

JOHN H. LOUNSBURY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

2021-2022



GEORGIA
COLLEGE

GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

John H. Lounsbury College of Education

DEAN'S MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO TEACHER PIPELINE ISSUES



In the 18th edition of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education¹ (GPEE) series Top 10 Issues to Watch in 2022², item eight is presented as “Revamping the Teaching Profession – A New Moonshot.” The authors compare what is needed to solve problems with the teaching profession to the extraordinary effort required to land a man on the moon. GPEE cites three policy areas that

are needed to transform the teaching profession on a scale similar to the moon landing. These policy areas include recruitment and hiring, teacher leadership programs, and expanded professional learning opportunities. In support of the first policy area, the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE) asked a comprehensive group of education leaders to attend a Georgia Teacher Pipeline Collaborative Meeting.³

The initial meeting included an understanding that teacher pipeline issues are a growing concern. For example, according to the ACT Data, high school students’ interest in going into the education field was at a low of 4% in 2020.⁴ This comes at a time when demand is significantly outpacing supply⁵ and teacher burnout is a real problem.⁶ Although many educational groups in Georgia are working to increase the teacher pipeline, there are still many openings as teachers leave the profession in record numbers.⁷ In a recent search, we found numerous open positions in P-5 Elementary Education, P-12 Special Education, 4-8 Middle Grades Math, 4-8 Middle Grades

Science, 6-12 Science, 6-12 Mathematics, and P-12 Foreign Languages.⁸ Furthermore, Georgia ranks above the national average for uncertified teachers⁹ and teacher program completion rates are down in all but the CTAE area.¹⁰ In Georgia, there are at least three times as many inexperienced teachers in schools with high enrollment of students of color compared to the share of inexperienced teachers in schools with low student of color enrollment.¹¹ And in the University System of Georgia, many institutions are indicating a drop in their teacher preparation enrollment.

The outcome of the first Georgia Teacher Pipeline Collaborative group meeting generated three focus areas to address teacher pipeline issues. First, elevating teacher voice in schools, policy, and legislation; second, raising the profile of teachers in the state of Georgia; and third, re-imagining induction and mentoring to increase the dignity and honor of the teaching profession. In the second collaborative meeting, the partners split into three groups to address each of the focus areas. Many ideas were generated and will be implemented to address the three focus areas. For example, one group will work to incorporate teacher voice as the Georgia legislature considers bills that affect the profession. Another group will initiate a marketing plan to promote the profession through stories, sharing of educator benefits, and other opportunities. Additionally, the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) is discussing ways to elevate teacher voice with regard to policy and advocacy as they relate to accreditation, standards, and educator preparation. Recently, the PSC is also finding ways to reduce barriers to admission into programs such as eliminating the costly Program Admission Assessment. Other initiatives from the collaborative group will follow. The bottom line is that the growing concern over the teacher pipeline is being addressed.

Here at Georgia College and State University, we are also looking at new ways to recruit future teachers into our undergraduate and MAT programs. Please feel free to share your ideas and, if you have someone you would like to refer to an undergraduate program, please visit www.gcsu.edu/admissions/undergraduate. If you are interested in a graduate program, please contact Shanda Brand at 478-445-1383, or shanda.brand@gcsu.edu.

I invite you to contact me at joseph.peters@gcsu.edu to share your thoughts and comments.

— Dean Joe Peters
President, Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

¹ <https://gpee.org/>

² [https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/P_11_119999_S_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_Georgia%20\(1\)%20\(1\).pdf?csf=1&e=fjXCRP](https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/P_11_119999_S_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_Georgia%20(1)%20(1).pdf?csf=1&e=fjXCRP)

³ Partners Invited to the Collaborative: Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Association of Educators, University System of Georgia Educator Preparation and Policy, Georgia Department of Education Teacher and Leader Support and Development, Historically Black Colleges and Universities Schools, Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, Governor’s Office of Student Achievement, Georgia Association of Independent Colleges of Teacher Education, Professional Standards Commission Educator Preparation Division (Georgia Accreditation Organization), Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, Professional Association of Georgia Educators, Georgia Educational Leadership Faculty Association, Georgia Power Community and Economic Development, Georgia Field Directors Association, Georgia Assessment Directors Association, Georgia School Counselors Association, Student Support Team Association of Georgia, Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators, Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors, Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals, Georgia Association of Middle School Principals, Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, Georgia School Superintendent Association, Georgia House Education Committee Members and/or Chair, Georgia Senate Education and Youth Committee Members and/or Chair, Moderator: Creative Focus’ Senior Consultant Kevin Gecowets.

⁴ [https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/P_11_119999_S_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_Georgia%20\(1\)%20\(1\).pdf?csf=1&e=fjXCRP](https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/P_11_119999_S_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_Georgia%20(1)%20(1).pdf?csf=1&e=fjXCRP)

⁵ <https://www.georgiainsights.com/teacher-pipeline.html>

⁶ <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/Teacher%20Burnout%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf>

⁷ <https://gosa.georgia.gov/document/document/2020-workforce-retention-addendum-finalpdf/download>

⁸ <https://www.teachgeorgia.org/AdvSearch.aspx>

⁹ <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/understanding-teacher-shortages-interactive>

¹⁰ <https://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/DataResources/Documents/Supply-Demand%20Analysis%202018.pdf>

¹¹ <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/crdc-teacher-access-report>



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JOHN H. LOUNSBURY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
NEWSLETTER

2021-2022

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Highlights



Social Justice Dialogue

Series (SJDS): The College of Education (COE) continued its Social Justice Dialogue Series in February 2022 with a keynote lecture from Reverend France Davis, pastor emeritus of the Salt Lake City's Calvary Baptist Church and acclaimed civil rights activist. Rev. Davis's

lecture focused on his civil rights engagement in Georgia to current socio-political events.

