Only the seventh in the world to be named internal auditing Center of Excellence

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 19, 2016) — Kennesaw State University has attained the prestigious Center of Excellence level in the Internal Auditing Education Partnership program of the Institute of Internal Auditors. Kennesaw State is only the fourth university in North America and seventh in the world to earn the Center of Excellence, the top status from the IIA.

“We are so honored to achieve this level of recognition from the Institute of Internal Auditors,” said Richard Clune, director of the Internal Audit Center. “At the same time, being a Center of Excellence comes with it the responsibility to be a distinctive leader in the field of internal audit education, providing students with an education to prepare them as future leaders of the internal audit profession.”

The IIA identified Kennesaw State as “a forward-thinking university that recognizes the importance of the internal audit profession as a career choice.” The organization also commended KSU’s commitment to supporting an internal audit curriculum, which includes educating undergraduate and graduate students, conducting applied research and engaging with the internal audit community.

“Our tagline ‘Aspire to More’ captures what we try to do every day with every student in mind,” said Kathy Schwaig, dean of the Michael J. Coles College of Business. “We’re relistening, and we’re responding by developing relevant academic programs and graduating students who will be leaders in the decades to come.”
Kennesaw State is the only university in Georgia authorized by the Institute of Internal Auditors to issue Internal Auditing Education Partnership Certificates. The certification is an indication that graduates are ready to add value on their first day of employment.

“Our mission includes being nationally recognized, and earning this Center of Excellence goes beyond that as one of seven universities in the world,” said Kathryn Epps, associate dean and director of the School of Accountancy. “We look forward to this next step in our journey to provide the best education for our students.”

The Institute of Internal Auditors also lauded Kennesaw State’s collaboration with the IIA Atlanta Chapter as “one that not only the university can be proud of, but the entire internal audit community as well.” The partnership provides internship and co-op job opportunities for students and helps Georgia companies find well-prepared graduates locally.

“The IIA Atlanta Chapter has always been pleased with the return on our investment of time and money into KSU, and with this achievement, we are even more pleased than ever,” said Bill Mulcahy, chair of the Internal Audit Center Advisory Board.

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*Kennesaw State University is the third-largest university in Georgia, offering nearly 150 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees. A member of the University System of Georgia, Kennesaw State is a comprehensive university with more than 33,000 students from over 130 countries. In January 2015, Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State University consolidated to create one of the 50 largest public universities in the country.*

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