified building on campus, receiving a LEED Silver certification, while The Commons student dining hall was the first to garner LEED Gold certification. The new Science Lab Addition has also garnered a LEED Gold certification designation precertification. The *University System of Georgia Board of Regents* awarded Kennesaw State the 2012 *Sustainability Award for Energy Performance* on the Science Building Lab Addition, at the USG Facilities Officers Conference in Savannah, GA. All future buildings will be designed to meet green building certification standards comparable to the LEED Silver level or above.

The university has initiated and addressed numerous sustainable operations to reduce and monitor its environmental impact and costs. The *KSU Climate Action Plan (CAP)* has set out proposals and initiatives for *promoting behavioral changes, enacting university policies, and initiating projects in the areas of transportation, energy consumption, water use, and solid waste removal*. Based on the CAP and *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories*, the following outlines broad descriptions of ongoing strategies for achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions over the next fifty years.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

Annual reports on sustainability activities have been provided by The Office of Sustainability and Maintenance and Operations – such as, Climate Action Plan; Greenhouse Gas Inventory; and Princeton Green Guide. The *Climate Action Plan (CAP)* has used the FY 2014 data as a baseline to achieve zero GHG emissions by the year 2064. The CAP utilizes demographic and physical plant growth projections that are being developed in KSU's latest Master Plan. The plan calls for the renovation of older buildings in the historic core of the Marietta campus and only limited new construction. Plans for the Kennesaw campus focus on increasing the building density within a *ten-minute* walk circle. In order to achieve carbon neutrality, the university has implemented multiple policies and programs across a range of impact areas. KSU has developed greenhouse gas reduction goals, calling for carbon-neutrality by 2064, as shown in the graph and in the Table 1 below.

Increased Energy Efficiency at KSU

The federal stimulus funds are used to install a metering system for over 26 buildings and to implement an online dashboard providing real-time and historic utility data across both campuses. The university real-time *Energy and Water Dashboards* allows us to better monitor and manage our utility consumption at the building level and also educate greater KSU community. KSU has also used stimulus funds to complete energy audits and perform retro-commissioning of older buildings. Campus buildings' *Energy Use Intensity* is compared with third-party baselines, such as *EnergySTAR* to set building-specific and campus-wide

efficiency goals. In terms of efficiency projects, LED retrofits (outdoor lighting, Convocation Ctr., Visual Arts, Architecture), low-flow showerheads, and no-cost building audits have been provided via *Grants to Green*. There are analyzing financial strategies, such as *Energy Performance Contracting*, a five-year audit/implement schedule, and an internal revolving loan fund, to support implementation efforts.

Transportation Improvements -- Green Clean Commuting and Commute Alternatives:

Transportation was a huge challenge to GHG reduction target at KSU, a traditionally commuter institution in a region that currently has few public transportation options. Commuting accounts for 76 percent of KSU's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, as the fifth largest employer in Cobb County, KSU contributes significantly to traffic throughout the region. GHG reduction targets are based on plans to promote projects and policies for expanded use of alternative transportation -- such as bicycling, carpooling, using shuttles and remote parking lots. The Department of Parking and Transportation and The Office of Sustainability and Maintenance and Operations support outreach and working with student groups, increasing awareness and engagement within alternative transportation options on campus, and initiatives like *Zagster* (bike share), the *Bike Friendly University* initiative, and the expanded use of the *Big Owl Bus* -- an efficient transportation -- for students, staff and faculty to address our expanding population and growing concerns of limited parking on the KSU both campuses.

Public Transit: KSU has explored ways to enhance regional public transportation systems in partnerships with local and state transportation departments. KSU operates the *Big Owl Bus (BOB)* shuttle to provide commute alternatives to students, staff, and faculty across and between campuses. BOB serves multiple routes to nearby apartments and recreation destinations as well between both campuses. Since its inception, BOB has served 343,714 passengers and offset 16.5 million passenger miles travelled. Its real-time tracking data can be checked out through transloc app.

CobbLINC, formerly *Cobb County Transit (CCT)* provides local bus service throughout Cobb County as well as commuter routes to and from downtown Atlanta. Many routes serve KSU.