A native of Georgia, Davis arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1972 to teach and attend graduate school at the University of Utah. He was appointed instructor in communication and ethnic studies, earning a distinguished teacher award from the university. Davis retired as an adjunct associate professor in 2014.

During the 1960s, Davis participated in the Civil Rights Movement and marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama promoting voting rights for African Americans. At the onset of the Civil Rights Movement, he met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and received his spiritual calling into ministry as a young man.

In 1972, Davis was removed from the Latter-Day Saints, church-owned Brigham Young University campus for wearing an afro. As a political activist, Davis was also instrumental in declaring Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official holiday, an achievement for which his church office was riddled with gun shots. He furthered his education by earning his M.M. degree in ministry from Northwest Nazareth University in Nampa, Idaho in 1994.

Davis has published several books, including a memoir, with co-author Nayra Atiya, entitled, "France Davis: An American Story Told."

Among numerous awards and recognitions, he was given an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Utah in 1993, the Salt Lake Community College in 1997, Dixie State College in 2002, and an official citation from the Utah House of Representatives in recognition of his outstanding service to Utah in 2006. He also received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award, given to him at the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C in 2014.



In Fall 2021, Georgia College said goodbye to Call Me MiSTER (CMM) Director, Dr. C. Emmanuel Little. We appreciate his service in building the CMM Program since the summer of 2014, and we wish him success in his new endeavors!

We are excited to welcome the new CMM Director, Dr. Melvin Middleton, Jr. Dr. Middleton received his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration from Florida State University. His dissertation was titled: "The Lion Speaks: Utilizing Narrative Inquiry as a Tool for Illuminating the Stories of Black Men who Lead Black Male Initiatives." Dr. Middleton's research interests focus on improving the educational and social outcomes

for African-American males through implementing targeted initiatives and establishing equity-minded-practices in mainstream programs and institutions.

In addition to directing the CMM Program, Dr. Middleton will direct the Georgia College M.A.L.E. Connection (Mentoring African-Americans for Leadership Education, and Connection). Dr. Middleton will also serve as lecturer in the College of Education.

Welcome to Georgia College and to the College of Education, Dr. Middleton!

LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR'S PASSION FOR *Service and Education*



Larry Michael "Mike" Newton, Ed.D., Director of Assessment and Accreditation and faculty member at the JHL College of Education. Mike obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Emory University, Master's Degree in Teaching Education and Specialist in Educational Leadership from Georgia College & State University (GCSU), and Doctorate of Educational Administration from Georgia Southern University. Mike is a career public educator who has taught in special education and alternative school settings. He has also worked as a special education administrator and principal, and recently retired as superintendent of schools in Jasper County.

Mike has served as president of the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) and as chair of the Middle Georgia Regional Education Service Association (RESA). He is currently a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) and the Georgia Assessment Directors Association (GADA). Mike has a self-described "calling" for education. He fondly remembers his time as a student in the JHL College of Education, dreaming of the day when he would teach at Georgia College. Those dreams came true in 2007 when he was offered the opportunity to teach part time in the Educational Leadership Program in Macon, Georgia.

Mike is married to Tonya Smith Newton, '94, '12, double Georgia College alumna. Tonya is a kindergarten teacher at Jasper County Primary School. Mike and Tonya have two sons, Aaron and Evan. Aaron is a middle grades mathematics teacher in Cherokee County, and Evan is a senior communication and digital media major at

Georgia College. In their spare time, Mike and Tonya enjoy spending time in the North Georgia mountains, taking cruises, and other travelling adventures.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the College of Education in my new role as board chair. I am passionate about education and Georgia College, so I have the best of both worlds!" Newton said.

Mike is the JHL COE Leadership Board Chair from 2022-2024.

If you are interested in serving on the College of Education Leadership Board, please contact Emily Lim Boewadt at 478-451-7877 (cell), 478-445-5137 (office) or email her at emily.lim.boewadt@gcsu.edu.

National Leader speaks at College of Education

Annual Lounsbury Lecture Series

As part of the John H. Lounsbury Distinguished Lecture Series on American Education, Dr. Lynn M. Gangone, President and CEO of American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), presented the lecture titled, "Educators: The First Responders to Democracy," on February 28, 2022.

As a leader in education, Gangone has served as a faculty member, campus senior administrator, association executive, lobbyist, and policy analyst. Prior to her appointment as president of AACTE, she served as vice president at the American Council on Education (ACE).

Gangone set the stage for her presentation by stating, "To me, democracy is precious and sacred. It is something that I think Americans tend to take for granted. We just think, 'There it is.'"

She continued, "Actually, we are still quite young and every single day we create this democracy. We ensure that what the founding fathers wanted to see happen, actually does happen."

Gangone connected her presentation to educational theorist, John Dewey. She explained that John Dewey saw education and democracy as organically connected.

