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THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: USG Participants in the 2007 International Education Summit

FROM: Erroll B. Davis, Jr. 

DATE: Thursday, October 25, 2007

Thank you all for participating in the University System of Georgia's inaugural International Education Summit held two weeks ago at The Carter Center. Your presence at this event demonstrated your personal interest in and professional commitment to the advancement of international education in the USG. I was delighted that every one of our 35 institutions sent senior campus leaders to engage in a forum focused on this area which is so critical to the achievement of the goals of our new strategic plan. This was a significant gathering, and it marks a key milestone in our progress to weave internationalization into the fabric of a transformative undergraduate education.

The Summit program featured stimulating presentations, broad perspectives, and thoughtful comments about the challenges and opportunities we face in preparing our students for a global economy and society. Even though I missed the majority of the presentations, I still felt that that we all emerged from the Summit with renewed enthusiasm for the importance of infusing global perspectives into all aspects of our campus endeavors. I know that a number of you have already begun discussions and planning at your institutions to move forward in these areas.

While there is still work to do on the specifics, I did get a sense that there was broad consensus in support of the five basic principles of international education that will help guide us in the years ahead. We will continue to work on the language of the action items under each of those principles, so that they provide meaningful direction with maximum flexibility. Your feedback, as well as the suggestions we will receive as we move this document through the formal review process by vice presidents and presidents, will contribute to a strong foundation for future growth. We have charted a bold vision for international education in the USG, and I am committed to its success in preparing our students for the 21st century.

As I noted in my closing remarks, I anticipate that each institution will pursue a variety of strategies to fulfill these five principles. In working as a System, we will all benefit from sharing our successes and best practices in these endeavors. The USG Office of International Education is currently constructing a post-Summit website to help facilitate the exchange of ideas and resources. Further information on this initiative will be forthcoming soon.

Again, thanks for your engagement in this important conversation. Together we can truly build a more globally educated Georgia.

cc: Rob Watts, Chief Operating Officer
Lisa Rossbacher, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor
Richard Sutton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Education