Parking & Walking: Reductions in local traffic congestion through the use of remote parking areas with shuttle bus access are lowering emissions. Shuttle bus routes have been established to connect outer campus areas & athletic fields. Shuttle bus routes have been expanded to include shopping & nearby apartment clusters that house large numbers of students. There are carpool and vanpool initiatives currently in place with parking spaces available to promote carpool. The core of both campuses fit within a ten-minute walk circle. Students, staff, and faculty are urged to adopt a "park it once" strategy, and walk to meetings or classes, rather than driving between buildings.

Biking: In recognition of Kennesaw State's commitment to sustainability and achievements in promoting and enabling safe, accessible bicycling on campus, the University has been designated as a *Bicycle Friendly University* (both campuses) by the *League of American Bicyclists*. The League, which is a national organization dedicated to creating safer roads and stronger communities, has awarded Kennesaw State the Bronze Award. In awarding KSU, the League noted the University's infrastructure planning for street closures to minimize traffic in core campus areas, creation of on-campus bike lanes and ample bike parking, and commitment to improved connectivity to access to an extensive countywide trail network that includes the trails at Rottenwood Creek and Noonday Creek. The Kennesaw campus connects with Noonday Creek Trail, seven-mile paved, off-street, multi-use trail connecting to Town Center mall and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield. KSU is working to promote this trail as a viable commute alternative for staff and faculty that live along the trail. Cobb County is home to over 100 miles of off-street

bike paths. KSU community uses this interactive map to identify a route from our homes to campus. KSU offers a number of amenities for cyclists, including commuter showers, a bike shop for rentals and repairs, bike racks, and fix-it stations (Marietta campus only). These amenities and more can be located on KSU's sustainability maps (Marietta / Kennesaw). In 2018, KSU partnered with Zagster to bring bike sharing to Marietta campus through the installation of seven docking stations. Since program launch, we have seen an average of over 2,000 trips per month at an average trip length of two miles. We estimate that this program will reduce emissions by *30 tons per year* by reducing the vehicle miles travelled on and off-campus. Furthermore, Cobb County boasts over 400 miles of paved trails, in addition to bike lanes and mountain biking trails.

Georgia Commute Options, Carpooling, RideSharing, and Zipcar: The university partners with county and state agencies in GA and as well as local *Community Improvement Districts* to develop a regional comprehensive transportation plan that includes improved public transportation options. KSU's *Department of Transportation* has launched resources to help staff and faculty find ride-sharing options, and sign-up with *Georgia Commute Options*. Our partnership with *Georgia Commute Options* leverage resources and promote the use of carpooling, public transit, bike commuting, and teleworking. *Georgia Commute Options* provides financial incentives to encourage employees to adopt a commute alternative.

Telecommuting, Compressed Work Week, and Flextime: KSU promotes alternative work schedules and telecommuting for staff and faculty to encourage work-life balance, to attract and retain qualified personnel, and to help limit our impact on the roads at peak traffic times.

Renewable Energy and Carbon Credits

There is over 15 kW of installed solar capacity minimal solar arrays on the Marietta campus -- 5 kW rooftop system on the Engineering Technology Center building and 10kW ground-mounted in front of the greenhouse. There are also solar picnic charging tables near the lab buildings. Additionally, Marietta campus hosts the *Alternative Energy Innovation Center* and offers a minor in *Renewable Energy Engineering Technology*. The center has focused on photovoltaic, solar thermal and energy storage systems. KSU has been exploring strategies to expand its renewable energy portfolio. In 2013, representatives of *Georgia Power* began meeting with KSU personnel and student groups to find ways to make solar power a part of the University's energy supply. In 2016 we procured a Technical Assistance grant from the *National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)* to complete a solar inventory and analyze solar procurement opportunities for the university -- identifying prime installation locations. KSU is also looking into purchasing solar water heaters as it replaces older fossil-fuel burning models in its academic buildings.

Recycling & Composting

There are numerous recycling efforts by various students' organizations and The Office of Sustainability and Maintenance and Operations at KSU:

- Received bin grant for outdoor bins on Marietta campus.
- Installed improved recycling labels -- *Recycle Across America labeling* -- as part of pilot education initiative to boost recycling (Marietta).
- Completed a recycling inventory for Marietta campus as a class project during summer 2016.
- Installed 54 outdoor recycling bins on the Marietta campus; grant from Keep America Beautiful.
- Collaborating with *Campus Services and Keep Cobb Beautiful* to implement *Hefty Energy Bag* recycling program.