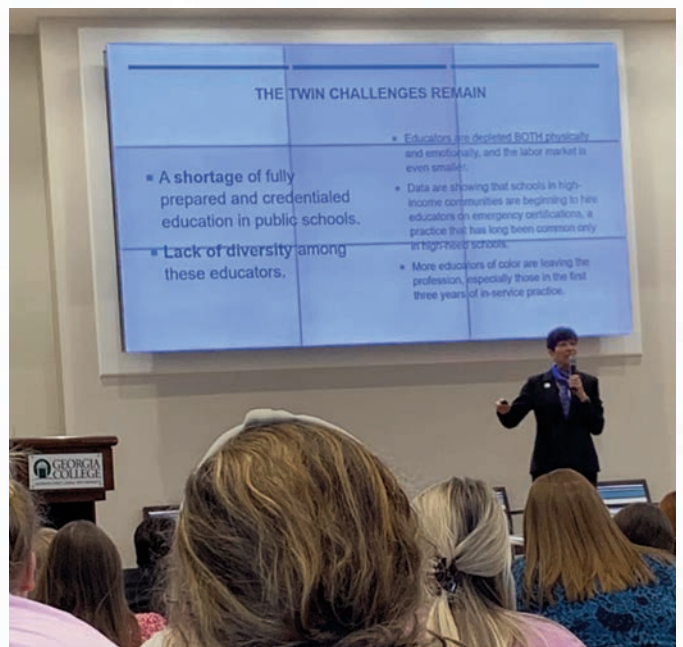
"He said that democracy is a condition for education and education is a condition for democracy," she said. "In schools, citizenship education cannot be distinguished as a separate subject or domain. All education contributes to democratic citizenship, provided it is inclusive and equally accessible to everyone."

Thus, teachers are essentially tasked with safeguarding one of the most important principles of democracy, citizenship education. At the same time, this fundamental work is challenged by a national teacher shortage, declining interest in teacher education, lack of teacher diversity, and more recently, censorship of what is taught. Regarding the latter, Gangone challenged lecture attendees, teachers and pre-service teachers, to think about how we can simultaneously hold both in our hands, our country's greatest achievements and our country's gravest mistakes. How can we learn from both as we construct our democracy each day?

To view the lecture, go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO7usGrt204>



Pictured are recent graduates, Ileana DeJesus, Special Education major (left) and Iliana Ward, Middle Grades Education major (right).]



The Lounsbury Lecture Series began on Dr. Lounsbury's 90th birthday as a way to honor his legacy. The purpose is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas as we pursue lifelong learning as professional educators.

THE VALUE OF LIBERAL ARTS IN PREPARING TEACHERS AND LEADERS AS

Architects of Change

During the 2021-2022 academic school year, colleges and units across the university celebrated the 25th anniversary of Georgia College & State University's (GCSU) distinction as the University System of Georgia's (USG) designated Public Liberal Arts University.

Friends and colleagues of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education (COE) gathered on November 9, 2021 for reflection on the value of liberal arts education in preparing teachers and leaders of the future. The panel was moderated by Dr. Cheryl Reynolds, professor of Educational Leadership. Panelists included Dr. Linda Bradley, professor of Literacy Education; Dr. Paulette Cross, lecturer of Foundations of Education; Dr. Miriam Jordan, lecturer of Science Education; and Dr. Olha Osobov, assistant professor of Early Childhood Education.

When asked to reflect upon the intersection of their professional lives and the university's Liberal Arts mission, the panelist shared their personal stories.

"It is the liberal arts mission of Georgia College that was a primary reason that I applied, and interviewed, and accepted the position here," Dr. Bradley said. "It's a key part of why I came and a key part of why I stay."



Dr. Osobov didn't know anything about liberal arts education before coming to Georgia College, because in her home country of Ukraine, she didn't learn about the liberal arts. "Creativity and pluralism of thinking was not encouraged during the times of the Soviet Union," she said. Though she received an excellent education based on factual content, she said, "the thinking process, and variety of perspectives, was not part of that education." Dr. Osobov now encourages herself to go through the same processes that she teaches her students, the processes of thinking, analyzing, and listening to each other. She encourages herself and her students to go through the transformation and to not be afraid to change.

In contrast, liberal arts education was all that Dr. Jordan knew. After attending a private liberal arts college, she became a teacher before finally finding her "home" at Georgia College. In her role, she conceptualizes the COE as "the icing on the cake for the liberal arts frame of mind. We couldn't do what we do without the arts and sciences; obviously we are built upon that. But we do our very best to exemplify the goals of what a liberal arts education is as we prepare teachers to go out."

In 2015, Dr. Cross surprised herself by accepting a position at Georgia College. Coming from Southern California, she never thought she would live in rural middle Georgia. "It has been a blessing," she said. "Having the ability to think critically, engage in conversation, and walk away learning, is key. We have the ability and freedom to be change agents with our students. What we do here is very close to my heart."

To view the celebration, go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c5ABV8Tzj4>

MARKERSPACE UPDATES



Provost Costas Spirou and Dean Peters were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the COE Makerspace on October 11, 2021.

The Makerspace is a collaborative work space containing technologies that can be used for educational purposes. Examples include virtual reality headsets, drones with cameras, 3-D printers, Cricut machines, a Glowforge engraver, Lego robotics, sewing and embroidery machines, sublimation and poster printers, a heat press, and more. The use of these technologies have been aligned to Georgia Standards of Excellence and come with sample lesson plans for pre-service teachers to use.

During the spring 2022 semester, Dr. Andrea Christoff's middle grades education junior cohort teacher candidates worked in small groups to create lesson plans using a technology of their choice in the Makerspace. Now, as senior teacher candidates, they will present on their learning experiences at the national Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) Conference in Orlando in November.

