

Georgia College has landmark year for grants

In 2020-21, Georgia College received a record-high amount in grants, exceeding \$4 million. It marked a 5.9 percent increase from the previous year and a whopping 73 percent since 2018.

"This is very important for two reasons. The first is that we've surpassed the 4-million-dollar mark. The second reason is we can observe a progressive increase over time. That is significant," said Dr. Costas Spirou, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

"Additionally, it is great to see the increased level of grant submissions by faculty," he said. "Put all of that together, and it is wonderful news. Especially coming through the pandemic. It shows our faculty and staff are continuing to do exceptional work and are very committed."

The university's overall grant total nearly doubled in nine years. This windfall aligns with the first director hired for the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) in 2010. Interim director since February, Donna Douglas said she couldn't take credit for this record achievement. Securing grants is a team effort.

The numbers of actual proposals fell during the pandemic year from 54 to 42--a 22 percent drop. Yet, the amount of funding requested rose 9 percent.

"While teleworking, we were actually busier than ever," Douglas said. "Grant work did not stop during the pandemic. Several large proposals were prepared and submitted during that time away from campus."

"Furthermore," she said, "the pandemic impacted our active projects because additional regulations and protocols were issued from each federal sponsor."

Some quick facts about grant awards:

- The biggest funding--about 40 percent--went to the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS). Last year, they received over \$1.6 million in grants impacting more than 1,800 children in Baldwin County.

- Almost half went to the College of Health Sciences (24.5 percent) and the College of Arts and Sciences (23.4 percent).

- The biggest growth was seen in the College of Health Sciences (COHS), which increased from just over \$20,000 in 2013 to more than a million in 2021. COHS's numbers more than doubled in the past two years alone.

- The College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) also saw incredible growth--a 172 percent jump since 2016--going from \$352,996 to \$960,191. That bump was mainly due to a highly-competitive

\$650,000 National Science Foundation grant to help low-income students get degrees in chemistry and physics.

A number of new faculty were awarded grants for the first time, which Spirou said shows creative initiative. Successful recipients are more likely to keep applying for grants.

Mark Pelton, associate vice president for Strategic Initiatives, oversees the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. He has talented grant writers on his staff. With two departments "almost completely supported by grant funds," he said, "these grant writers are highly motivated and productive."

"Georgia College has been on an upward trend since the mid-2000s," Pelton said.

"I suspect the university's grant programs and the services our unit offers are fairly unique. It is my understanding," he said, "that our 'Communities In Schools' is the only partnership of its kind in the country between a university and local board where the CIS office is a university department."

The School of Continuing and Professional Studies, formerly known as Extended University, has led the way in grant revenue since 2007, Pelton said. It operates six community programs, including "Afterschool Achievement." The afterschool "YES" and "High Achiever" programs alone reap about \$1 million a year in funding.

The "Wraparound Baldwin" grant for Communities In Schools is "pretty innovative and cutting edge," Pelton said, "in that it provides school-based healthcare in the 'Bee Well Clinic' at the Early Learning Center." This care is available for all Baldwin County public school children and their families. Pelton's department purchased telehealth equipment with two "Reaching Rural Communities" grants. This will extend the clinic's health services to every public school in Baldwin County.

In addition to the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, the College of Health Sciences also attracts a large percentage of grant money with its nursing programs in rural areas. Recently, the College of Arts and Sciences "has really been coming on strong in grant writing," as well, Pelton said. Funding supports faculty research, which enriches the classroom experience.

As dean of A&S, Dr. Eric Tenbus considers his role in grant



success to be one of encouragement. He makes sure faculty have what they need in terms of incentive and support. He pointed to several A&S grants that raised their tally this year: Dr. Chavonda Mills and the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy secured \$650,000 to diversify recruitment of students majoring in STEM fields, and two professors received grants to study water quality. Dr. Samuel Mutiti in geology and environmental sciences got \$165,987 for study abroad research in Zambia; and Dr. Dave Bachoon in biology secured \$45,600 for research in Gwinnett County and \$20,000 for water quality analysis in Puerto Rico.

This kind of funding is getting harder to obtain. Successful grant writers have to make a persuasive case their university is "a busy, gifted and academically focused campus community," Tenbus said.