- Composting – utilized by KSU’s Dining Services department related to the dining halls and the pulper/ extractors that are used for food waste. For instance, the total pounds composted from FY18 in our dining areas was 585,196 lbs.

Water Use

The university seeks to be a good steward of its water resource and expand our water conservation practices, rainwater collection, storage, and reuse as well as gray water use.

- Measuring the water consumption of many individual buildings and the main meter through the Watersignal Dashboard.
- Aiming to implement the *WaterHub technology* at both campuses as a strategy to significantly reduce water consumption through reuse of greywater in the mechanical systems.
- Developing a stormwater management plan.
- Aiming to install low-flow showerheads in housing on the Marietta campus (to catchup to similar initiative on the Kennesaw campus) in collaboration with Cobb County Water Authority.
- Partnering with the *Cobb County Water System* to fund meters on 11 buildings on the Marietta campus.
- Developing policies for implementing *Net Blue* program, a water conservation initiative.
- Aiming to establish *Rainwater* collection and storage in the north section of the Kennesaw campus.
- Installed Low flow fixtures in housing and in several new buildings.

Also, it is notable that in the university award-winning farm-to-campus program and dining hall, The Commons, the tray-less dining and small plates are part of water and waste-reduction initiative.

Behavioral Changes

The KSU Climate Action Plan (CAP) calls for bringing about reductions in energy use and GHG emissions by making changes in behavior, some at the individual level, some institution wide.

- Developing programs to educate staff and faculty to reduce electrical use turning off unnecessary lights and electronic devices.
- Setting thermostats at season-appropriate temperatures.
- Promoting Alternative Work Schedule strategies, such as flex scheduling, teleworking, and office sharing as a way to reduce the amount of commuting.
- Establishing a network of “*Eco-volunteers*” staff and faculty with an interest in sustainability who can monitor activities and practices in their office buildings.

Landscaping, Natural Areas & Outdoor Education

The university works with all stakeholders to develop a comprehensive sustainability plan that will identify near term goals, strategies, and action items related to sustainability. Landscaping practices de-emphasize space devoted to lawns and maximize xeriscaping using native plants to reduce need for watering. KSU Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability has a *Landscape Advisory Committee* which led to updates of campus tree care plan and collaboration between faculty and staff on tree planning activities. The committee is currently pursuing recognition as Tree Campus USA.

Farm-to-Campus

KSU's Dining Services department utilizes composting, cooking oil recycling & practices that reduce KSU's food waste stream. Kennesaw State's student dining hall, The Commons, has also been garnering national accolades for its *Farm-to-Campus-to-Farm Program*. On the heels of the "Green Colleges" recognition, the University won two national awards from the National Restaurant Association: The Operator Innovations Award for Sustainability and "Innovator of the Year." Citing its "*Comprehensive, Closed-loop Waste Management Program*" and "*Farm-to-Campus-to-Farm*" initiative, the University bested finalists Walt Disney Parks and Resorts and the U.S. Air Force. This was the first time an educational institution was selected to receive the prestigious "Innovator of the Year" award. The KSU *Farm-to-Campus-to-Farm* program expanded in 2013 to an additional 25-acres farm in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Transportation, located in Kennesaw. Currently, the goal of the farm -- named the *Kennesaw State Field Station* and managed by the *Office of Research* -- is to support safe and sustainable communities through research, education, and civic engagement, while also addressing the instructional and research needs of Kennesaw State University.

Historically, the KSU Field Station has been used to grow up to 20,000 pounds of produce such as lettuce annually for the Commons dining hall at KSU. Formerly called the *Hickory Grove Farm*, the KSU Field Station was a cement mixing facility for Interstate 75 construction until KSU entered into a land-use agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. The farm arm has implemented low-cost, energy-efficient technology-based approaches for high-yield crop production in support of KSU's Farm-to-Campus program that was launched almost a decade ago. Now four greenhouses dot the landscape. Each one has its own unique attributes to help extend the growing season year-round. The first greenhouse, called the propagation lab, is the most important since this is where plants are reproduced through seedlings or through tissue culture. Two others are high tunnel structures, which feature conventional in-ground growing. The most high-tech structure is the hydroponics lab, which utilizes a soilless growing technique in which the plants – currently lettuce and some herbs – are submerged in water inoculated with bacteria.