In June, pre-service teachers in Dr. Cynthia Alby's secondary education Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program spent a day in the Makerspace with Georgia College & State University (GCSU) alumna, Holley Leskovics, and her amazing assistant, Caleb. They taught teacher candidates how to use the Cricut machine, Glowforge, and 3-D printer. Since learning how to use the technology, Alby and her students have been brainstorming

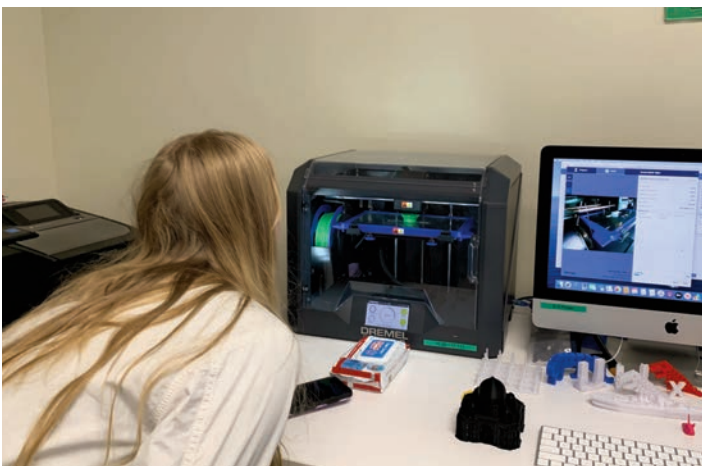


possible ways to use the technology in their own classrooms with high school students.

The next phase of building the Makerspace is to incorporate assistive technologies that benefit students with disabilities. This will include reading pens, switches, communication devices, and switch activated toys and response systems. Teacher candidates will be able to practice using the various tools with students in PK-12 classrooms.

The Makerspace will soon be expanding its space and access to the rest of the university. The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship will be a joint collaboration between the College of Education and the College of Business and Technology. This initiative aligns with the original purpose of educating students for a future where technology is more present in schools and in the workplace. The same technologies that are being used to educate pre-service teachers are now open for all GCSU students. Moving forward, more specialized technologies will be added for non-education majors at GCSU.

The Makerspace was funded through the GREAT (Georgia Residency for Educating Amazing Teachers) Grant in 2018. It is staffed by graduate assistants to give them hands-on experience with the technology. The Makerspace and its tools are open to all GC students by appointment.



Congratulations to the Georgia College Early College

CLASS OF 2022

The Georgia College Early College (GCEC) Class of 2022 is definitely in a league of their own. They overcame several COVID-19 related obstacles, but their perseverance can be measured by their accomplishments. As we celebrate GCEC's 15-year anniversary and the 10-year anniversary of our Legacy Class, we also celebrate the numerous achievements of our Class of 2022.

The Class of 2022 was the largest class to complete our early college program. It consisted of 44 graduates from the Baldwin County School District and the Putnam County Charter School System. Of the 44 graduates, 32 earned associate degrees from Georgia Military College (GMC), and seven earned associate degrees from Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC). Six students earned two degrees—one from GMC and one from CGTC. This class earned over 2,937 dual enrollment college credits from Georgia College & State University (GCSU), GMC, and CGTC.

Although dedicated to their academic goals, they also made time for extracurricular activities. GCEC had its first drum major of the Baldwin High School's Band of the Braves. There were a total of five band members in this class, and they were instrumental in winning numerous band competitions.

Seniors participated in an array of sports, which included baseball, softball, basketball, wrestling, football, track and field, and soccer. Their leadership skills were also noted in their participation within various clubs, including: the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, Beta Club, National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the Milledgeville Kappa League. Their leadership and desire to serve led them to earn over 3,020 community service hours.

Each spring, students from grades seven through 12 reflect upon their growth and share their experiences through capstone presentations. During our seniors' final capstone presentations, they shared their achievements and processes of researching, networking, and interviewing individuals who were currently working in their desired career-fields. Their experiences and overall delivery were amazing!

We cannot wait to see what lies ahead for our Class of 2022, as they move on to colleges and universities this fall. They were accepted to attend over 40 colleges and universities and have committed to attend 18 which include Georgia College, the University of Georgia (UGA), Washington College, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University, Liberty University, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. One student has chosen to continue her education through the United State Air Force.



Rankings

Collegefactual.com 2022 rankings placed Georgia College in the following categories:

#2

..... Best Master's Schools for Special Education in Georgia

#22

..... Best Master's Education Schools in the Southeast Region

Teachingdegreeesearch.com 2021 rankings placed Georgia College in the following categories:

#3

..... Best Teaching Schools in Georgia

#19

..... Best Teaching Bachelor's Degree Schools in Southeast Region

U.S. News and World Report 2021 rankings placed Georgia College in the following categories:

#11

..... Best Undergraduate Teaching Programs

#21

..... Regional Universities - South

Niche.com has published its 2022 rankings, and Georgia College ranked:

#9

..... Best Colleges for Education in Georgia

Recognitions

John H. Lounsbury College of Education Major Gift Donors

Stephen Stewart – Annual support to Makerspace

Larry Bacnik – Annual and Endowed Scholarships for Special Education teacher candidates

Georgia Power Foundation “Teachers for GA Scholarship” Annual and Endowed Scholarships for Call Me MiSTER students

Janet Fields, Leslie Crawford, Penny Elkins (principal donors) Dr. Kathryn Tucker Powell Endowed Scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students in the JHL COE

Rosalie Campbell – Rosalie Brigham Garbutt Scholarship for undergraduate students in JHL COE



Congratulations to the John H. Lounsbury College of Education Faculty, Staff, and Students



The College of Education (COE) was nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in May 2022. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting continuous improvement. Georgia College and State University's (GCSU) COE joins 34 other newly-accredited Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs), bringing the total to 471 EPPs nationwide.

"These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate," said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. "Seeking CAEP Accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider."

The College of Education is one of four universities in Georgia to achieve CAEP Accreditation.

"Our students and instructors should be very proud of the work they are doing. We've set a very high bar for our teacher prep program and CAEP Accreditation validates the hard work we are doing," said Dean Joseph Peters. "Our students and their families are investing in an education program that is designated as nationally accredited for teacher preparation."

