



**SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Georgia

San Diego State University Georgia

UN global Compact

Communication on Engagement

Georgia

2022-2024

April 15, 2024

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

San Diego State University Georgia is pleased to continue supporting the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. Since 2018, when SDSU Georgia joined the UN Global Compact, we have graduated more than 500 professionals in the local workforce. At the same time, SDSU Georgia continues supporting the local STEM community – universities, professors and organizations to adopt international standards.

SDSU Georgia pledges to continue our participation and engagement with the UN Global Compact in the following way(s): Conduct applied research and thought leadership to advance best practices, and to promote the UN Global Compact Ten Principles and educate a variety of audiences about sustainability.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore commit to report on progress within two years of joining the Global Compact and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,



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About SDSU Georgia

The Government of Georgia through the Millennium Challenge Account- Georgia, with funding from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) contracted with San Diego State University (SDSU) to provide an American university education in Georgia focused on STEM disciplines.

SDSU has been approaching this project in partnership with Tbilisi State University (TSU), Ilia State University (ISU), and Georgian Technical University (GTU) – the three premier public universities in Georgia – to provide Bachelor's degrees in the country of Georgia. Using the facilities of these three universities, San Diego State University Georgia (SDSU-Georgia) has focused on STEM education to train an advanced workforce to meet the growing needs of Georgia. This program meets SDSU standards for curriculum, faculty training, and accreditation. As with all SDSU Bachelor's degrees, this program also includes general education to provide students with breadth in the liberal arts so necessary for an advanced workforce that will enhance the economy of the country. SDSU has been responsible for admissions, curriculum, quality of instruction, renovation of facilities, updating equipment and implementation of the program.

SDSU established a STEM campus in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2014. SDSU Georgia admitted its first cohort of students in 2015. SDSU Georgia has been offering six Bachelor of Science (BS) degree programs: BS Computer Engineering; BS Electrical Engineering; BS Chemistry/ Biochemistry; BS Computer Sciences, BS Civil Engineering; and BS Construction Engineering. By 2023, SDSU-G graduated five cohorts and 600+ students in total.

SDSU Georgia students receive admission directly from SDSU home campus; they become fully matriculated SDSU students, studying at the Tbilisi campus.

Upon graduation SDSU Georgia students receive internationally accredited American degree from San Diego State University; this is exact same degree, with all the accreditation (WASC. ACS and ABET). Courses are taught in English, using an identical curriculum to SDSU main campus.

This program makes SDSU degree affordable to many students in Georgia and the region.

Goal of the project

SDSU Georgia program has aimed to reach the following goals:

- Increase awareness of the importance of STEM education in Georgia and prepare highly qualified STEM professionals as SDSU Georgia program graduates
- Initiate reforms in STEM subjects in Georgia and introduce international accreditation concepts to the state universities in Georgia
- Build capacity through renovation / construction activities and faculty development

SDSU

Georgia

SDSU Georgia's actions and activities

As part of the UN Global Compact Network San Diego State University Georgia has supported Ten Principles and Sustainable Development Goals through conducting applied research and thought leadership to advance best practices, quality education, gender equality, and decent work and economic growth. To meet all the mentioned goals, SDSU Georgia conducted the following activities:

Supporting STEM research and graduate education in Georgia; building on current partnerships and relationships in Georgia

Dr. Walter Oechel, an SDSU professor who works in the areas of plant eco-physiology, systems ecology, global change, and biosphere-atmosphere interaction, obtained the U.S. state department funding for “Supporting STEM research and graduate education in Georgia”. This project was designed to strengthen the quantitative and qualitative research skills and academic writing skills of young Georgian scholars; raise collaborating Georgian scholars’ research capacity to international standards; increase interaction between Georgian and American academics and researchers, and mentor and coach Georgian scholars for publishing research papers in Georgian and Western academic peer-reviewed journals in STEM fields.

SDSU Georgia committed to supporting the project through the existing relationships with its partner academic institutions and funding partners.

The project was two-faceted:

1. Internships for Public University Ph. D. students at San Diego State University, California, where they conducted graduate research and studies under the direct guidance of a SDSU Faculty Mentor and learnt about conducting STEM research in the US setting. Students benefited from state-of-the-art equipment, approaches, and questions at SDSU. A total of 17 doctoral students were selected and sent for an internship to SDSU, California.

2. A series of short courses held in Georgia via Zoom conducted by SDSU home campus professors and researchers in STEM. These short courses meant to cover modern, western approaches to research methodology, scientific writing, publishing, communication, oral and poster presentations, use of scientific literature, preparation of modern bibliographic resources, and scientific publications and ethics. Overall, up to 820 individuals, including undergraduate and graduate students, administrators,

observers, presenters, and academic staff members from Georgian public and private universities, attended the sessions. Presentations were very well received and had positive feedback.

Faculty Development Program

SDSU Georgia continues to support Faculty Development Program. Each semester, faculty members from partner universities have been selected to visit the main campus to build familiarity with SDSU curricula, develop teaching skills within specific courses that they might later assist with or teach in Georgia, develop laboratory skills, an understanding of SDSU's assessment practices, and to build collaborations with SDSU faculty, both in terms of teaching and research. Since 2014 more than 120 faculty members have visited San Diego State University. The latest visit of FADEPA participants to the main campus took place in April 2023.

Focus on the women and disadvantaged groups

One of SDSU Georgia's main goals has remained to promote STEM programs to female students to achieve gender equality in the STEM field and make quality education accessible for everyone despite their social statuses and gender.

Women and socially and economically disadvantaged (ethnic minorities, rural students, and socially vulnerable families) student populations represent important resources for SDSU Georgia. SDSU Georgia recognized the need to improve the recruitment of women and socially and economically disadvantaged students in STEM disciplines. To expand the participation of these groups, SDSU Georgia used a series of targeted interventions and outreach programs to increase the participation of women and disadvantaged students to levels representative of the population.

To achieve the abovementioned goals, SDSU Georgia created a financial assistance model to fit the women and disadvantaged groups.

As a result, out of 523 graduates 42% are women. This is the highest number of female participation in STEM programs in Georgia.

Career Development Center

SDSU Georgia has been providing career development services to its students and alumni. Every semester the Career Development Center organized Career Month and Job/Internship Fairs. Different activities, workshops, and series of Industry meetings were held to support students and prepare them for job opportunities and life after graduation. These events allowed them to gain interview skills and connect with company representatives, learn about the company's business processes and hiring practices directly from them and receive answers to their questions. As a result, more than 80% of SDSU Georgia alumni are employed.

Data Security and FERPA

SDSU Georgia respects and recognizes students' privacy and operates under The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which guarantees both the confidentiality of students' education records and students' right to access their own records. Every year SDSU Georgia staff take Data Security and FERPA online course to ensure that students' educational records and personal data are well protected.

6th Cohort

The partnership between the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and San Diego State University continues beyond the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact timeline. Through the initiative of the Ministry, SDSU, with the partner universities, Tbilisi State University, Ilia State University, and Georgian Technical University, has admitted 90 more students to three degree programs in Georgia: Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Civil Engineering.

With new SDSU Georgia cohort our university remains committed to support ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.