Sustainability Map

Interactive GIS-based sustainability maps for [Kennesaw](#) and [Marietta](#) campuses offer further info about existing sustainability features at the KSU, such as solar PV installations, LEED-certified buildings, Zipcar locations, bike trails, bus routes/stops, and sustainable dining options.

PILLAR II: IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

KSU Health Promotion and Wellness

The *KSU Health Promotion and Wellness* has placed several initiatives to provide an environment that is supportive of positive health practices. The university strives to enhance the students' balance of the *intellectual, emotional, physical, social, environmental, and spiritual* development through mindfulness and education.

The university promotes student health through three signature program areas:

- **Health Promotion Programs:** Health promotion programs are provided to meet the health needs of students. Program focus areas are identified based on the results of the *National College Health Assessment* and may include but are not limited to stress management, alcohol awareness, healthy relationships, sexual health, nutrition, cooking demonstrations, body image, CPR/AED/first aid, physical activity, and general wellness.
- **KSU Employee Wellness:** The university is committed to providing a supportive environment that encourages employees to adopt healthy behaviors and positive lifestyle changes, improve job performance, increase work satisfaction and improve physical and, as a result, mental well-being. The goals are to increase the health and well-being of all KSU employees through a systematic effort of enhancing wellness through education, behavioral change and cultural support.
- **Nutrition Services:** Students can meet with a registered and licensed dietitian to get an assessment of their current eating habits and discuss nutrition for their current lifestyle, medical conditions, or other needs. Students will receive expert advice to encourage a healthy relationship with food, which may include intuitive eating education, nutrition for medical conditions, getting help with an eating disorder, sports nutrition, or other topics regarding nutrition. Cooking demonstrations are available for students to learn how to prepare easy, nutritious, and budget-friendly meals on their own. Students will not only learn new recipes, but also basic culinary skills, healthy eating, and food safety tips.
- **Peer Health Outreach and Wellness Leaders (OWLs):** The Peer Health OWLs make the campus healthier, safer, and more enjoyable by student volunteers who are trained and have obtained a national certification in developing, implementing, and evaluating fun interactive wellness programs for fellow students.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services:** There is robust literature attesting to the role of counseling in improving retention rates. The program supports the academic mission of KSU by enhancing students' educational, career, personal and interpersonal development. The university provides a wide range of service, including psychoeducational workshops aimed at helping students develop skills for managing the stress of college, group counseling focused on helping student better manage emotions and navigate their relationships, individual counseling for a wide range of mental wellness concerns, as well as psychiatric medication evaluation and treatment.
- **Nursing Program:** Kennesaw State's *Nursing Program* is the largest nursing program in Georgia. The University's nursing students have one of the highest passing rates on the statewide licensing exam and are highly sought-after in the medical community.

KSU is committed to providing and maintaining a safe teaching, learning, living, and working environment for all members of its community:

KSU Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS)

There is an extensive chemical management program on both campuses. KSU has instituted a biosafety program for all personnel who may be exposed to biological hazards (biohazards) during the performance of their duties. The KSU *Environmental Health and Safety Department* conducts monitoring and measuring environmental and occupational safety management performance. The EHS Department periodically assesses University operations and activities to identify new developments or changes that may have regulatory impact to keep the list of regulatory requirements current. The EHS department assists with developing plans to conduct the monitoring and measuring including developing procedures and tools. Monitoring and measuring plans involve a mix of methods, including workplace inspections; exposure assessments; injury and illness tracking; environmental monitoring and other methods. For example: IPM is a pest control system that uses a combined strategy of biological controls, habitat modification, cultural controls, and uses pesticides as a last resort. KSU has determined the level of aesthetic loss and damage it is willing to tolerate and has established a treatment program that can maintain these levels which is least offensive to the environment and protective of humans and animals. As another case, KSU uses the *Chematix Chemical Management System* for chemical tracking as well as procurement and waste management. Chemicals are tracked from purchase to disposal through the system.