Cognia Georgia Excellence in Education Award Presented Posthumously to Dr. John H. Lounsbury

Cognia, the international accreditation organization for PK-12 schools and organizations, presented the 2021 Georgia Excellence in Education Award posthumously to Dr. John H. Lounsbury, Dean Emeritus, for his significant impact on student learning in Georgia. Dr. Cheryl Reynolds, professor of Educational Leadership and a member of the Cognia Advisory Board for Georgia, nominated Dr. Lounsbury for the award. The award was presented at the 2021 Cognia Conference held at the InterContinental Buckhead on November 18 and accepted by Mrs. Liz Lounsbury Thomas, his daughter.



Specialty Professional Association (SPA)

In Spring 2022, three College of Education programs were recognized by their Specialty Professional Associations (SPAs). The **M.Ed. Library Media Program**, the **B.S. Special Education Program**, and the **M.A.T. Special Education Program** were approved by their respective SPAs, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the Council for the Exceptional Children (CEC). Writing a SPA review requires collecting and analyzing three years of data across eight assessments for each program. Data must demonstrate that candidates meet or exceed the standards developed by each professional organization. Congratulations to the Library Media and Special Education Program faculty!

Partnerships

DEAN JOSEPH PETERS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO FUEL THE TEACHER PIPELINE



As President of the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE), Joe Peters is bringing educational groups and associations together to address the issue of bringing new teachers into the profession. Nationally, the teacher pipeline is a growing challenge as documented in the

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) publication "Colleges of education: A national portrait" (2022). This report is consistent with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission data (GaPSC, 2019) and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPPE, 2021) report that includes information on the growing challenges in Georgia.

Participants in this partnership have held two meetings and plan a series of other meetings. The results of the first meeting identified priorities including elevating teacher voice in the school and in policy and legislation; re-imagining induction and mentoring to increase the dignity and honor of the profession; and raising the profile of teachers in Georgia.

The second meeting, sponsored by Kennesaw State University's Bagwell College of Education, took these three priorities and created action items: a group commitment to develop public service announcements; developing stories regarding the difference educators make and the quality of GA educators; increasing the interaction and collaboration between teachers and policymakers; and increasing teacher advocacy and teacher power by training them to be advocates through representation and service on school boards and education committees.

GACTE will collaborate with the GPPE to embed the work of the grant funded advocacy actions into a broader Georgia EdQuest 10-Year Plan for Georgia Education.

To support participation, a grant request to AACTE was submitted to provide funding for the project. Additionally, the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) have each committed \$10,000 in support of this project.

Partners involved in the plan include the following: Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Association of Educators, University System of Georgia Educator Preparation and Policy, Georgia Department of Education Teacher and Leader Support and Development, Historically Black Colleges and Universities Schools, Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, Governor's Office of Student Achievement, Georgia Association of Independent Colleges of Teacher Education, Professional Standards Commission Educator Preparation Division, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, Professional Association of Georgia Educators, Georgia Educational Leadership Faculty Association, Georgia Field Directors Association, Georgia Assessment Directors Association, Georgia School Counselors Association, Student Support Team Association of Georgia, Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators, Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors, Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals, Georgia Association of Middle School Principals, Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, Georgia School Superintendent Association, and Creative Focus' Senior Consultant Kevin Gecowets who serves as moderator for the sessions.

GEORGIA'S NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Baldwin County School District Superintendent Dr. Noris Price was named the 2022 Georgia Superintendent of the Year by the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA). On March 28, Dr. Price was recognized by Governor Brian Kemp with a commendation for being named 2022 Georgia Superintendent of the Year and for being one of four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year. During a night of accolades and recognition for the Baldwin County School District, after the end of the school year, State Representative Rick Williams formally presented a Resolution from the State of Georgia House of Representatives to Price for being named the 2022 Georgia Superintendent of the Year.

“I'M FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO GET UP EVERY DAY AND DO WHAT I LOVE — WORK THAT IS MEANINGFUL AND SERVES A PURPOSE. I LOVE MAKING A DIFFERENCE,” PRICE SAID. “THIS AWARD IS NOT ABOUT ME. I HAVE ONE AMAZING TEAM IN MY CORNER WHO IS DOING GREAT WORK. THIS AWARD WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE ENTIRE BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL COMMUNITY.”



GCSU AND GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE REACH ARTICULATION AGREEMENT



Georgia College & State University (GCSU) President, Cathy Cox, and Georgia Military College (GMC) President, William B. Caldwell IV, signed the Georgia College and Georgia Military College Articulation Agreement on May 16, 2022. This agreement formally recognizes the educational partnership between the colleges to exercise due diligence in providing a smooth transition for students who elect to transfer from GMC to GCSU teacher preparation programs.

GMC students whose permanent residence is in Baldwin, Hancock, Johnson, Jones, Putnam, Washington, or Wilkinson counties will receive support through the GCSU-GMC Teacher Education Department Program. This program will teach GMC students about GCSU's mentor-led, field-based cohort model and about the competitive application process.

To qualify for the transfer guarantee, students must be associate degree-seeking students at GMC. Students must complete at least 60 semester hours of transferable credits (including all areas of the core curriculum), and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at GMC. Additional qualifications include completing an intent to transfer form signed by a GMC counselor, submitting an undergraduate application to GCSU, and earning a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all transferable course work.

Deana Burgess Award for Outstanding Partner in Teacher Education presented to Dr. Rickey Edmond

In May of 2022, as the school year was coming to an end, Mrs. Claire Garrett, Director of Partnership and Field Placement and Dr. Joanne Previts, Interim Chair of Teacher Education visited the Washington County Board of Education office in Sandersville, Georgia to present Superintendent Dr. Rickey Edmond, with the Deana Burgess Award for Outstanding Partner in Teacher Education.