These components must come together for triumph, along with assistance from the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects--what Spirou called "a vital component to the university's success this year." Without support, ideas don't always move to completion. The grant office gives faculty the tools and confidence to succeed.

Proposals are submitted to Douglas' office, and her staff reviews guidelines with submitters. They identify all elements and required forms. This gives faculty and staff more time to devote to writing narrative- and discipline-specific sections. The team approach ensures everyone knows what they're responsible for by the completion date.

National League of Nursing - Center of Teaching Excellence designation

Georgia College's School of Nursing (SON) joins the elite ranks of universities recognized for their outstanding nursing programs.

The SON has been designated as a 2021 Center of Teaching Excellence by the National League of Nursing (NLN). Georgia College is one of only 79 institutions in the country to be recognized by the organization in 2021.

"Our curricula and extra-curricular activities have a profound impact on the development of professional values, role socialization, professional involvement and life-long learning aspirations of nursing students," said Dr. Sallie Coke, professor and assistant director of graduate nursing at Georgia College.

"The deliberate inclusion of these activities guides the formation of these characteristics and is critical to nursing education and high-quality nursing care," said Coke.

Colleges and universities can apply for several different designations from NLN. Georgia College was recognized for creating environments that enhance learning and professional development. Faculty note they do that in a variety of ways.

"At the graduate level, students have the opportunity to attend the London Leadership Conference hosted by the Florence Nightingale Foundation or to travel to developing countries and help provide medical care to their citizens," said Coke.

"At the undergraduate level, participation in the Pro-



fessional Practice Council (PPC) socializes students for leadership roles associated with entry-level nursing and allows them to experience professional involvement," said Dr. Debbie Greene, professor and assistant director of nursing undergraduate programs.

At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, the SON is widely recognized for its educational opportunities and outstanding graduates.

In 2021, RegisteredNursing.org identified the GC SON as the No. 1 nursing program in the state of GA, and U.S. News and World Report recognized the graduate nursing programs as No. 27 in the nation. The undergraduate program's NCLEX pass rate consistently surpasses that of state and national averages.

"Georgia College's School of Nursing faculty are committed to providing students with opportunities that will stimulate the development of strong nursing values that socialize students for their new role and encourage professional involvement and commitment to lifelong learning," said Greene.

Georgia College's School of Nursing currently offers degrees in baccalaureate of science in nursing (BSN), a Master of Science in nursing (MSN) with multiple areas of concentration (Family NP, Women's Health NP, Psychiatric Mental Health NP, Nurse Educator and Nurse Midwifery) and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

Formal recognition takes place during the 2021 NLN Education Summit at the Honors Convocation on Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Virtual exhibit explores Central State Hospital history



The Ina Dillard Russell Library has partnered with the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) to create a digital exhibit exploring the history of nursing at Central State Hospital (CSH) in Milledgeville.

The project is part of a GPLS Digital Exhibits pilot program designed to build capacity for public libraries through digitized cultural materials available on the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG).

Over the hospital's nearly 180-year history, the group looked at many topics and issues that could be examined. It turned out the most viewed item on the DLG in 2019 was the record book of the CSH School of Nursing.

"We felt building off of that public interest provided us with a good starting point," Evan Leavitt, community engagement archivist said. "Once I began my research, I quickly learned that you could not talk about the school of nursing alone. There was a need to contextualize nursing at CSH within the evolution of nurse training in the United States."

The exhibit highlights the work of African American nurses like Ruth Hartley Mosley and Ludie Clay Andrews. Hartley Mosley was the first African American head nurse of a patient ward at CSH, and went on to become a civil rights activist and philanthropist. Clay Andrews, a Milledgeville native and Georgia's first black registered nurse, organized the Municipal Training School for Colored Nurses.

The exhibit can be viewed online at <https://georgialibraries.omeka.net/>.

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7</p> <p>6 p.m. - GC Volleyball vs. Albany State.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Join us on for Happy Hour with History with drinks, snacks and a Behind-the-Scenes tour of the Mansion--all included within your ticket. Tickets are \$25 for one or \$40 for two. Space is limited, so please call 478-445-4545 or email haley.stodart@gcsu.edu to reserve yours today.</p> <p>6 p.m. - GC Soccer vs. Valdosta State.</p>	<p>11</p>