KSU Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The KSU EOP incorporates best practices in emergency management for Institutions of Higher Education as well as the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS). The Office of Emergency Management, a division of the Department of Public Safety, responsible for annual review of these procedures with input from the Director of *Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)*, *Department of Public Safety and University Police*, and other stakeholders on campus. It is aimed to be a resource for KSU administrators, personnel, faculty, and students to assist with information and provide safety guidelines for crisis planning and response. The KSU EOP covers many natural, technological, and manmade hazards that could affect the university campus and population. Portions of this plan may be activated in response to local, regional, or national emergencies affecting the University System of Georgia, the Metro Atlanta or North Georgia regions, or the State of Georgia. The Kennesaw State EOP is a campus-level response plan for KSU employees, students, and resources during a disaster or major emergency situation. The 2019-2020 iteration of this plan supersedes all previous versions of the KSU EOP, which covers the geographic areas of the Kennesaw Campus, the Marietta Campus, and the KSU Stadium and Sports Park. As such, an all-hazards approach has been taken during the planning process to allow this plan to be implemented for many different types of emergency situations on campus. All four phases of the emergency management system – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery – were considered during the development of the Emergency Operations Plan. The free *LiveSafe* app provides students, faculty and staff with a direct connection to campus police so that everyone can easily communicate all their safety needs. Its easy-to-use features help you stay safe every day and enable us to provide better protection for you.

Air Quality

In addition, the many LEED buildings have resulted in improved indoor air quality for certain new buildings. Healthy air indoor quality and environments are offered to the campus buildings occupants by maintaining the buildings Furthermore, the school uses *green cleaning* custodial standard and supplies. with the certified green cleaning program.

KSU adopted a no-idle policy in 2009 to reduce tailpipe emissions. Remote parking lots with shuttle bus connections to campus and a “no idling” policy is also in effect for not only our students, faculty and staff but also the campus contractors and fleet vehicles.

Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE)

During the 2011-2012 Academic Year, 25 homeless students were identified and provided with supportive services. Factors contributing to students becoming homeless ranged from eviction due to lack of financial resources, parental death, domestic violence, support system rejecting their sexual identity/orientation, displacement of veterans, and so forth. After students continued to be identified and the number of referrals began to increase, KSU officially formalized the *Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE)* Services in 2013. In 2014, both *Feed the Future* and the *Department of Health and Wellness (HAW)* were consolidated under the direction of CARE. The fusion of these services helped CARE to become a single point of access to services and resources, both on and off campus, for KSU students with issues surrounding homelessness, food insecurity, and foster care. High school students who are homeless and/or in foster care are learning what it takes to attend college along with peeks into the college experience, courtesy of the Priority Model within the GEAR UP (*Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Potential*) Georgia Grant. The Priority Model is a part of the larger GEAR UP Georgia Grant (Cohort and Priority) that serves approximately 12,000 students across the state. In the near future we will be working towards adjusting the program from bulk donations to individually packaged meals using reusable containers to increase access to students who may not have the storage capacity for bulk items. In addition to the partnership with the Care Center, we will be looking to expand our donations into the local community through *Must Ministries* as they currently have a food pickup location at the Care Center. We will also be continuing our relationship with *Forerunner Foods* for our CSA program as well to provide fresh and local produce to the campus and immediate community as well as having our normal farmers market each semester. We would additionally like to partner further with local community members and organizations to complete more garden workdays and beginner garden workshops with sustainable themes. We are also looking into partnerships with the Department of *Health and Wellness* that would focus on the health education side of sustainability. HAW is a week-long series of events dedicated to increasing awareness of homelessness on college campuses as well as reducing stigma to students facing homelessness. Working with other departments across KSU, like admission, financial aid and campus housing, the center gives students access to the campus food pantry and personal care items as well as assisting in case management and finding temporary or permanent housing. As a case, the organization has partnered with *Ecology Clothing* to provide a clothing store. CARE opened a one-bedroom, one-bath apartment that will give homeless students or students at risk of becoming homeless a place to stay for up to two weeks while finding a permanent residence. CARE has partnered with the *MUST Ministries' Neighborhood Pantry* program. With the expansion of the pantry for our students, CARE is now able to expand this program as well. Since the CARE Center was founded, they have helped more than 400 students and are currently working with 23 more, several of which are incoming freshman.