This recognition honors individuals who have worked with the John H. Lounsbury College of Education (COE) as exemplary partners in the professional preparation programs.

In 2019, Edmond became superintendent of Washington County Schools. From the moment he stepped into that role, Edmond has been a supporter of the partnership between Washington County Schools and the COE at Georgia College & State University (GCSU). During the height of COVID-19, he collaborated with the COE to maintain a balance between keeping schools open for teacher candidate placements and safety protocols for all. Whenever Edmond has been called upon to be involved in work in the COE, he has responded with a resounding yes. He serves on the Educator Preparation Stakeholders Council, has been active during the COE accreditation reviews, and even attended the Future Georgia Educator Day that the Professional Association for Georgia Educators (PAGE) and Georgia College co-hosted.

Indeed, Dr. Edmond is an engaged partner whose collaboration is valued. Because of Dr. Edmond's involvement in and support of the teacher education department in the COE at Georgia College, he is more than deserving of the Deana Burgess Award for Outstanding Partner in Teacher Education.



FUTURE GEORGIA EDUCATORS (FGE) DAY

At Georgia College

The John H. Lounsbury College of Education (COE) is making strides to connect with high school students who are interested in pursuing teaching careers.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) hosts various Future Georgia Educators (FGE) Days at universities across the state for high school students enrolled in Education Pathway Programs and others interested in the profession. On March 9, 2022, Georgia College & State University (GCSU) partnered with PAGE to host FGE Day and FGE State Competition.

Approximately 190 high school students from 11 school districts spent the day at Georgia College. The event marked the first time that Baldwin County High School and Washington County High School students attended FGE Day!

The morning began with opening remarks by Georgia College President, Cathy Cox. Then, the keynote address was presented by the 2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Ms. Cherie Bonder Goldman. Ms. Bonder Goldman is an English as a Second Language (ESOL) teacher at Hesse K-8 School in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

Following the opening ceremony, high school students participated in a college fair (featuring 12 universities) and various workshops led by Georgia College faculty and teacher candidates. The COE workshops focused on fostering creativity in the elementary classroom, creating stories by using your imagination, using iPads to create content, reflections on middle school experiences, and helpful information when entering the field of teaching. Georgia College Campus Life and Admissions also held informative workshops.

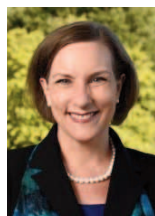
The day concluded with the annual state competitions in the following categories: Prepared Speech, Impromptu Speaking, Job Application, and Knowledge Bowl.

The College of Education would like to thank PAGE and COE Director of Partnerships and Field Placements, Mrs. Claire Garrett, for planning such a successful event!





GRANTS



Dr. Linda Bradley

Professor of Literacy Education
Georgia Department of Education: Dyslexia
Endorsement Service Providers Contract

\$106,928



Dr. Andrea Christoff

Assistant Professor of Middle Grades Education
Faculty Research Grant: *Who are we? Exploring
the Civic Possibilities in Washington D.C.*

\$3,562



Dr. Stacy Schwartz

Professor of Early Childhood Education
International Dyslexia Association-Georgia
Branch: Initiative to Improve Dyslexia Awareness
and Teacher Training

\$10,000



Dr. Kim Muschaweck

Assistant Professor of Special Education
Faculty Research Grant: Special Education
Teacher Mentoring, Instructional Coaching,
and Professional Development Project

\$5,000

2021 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
(SoTL) Fellow

\$500



◀ **Dr. Nicole DeClouette** (Professor of Special Education), **Dr. Rob Sumowski**
(Associate Professor of Special Education), **Dr. Stephen Wills** (Professor of Special
Education), Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD): GC THRIVE Program

\$24,023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



Dr. Linda Bradley

Professor of Literacy Education
**Georgia College Women's Leadership
Faculty Fellows Program (2021-2022)**



Dr. Paulette Cross

Lecturer of Foundations
HERS Institute – Philadelphia (July 2022)



Dr. Nicole DeClouette

Interim Associate Dean and Professor of
Special Education — **Council for Exceptional
Children (CEC) Leadership Institute
(July 2022)**



Dr. Yeprem Mehranian

Associate Professor of Foundations
Professional Leave to Armenia (Fall 2021)



Dr. Joseph Peters

Dean of College of Education
**American Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education (AACTE) State
Leaders Institute and Computer Science
for Teachers Certificate**



Dr. Suzanna Roman-Oliver

Assistant Professor of Secondary Education
**Women in STEM Summer Institute (June
2022)**

HERS Institute – Philadelphia (July 2022)

FACULTY RECOGNITIONS



Faculty Member Recognized by Student Athlete

College of Education lecturer, **Hiller Crook**, was recognized by student-athlete, Sarah Mangan, during the Georgia College & State University (GCSU) Athletics' Faculty Appreciation Night in February 2022. Sarah played volleyball while enrolled in the Special Education Cohort Program. Crook served as Sarah's mentor leader during the two-year program. Sarah selected Mrs. Crook to honor as her "most respected professor during her collegiate career."

Faculty Member Presented with the Craig Turner Award

Dr. Cynthia Alby, secondary education faculty member, was awarded the Craig M. Turner Excellence in University Service Award for Spring 2022. This award encourages and rewards those who serve the university community (including department and college), as well as their professional communities.



Fulbright Finalist



Annabelle Erb applied for an English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) in South Korea, with hopes to use her early childhood education degree to teach English to children there. She saw it as an opportunity that would “greatly benefit” her future teaching of phonics in the U.S. She was also looking forward to learning a new language and culture.

