

# Welcome from our President

## *Welcome to The Polytechnic of the South!*

Southern Polytechnic is a place where students are educated for life and for leadership in an increasingly technological world. We prepare our students for their very first job after graduation, with the skills that make them highly marketable and successful. We feel it is just as important that a Southern Polytechnic education also prepares students for the last job in their careers. Thus, our courses and programs are structured to enable men and women to adapt, grow, and continue to learn over the years, developing the leadership skills needed to implement the vision of a technological future.

This university is uniquely suited to provide such an education. We are Polytechnic. The dictionary defines polytechnic as “pertaining to or dealing with many arts or sciences.” The origin of the word is Greek — polus, many and tekhne, skills. Many skills. At Southern Polytechnic, this translates to many threads of learning — many roads to the future.

These skills extend beyond the essential technological and scientific knowledge that qualifies our graduates for some of the fastest growing fields in the nation. They also encompass traditional liberal arts skills that enable students to learn to think critically, communicate clearly and persuasively, solve problems collaboratively, and develop an international perspective in an increasingly global marketplace.

At Southern Polytechnic, we are proud of our faculty and staff. We are motivated and challenged by our students. We are excited for our graduates. We appreciate the positive, participatory relationships we enjoy with our community and with prominent leaders in business and industry who help shape the nature of our educational vision. Again, welcome to our world of many skills, and many technologies.

Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher

## Foreword

The Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (IRPA) is proud to present the first publication of the *Southern Polytechnic State University Fact Book*. Since planning and evaluation occur at all levels of the University, it is essential that pertinent facts about the institution be readily available to everyone. The *Fact Book* is designed to provide current and historical data about Southern Polytechnic. It is our intention that this annual publication provide the campus community, as well as external constituents, with factual information that assists in sound decision-making.

This publication has been made possible through the contributions of many individuals on campus. Our thanks go out to the various departments who shared information with us as we prepared this *Fact Book*. We look forward to working with those departments and others as we continue to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information. A special thanks goes to the Offices of Institutional Research at Kennesaw State University and Columbus State University for their technical assistance in the development of this document.

Finally, please keep in mind that this is the first publication of the *Fact Book*. As you review and use this publication, please note items that you feel should be added or deleted. Continual improvement is our aim, and future publications of the *Fact Book* can be revised to include additional information. Enclosed with your copy of the *Fact Book* is an evaluation form. We ask that you take a moment to help us improve this publication by completing and returning the form. Your suggestions and ideas are appreciated - thank you for your interest. We hope that the contents of this publication will assist you in your efforts to plan, evaluate and continually improve the programs, processes, and services here at Southern Polytechnic.

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