Sports and Bicycle Friendly University

Located in Georgia, our students/faculty/staff have outdoor access nearly year-round. Since becoming a member of the *NCAA Division I*, competing in the *Atlantic Sun Conference*, the Kennesaw State Owls have won 12 conference championships with the men's golf team making a national championship appearance in 2011. During the transition from 2005-2009, Kennesaw State teams won six Atlantic Sun Conference crowns in five sports, including men's indoor and outdoor track, women's soccer, softball, and



cross-country. In addition, KSU offers a range of on-campus bike amenities to support those who bike to campus, those who bike recreationally or for sport, and those who are new to riding or who need a refresher. In recognition of KSU's commitment to sustainability and achievements in promoting and enabling safe, accessible bicycling on campus, the University has been designated as a *Bicycle Friendly University* by the *League of American Bicyclists*. The League, which is a national organization dedicated to creating safer roads and stronger communities, has awarded Kennesaw State the *Bronze Award*. KSU's bicyclists also have access to a comprehensive range of services, including free safety checks and adjustments, through the University's *Department of Sports and Recreation [Bike Shop](#)*. In addition to tune-ups and fix-it stations, cycling classes are routinely offered, and students may borrow bikes for a few days or an entire semester. A bike shop in the Siegel Student Recreation Activities Center (Kennesaw) and the Recreation and Wellness Center (Marietta) offering long-term bike rentals, tune-ups, classes, and more. There are on campus showers -- in the Social Sciences building (3rd floor), Prillaman Hall (1st floor), the Engineering Technology Center (3rd floor), the Student Recreation and Activities Center (members only), and the Recreation and Wellness Center (members only). There are Bike fix-it stations and plentiful bike racks across both campuses.

PILLAR III: EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Kennesaw State is a Carnegie-designated doctoral research institution (R2), placing it among an elite group of only 6 percent of U.S. colleges and universities with an R1 or R2 status, and one of the 50 largest public institutions in the country. The University's national reputation continues to gain steam -- recognized for its first-year experience program for ten consecutive years and as one of the top universities in the region by *U.S. News & World Report* in its America's Best Colleges issue. Kennesaw State has also been ranked among only 19 universities in the country that scored an A by the *American Council of Trustees and Alumni* in its "*What Will They Learn?*" guide. The College of Education is the second-largest preparer of teachers in the state. The Executive MBA program, housed in the Michael J. Coles College of Business, is recognized among the best in the world by *CEO Magazine*. The university QEP has a focus on *High Impact Practices (HIPs)* and innovative teaching. KSU courses foster important connections between disciplines, educational institutions, community organizations, and business groups throughout our area. We have strong representation from colleges with business, and STEM disciplines. Sustainability is one of KSU's initiatives, and our Presidential Commission mission statement clearly states that.

Sustainability, Diversity & Inclusion

A welcoming and inclusive climate is critical to attaining Kennesaw State University's research, scholarship, teaching, and engagement goals. The university efforts on diversity and inclusion was recognized with *INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Awards*, the oldest and largest diversity magazine and website in higher education today. *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine has for the second consecutive year designated KSU a "Diversity Champion," one of only 12 schools nationwide to be honored for 2017. *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine ranked the University among the top 100 colleges and universities in the nation in degrees conferred to minorities. The *Diverse* annual rankings, which are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, are drawn from a sample of 2,718 participating Title IV schools. Kennesaw State also ranked 92nd among the institutions for master's degrees conferred to African-

Americans in all disciplines.

NSF has awarded KSU two grants totaling \$900,000 to improve minority participation and success in undergraduate and graduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degree programs. For five consecutive years, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* has ranked the University among the nation's top producers of African-American graduates in computer and information sciences, math, statistics and engineering. KSU is also partnering with 100Kin10, a nationwide network coordinating and accelerating efforts to bring 100,000 new science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teachers into schools by 2021.

In 2008, the university formed a *Climate Commitment Council* with representatives from all of the University's constituencies. This Council has evolved over the years and in 2013 became the *University's Presidential Commission on Sustainability*, one of six *Presidential Commissions* housed in the *Office of Diversity and Inclusion*.