At Georgia College & State University (GCSU), Erb enjoyed co-teaching in local schools. This structure is similar to what she expected as a teacher in South Korea, and getting integrated into a new culture would help her connect with future students from different backgrounds.

Erb had been interested in Fulbright since sophomore year when Anna Whiteside, coordinator of Georgia College’s National Scholarships Office, suggested she apply. Her “vote of confidence” kept Erb going, and she was “pleasantly surprised” at achieving semi-finalist status.

“I feel so thankful to have been recognized as worthy of making it this far,” Erb said. “Teaching English abroad through the Fulbright would allow me to grow as an educator and model lifelong learning to my future students. I hope I can show my students how going after your dreams and working hard can open so many exciting doors and opportunities.”

During the summer, Erb’s scholarship status changed from semi-finalist to alternate status. She told herself in the beginning of the scholarship process that if her status was to switch to alternate status that she would look for a teaching opportunity here in Georgia. The scholarship selection time was cutting it close to the new school year, so Erb applied for a teaching position to secure something for the upcoming year.

She was later chosen as finalist for the English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea. Erb was so grateful to be recognized by the Fulbright Commission and for this opportunity. Ultimately, she decided to grow as an educator before taking her teaching journey overseas. She is teaching kindergarten at Spalding Drive Elementary in Sandy Springs, Georgia. She believes deciding to teach here in the states for at least a year will give her more time to grow as a person and as a teacher.

Special Education major advocates for those with late disability diagnoses



When her friend was diagnosed with a learning disability in high school, Special Education major **Ileana DeJesus** was ignited with passion for children with learning disabilities — and supporting them in the classroom.

"I wanted to be a doctor, and it's kind of a funny story, because I was horrible at biology in 9th grade," she said. "Now, I teach high school biology, so I've come full-circle."

The Henry County native worked as a student teacher of biology at Jones County High School in Gray, Georgia. With her partner teacher, DeJesus taught three classes with a mix of students — those without disabilities, alongside special education students. Her students typically had a mild disability, but the work still presented challenges.

"A lot of our students have low reading levels," she said. "I have kids who are in 9th, 10th and 11th grade who have the reading level of second graders and the reading comprehension of third graders."

The challenge, though, is why she does it. In one classroom, DeJesus may have children in her class who need attention, have trouble with motivation or lack vocabulary. To teach them she has to be creative and break complex topics into their most basic parts.

"Reward doesn't come that day, the next day, in a week or in a month," she said. "It's very frustrating — I don't want to sugarcoat it — but when a student gets a concept, it's like we made it together."

Some of her students were placed in her class because of behavior. This presented DeJesus with a unique opportunity to make a mark on their lives.

"I'm glad when I have a second to talk to them, like they're people," she said. "They might not get it now, but hopefully they'll look back and think, 'That one lady told me I can't be rude to others because of what I'm going through.'"

Her approach to teaching, informed by experience and her Georgia College professors, is soft but firm. DeJesus' cohort leader Mary Hiller Crook, limited term lecturer of teacher education, inspired her approach through encouragement and support.

"I had a professor who said 'the earliest and easiest respect is learning somebody's name correctly,'" DeJesus said. "That really stuck with me. I think about my friends who went to other schools in classes of 270 and their professors aren't learning their names."

DeJesus is on her way to become a two-time graduate of Georgia College and State University (GCSU). She is in the Master's in Special Education program at Georgia College. In tandem, she teaches at the Boyce L. Ansley School in Atlanta, Georgia — a nonprofit, private and tuition-free school for children who have or are experiencing homelessness.

"When I'm an educator, I want to allow space for being a soft and supportive person, but also that person who holds you accountable," she said. "When a student is happy to see you, that's the biggest thing."

Unexpected Journey to Education



“There are no wrong turnings. Only paths we had not known we were meant to walk.”
Guy Gabriel Kay, Tianga

As a child, **Iliana Ward** of Augusta, Georgia, flirted with the idea of teaching. As a high school senior, she completed her senior internship project on broadcast journalism. In the fall of 2018, Ward started her freshmen year at Georgia College & State University (GCSU) as a mass communication major with a minor in marketing.

As a freshman, Ward served as the Village Community Council President, Georgia Residence Hall Association Registration Chair, and Student Fundraising Chair. By the end of her freshman year at Georgia College, Ward spontaneously changed her major to middle grades education. Over the next three years, she prepared to become a teacher and a leader.

In addition to excelling academically, during her sophomore year Ward received the Most Promising Leader Bobcat Award and the Watson Brown Foundation

Scholarship. She was recognized as Georgia Resident Hall President of the Year and as Georgia Residence Hall Emerging Student Leader.

She was engaged as a student Fundraising Assistant, a First Year Guide, and a member of the Student Alumni Council. Also, Ward was admitted into the Georgia College Leadership Certificate Program. To fulfill requirements for that program, she studied abroad in Strasbourg, France.

In the Middle Grades Cohort Program, in addition to completing coursework and a student teaching internship, Ward served as chapter representative for the Lounsbury Chapter of the Collegiate Middle Level Association (CMLA).

As a senior, she wrote a \$2,500 CMLA grant proposal for the Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) conference. As a result, she co-presented at the national AMLE conference on the topic, “Trauma-Informed Teaching in a Post Pandemic Classroom.”

