



2022

STATE *of the* UNIVERSITY



Welcome to the 2022 State of the University Address for Albany State University.



Your commitment to ASU helps us realize our commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and public service. We are preparing students to be effective contributors to a global and diverse society.

Marion Ross Fedrick
President, Albany State University





Institutional Sustainability and Responsible Stewardship

ASU received \$93M in Higher Education Emergency Rescue Funds (HEERF) that expands the University’s resource base by cultivating new avenues for innovation, student retention, containing cost, and optimizing efficiency across the institution. The funds were also used to assist with retention of students at ASU, to award grants in innovation from our faculty, and to help sustain the institution through COVID and beyond.

As we embark on a new academic year, it is always an ideal time to share the accomplishments of our past, the expectations for our present, and the vision of our future. If I had to sum it up, the state of the University is strong and headed in a positive direction thanks to each of you – faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our community partners. Our academic and financial achievements, reaffirmation of SACSCOC accreditation and a steady interest in ASU for enrollment and partnerships are just a few examples of what makes our position strong.

The past academic year can be characterized by three “P’s” - Pivot, Priorities, and Preeminence.

Making the pivot to accommodate the COVID learning environment, outlining our priorities in *Excellence is the Standard*, the 2025 strategic plan, and achieving preeminence in our work. The four tenets of the strategic plan – student access and success, institutional sustainability and responsible stewardship, partnerships and economic competitiveness, and leadership development and employee engagement—are the foundation of our work.

Partnerships and Economic Competitiveness

ASU will break ground on a state-of-the-art Health Sciences Simulation Center, expand its partnership with the City of Albany, and Phoebe Health Systems. The University remains a major contributor to the Southwest Georgia economy.

- The Center will create a robust pipeline of nursing and health sciences graduates to fill the demand for professional practitioners in Georgia.
- We are partnering with the City of Albany on a **\$3.9M** grant to implement Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19.
- Phoebe Health Systems signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance academic experience for students in Darton College of Health Professions - Nursing, Health Sciences, and Health and Human Performance.
- In addition, Phoebe invested **\$750k** in a new education partnership designed to create interest in healthcare careers among high school students and significantly expand ASU’s nursing and emergency medical technician programs to accommodate additional students.
- ASU and Georgia Water and Planning Policy Center in partnership with the U.S. Department of Natural Resources under the Rescue Plan Act received a **\$49.8M** preliminary grant to fund surface water irrigation in Southwest Georgia to deep groundwater resources.
- ASU realized major recovery post-pandemic, adding more than **\$231M** to the Southwest Georgia region, an increase of approximately **27%** over the previous year. The University provided employment in the region of **over 2,000 jobs**, to include on-campus positions and jobs related to providing services directly to the institution.

Student Access and Success:

In the coming year, we will expand our priority on health and wellness by placing a more strategic focus on creating a healthy campus initiative, provide additional opportunities for high school students, and launch University College and eight Learning Communities.

ASU received grants including a **\$1.3M TRIO** grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and a **\$65,000 NASA** grant award for the ARTEMIS Pre-College Summer Institute (PSI) Scholars Program.

This fall we will launch University College and eight Learning Communities to equip students with support, consistent policies, academic advising, tutoring, monitoring, and mentoring to promote persistence towards timely graduation.





Leadership Development and Employee Engagement

This year, ASU launched a Faculty and Staff Compensation Classification Study, employees received a salary increase, and the leadership team developed a set of core competencies.

- Earlier this year we launched a Faculty and Staff Compensation Classification Study to evaluate the competitiveness and equity of compensation. A study of this kind will help create an institutional value proposition that will help to attract, and retain talent that will be committed to ASU, our students, community, and higher education.
- A \$5,000 salary increase was paid to employees and approved by Governor Brian Kemp as part of the 2023 state budget.
- The senior leadership team began working on core competencies that will help ASU realize its vision of becoming a premier academic leadership team that fully engages faculty, and staff with a student first attitude and approach in all of our interactions.



Looking ahead, we are primed to take advantage of the endless possibilities.

The momentum and focus on the strategic plan will continue as we explore the possibilities. The momentum and focus on the strategic plan will continue. We will continue to explore the possibilities as we implement our shared plan. Our focus will be on student access and success, creating pipeline programs, community partnerships, and engaging in ongoing faculty, staff and student development and innovation.

*We will lean into **Excellence is the Standard**. Excellence will be the common thread that permeates everything that we do in achieving our goals and characterize every interaction we have with our colleagues, our community and how we serve our students.*

We will create a culture of excellence to help support how we operationalize our strategic plan. The combination of our strategic plan, the culture of excellence, and focus on the students and our mission plus your engagement, will allow us to thrive as a premier academic institution.

Student success and access will continue to be our number one priority.

Thanks to each of you, we have built a solid foundation on which to build our future and realize our vision as we prepare our students to be effective contributors to a global and diverse society.

I will end where I began. The state of ASU is positive and headed in the right direction. With the strategic plan as our guide, we will keep our students at the forefront as we explore the endless possibilities for ASU.

Thank you for your support of Albany State University.