Founded at the Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ODI), The Presidential Commissions on *Disability Strategies and Resources*, *Gender and Work Life Issues*, *LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) Initiatives*, *Racial and Ethnic Diversity*, *Sustainability*, and *Veterans Affairs* serve as advisory committees to the President and Chief Diversity Officer to address issues and challenges that their constituencies encounter on campus. Under the guidance of ODI, the commissions are tasked with identifying, implementing, and suggesting activities, programming, actions, and policies that will lead to an increased understanding and acceptance of diverse viewpoints and perspectives between and among different members and groups of KSU's diverse community.

Career Opportunities

Job opportunities that focus on the environment and sustainability require new skills and knowledge, and KSU considers preparing the students for such potential positions with developing skills as: environmental policy advisors, environmental educators, environmental consultants, renewable resources technicians, geospatial analysts, experiential or experimental research assistants, environmental writers, and sustainability or environmental science specialists. KSU students in a multitude of disciplines who are rooted in the theory and practice of sustainability are highly demand in the current and future Georgia workforce. KSU students with a sustainability STEM focus obtain problem solving and application skills related to aspects of sustainable development, green technologies, and human-environment needs that will provide potential economic, environmental and/or policy-oriented contributions to state of Georgia. For instance, a number of KSU students successfully collaborated with the Mayor's Office of Resiliency in Atlanta -- a direct result of the sustainability programming, staffing and infrastructure in place at KSU.

Living Learning Spaces -- Outdoor Education

The university utilizes a variety of partnerships, planned field trips, and volunteers to enhance outdoor education. Across campuses and colleges, KSU promotes the use of the living learning spaces by faculty, staff, and students including: *the KSU Hickory Grove Farm*, *The Oasis*, *the KSU Dining garden*, *the Living Wall in The Commons*, *the Permaculture garden*, *the arboretum*, *Joyce and Ira Pegues Memorial Greenhouse*, and *the solar photovoltaic system*. These living learning spaces provide sustainability related experiential learning experiences (specifically related to HIPs) and supply opportunities for students to address real-world issues and applications.

The Oasis, a hands-on outdoor classroom, is one of most unique and innovative laboratory spaces on campus, that will enable
ED-GRS (2019-2021)



biology students to study native Georgia plant life. The Oasis was built in the unused courtyard space between the Science building, the Science Laboratory building and the Clendenin building. This initiative, which includes a water basin containing and surrounded by a diverse array of plant species, was funded by a generous donor, Dr. Joseph Cook, and named "The Oasis" by the College of Science and Mathematics students in the CSM Courtyard naming contest. Construction for Phase I was completed in the Summer of 2014.

The Hickory Grove KSU Farm offers incredible opportunities for student learning and faculty research, including for piloting innovative solutions to real world challenges. Professors are starting to do research on using shipping containers for growing mushrooms at the KSU Farm, which will allow them to grow in a small space, year-round, and to be off the grid. The results of this experiment have huge implications and application potential in both urban agriculture settings, and also in countries where energy is limited and farmers are, to a large extent, off the grid. In partnership with many degree programs, the KSU Farm provides students with diverse opportunities to engage with issues of social, environmental, financial, organizational, and educational sustainability. Students develop critical leadership and citizenship skills in this environment. The KSU Farm provides transformational experiential learning for students of every discipline through opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real world issues. The mission of the Kennesaw State University Field Station is to provide a living laboratory for researchers, educators, and students, promoting an interdisciplinary learning environment conducive for experiential academic experiences and strategic collaborations within the university community and beyond. The KSU Field Station's goal is to support safe and sustainable communities through research, education, and civic engagement, while also addressing the instructional and research needs of Kennesaw State University. The Field Station also provides space for research in biology, ecology, geology and other relevant fields to improve the quality of life.

Student Groups and Organizations

As a destination campus, the University offers students plenty of opportunities to experience campus life by participating in more than 200 student groups and organizations, including student government, sororities and fraternities, club and intramural sports, social and special-interest organizations, student publications, and honor societies. The student organizations, encompassing student governance and media, co-curricular clubs, athletics, campus ambassadors, community service and advocacy.

KSU is fortunate to already have about 20 student clubs related to sustainability – from a variety of disciplines and including some that are multidisciplinary. For instance: *EcoOwls* is a student organization that gives students leadership opportunities by taking charge of student-led projects that make a positive change in our environment; groups like the *Green Ambassadors*, which was initiated by a KSU student, are leaders in sustainability and they spread knowledge and awareness of sustainability at KSU through their sustainability campus tours; *OwlSwap Clothing Recycling* encourages a campus wide effort to develop and support sustainable fashion alternatives, to support conscientious consumerism, and to advance worker rights. The Office of Campus Planning & Sustainability also hosts the *Green Ambassadors* program and internships for students interested in advancing specific projects in sustainability.

Other sustainability-minded clubs include: *Students for Environmental Sustainability*, *Social Culinary Society*, *ENACTUS*, and *Engineers for a Sustainable World*.

Community Engagement

The *Office of Community Engagement (OCE)* was created in August of 2013 as a step to further deepen, expand and integrate community engagement within the culture of Kennesaw State University. The OCE seeks to connect university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good. At KSU, we use the umbrella term “*community engagement*” to encapsulate the various ways in which we connect with the community. This includes any significant connection between our students, faculty, staff, alumni and retirees with the larger community through engaged teaching and learning, volunteering, outreach, community service or other means.

The university has earned The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll which recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships.

Global Engagement

The University has committed itself to expanding the global experience of students, faculty, and staff and has partnerships with academic, governmental and business institutions in local, regional, and global levels -- including CIFAL, the first United Nations training center to be hosted by a university. Kennesaw State has awarded *Global Engagement Certifications* to graduate and undergraduate students. The certification recognizes students’ achievements in learning global perspectives and developing intercultural skills.

Under the aegis of the *Office of Academic Affairs*, KSU launched a new initiative in faculty professional development starting May 2016. Envisioned as an annual program, and anchored in the KSU strategic plan’s objectives of international prominence and global engagement, the “*Perspectives on Global Issues Workshop*” involves a small group of KSU faculty from across the university in an active-learning, globally-focused, inter-cultural, academic-practitioner seminar built around selected themes – including *sustainability*. The purpose of the workshop is to expand faculty understanding of, and engagement in, broad topical policy debates and discussions occurring in the world today, thereby providing them with an additional foundation for bringing these themes back to the campuses of KSU and extending the engagement to our students and surrounding communities. Through a combination of seminar-based discussions, site visits, interactive discussions with policymakers, faculty and other guest speakers, and most importantly group-based dialogue, participants engage in a wide-ranging, inter-and cross-cultural adult learning community. Faculty have the opportunity to interact with KSU colleagues from around campus as well as colleagues from various European institutions.

Extracurricular and Creative Programs

For a decade, KSU’s *Academic Sustainability Director* hosted an annual *Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop*. This program was launched by KSU’s Sustainability Director, Dr. RC Paul. The workshop has trained faculty across colleges to integrate sustainability topics into their curriculum and research. Since 2009, seventy-seven faculty in eleven colleges and over twenty departments have participated in the workshop. For several years, The *Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning* has funded various year-long opportunities as Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for all the full-time lecturers and faculty to explore topics of interest with peers. As a case, one FLC was devoted to understanding and expanding sustainability opportunities for faculty at KSU. Their outcomes included an assessment of the current level of interest and sustainability research at KSU and a



published paper in Sustainability magazine.

Since 2016, KSU has hosted cohort of *Sustainability Faculty Fellows*. Under this one-year fellowship, select faculty has focused on sustainability research, curriculum development, and projects. This program was made possible to The Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The *Office of Diversity & Inclusion* and the Provost have offered one-year stipends for eligible KSU faculty as Sustainability Fellowship to focus on sustainability research within their disciplines.

Established in 2017, the KSU Annual *EQUINOX Week* is a platform dedicated to the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals* and multi-sponsored by *CIFAL Atlanta (Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders)* and *UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research)*, the *KSU Office of Research, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Division of Global Affairs, and College of Architecture and Construction Management*. The EQUINOX seeks to catalyze local-global collaborations and to advance pathways of scholarship and partnership among institutions of higher education, professionals, policymakers, stakeholders, consulate generals, community members, and advocates. The annual week events foster the sustainability research, initiatives and efforts through a diverse series of multidisciplinary programs organized on our both campuses -- including *Annual EQUINOX Symposium: UN SDGs; EQUINOX_Exhibit; Sustainable Development Awards; and Sustainable Development Career Pathways*. Several student organizations play a critical role in the events -- including *The National Organization of Minority Architecture Students, Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity, American Institute of Architecture Students*. Further details [here](#).

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