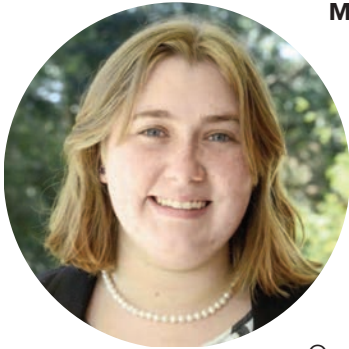
Ward’s mentor leader, Dr. Rachel Bray, said, “Not only does Ms. Ward have strong leadership skills, her ability to connect with her students and her talent at teaching simple math concepts, as well as more advanced topics, are both truly superior. She has excellent written and verbal communication skills, is extremely organized, reliable, and dependable.”

Ms. Ward’s journey began in mass communication and ended with her being selected as the College of Education Outstanding Student.

Referring to her years of undergraduate work, Ward remarked, “I always tell first- and second-year students who are going into education, to do everything you want to do like clubs and organizations before starting the cohort. Venture out and do things that you never thought you’d do. Doing that, experimenting with different opportunities, led me back to teaching.”

Ward has a very bright future. This year she is starting her first teaching position, as a 6th grade math teacher at Langford Middle School in Augusta. She will also be coaching the Langford Middle School Math Competition Team. Deciding to further her education, Ward is currently enrolled in the Educational Leadership M.Ed. program at Georgia College.

GEM Program Welcomes College of Education Student in 2021-2022 Class



Ms. Lindsay Kendrick, an Early Childhood Education major, was one of 24 students selected for the 2021-2022 class of the Georgia Education Mentorship Program (GEM). The GEM Program is a one-of-a-kind partnership between Georgia College & State University (GCSU) and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce that prepares the next generation of Georgia's leaders for the public good.

The program matches students with senior state leaders for a yearlong mentorship that creates mutual benefit between Georgia College and its partners. In addition to frequent meetings and exchanges with their mentors, students enjoy individual consultations, classroom-based learning, and statewide site visits.

One of Kendrick's greatest takeaways from the program was the importance of making connections in her classes, in field placement, and outside of her classroom. Since being part of the Early Childhood Program, she has had the opportunity to listen to many guest speakers that ranged from religious leaders to faculty at the University.

Kendrick has come to know that as a Georgia College student within the College of Education (COE), she is able to reach out to these people for support, ask questions, and have a good conversation. During her student-teaching experience, Kendrick has met families, teachers, and faculty who will help her academic and career endeavors whenever requested. The students she has taught, regardless of the length of time, have also been extremely influential on her teaching practices.

Kendrick is a native of Kennesaw, Georgia and is expected to graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education in May of 2023. After college, she plans to start a career in the field of environmental education or become an upper elementary grades school teacher.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS (GAE)

Trivia Social Event

The **GAE Trivia Night** was held on Feb. 10, 2022. Educations majors who attended received GAE membership.





Congratulations to **Markeeta Clayton** for being selected as the first African American, female principal of Northside High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. Ms. Clayton has been an educator for 20 years. She began as a science teacher and moved to an assistant principal position at Baldwin County High School. Clayton is remembered fondly by many Georgia College and State University (GCSU) professors. Dr. Miriam Jordan met Clayton as a first-year teacher at Jasper County Middle School.

"She always did an outstanding job! Since then, she has continued to stand out in the profession," Dr. Jordan said.

Dr. Nancy Mizelle recalls that Clayton served as a Middle Grades Partner Teacher for many years. Dr. Mizelle remarked, "We missed her when she moved to the high school. I am delighted to see her success." Dr. Marcia Peck worked with Clayton during her Ed.S. program and remembered her in this way, "She was an amazing student! She also had a dry sense of humor that she shared as needed. We could always count on her to pipe up with a comment to lighten any situation. She will be an amazing principal!"

Ryan Aquino, a graduate of the Instructional Technology M.Ed. Program, was recently named the head coach of Georgia College Bobcats Men's Basketball. Coach Aquino is the first Bobcat alumnus to take the reins of the basketball program.

"I am thrilled that Ryan Aquino will be leading our Men's Basketball program," said Georgia College Director of Athletics, Wendall Staton. "As our search committee led us through an intense and thorough process, Ryan rose to the top of an outstanding candidate pool. Ryan has a clear and outstanding record of recruiting holistically successful student-athletes to Georgia College. From recruiting to game management, from camps to student-athlete relationships, he has been an integral part of the outstanding culture within our Men's Basketball program. Ryan's impact is felt throughout our program as he knows, lives and exudes the Georgia College culture."

During the 2013-2014 season, Aquino served as a graduate assistant coach for the Bobcats while obtaining his master's degree. Dr. Diane Gregg, Associate Professor of Library Media and Instructional Technology, recalls how he seamlessly incorporated instructional technology both on and off the court!



Allie Doyle graduated from Dr. Stacy Schwartz's Early Childhood Education cohort in 2021. She currently works as a 3rd grade teacher at Cedar Ridge Elementary School in Grovetown, Georgia. In May 2022, Ms. Doyle was selected as the Outstanding First-Year Teacher for Columbia County. Doyle said, "I brag about Georgia College's education program when people congratulate me."

Alumnus of the Year

THIS AWARD IS GIVEN TO GRADUATES WHO HAVE EXCELLED IN A PARTICULAR PROFESSIONAL FIELD, HAVING ATTAINED PROMINENCE AND/OR HAVE HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE STATE, REGIONAL OR NATIONAL LEVEL.



Samantha Fuhrey is currently serving her ninth year as Superintendent of the Newton County School System. She is the first woman to hold the title of superintendent since the inception of the school system over 150 years ago. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, Mrs. Fuhrey was named one of four finalists for

Superintendent of the Year for the state of Georgia. In 2020, she was named Georgia's Superintendent of the Year and one of four national finalists for National Superintendent of the Year. Superintendent Fuhrey was recently recognized by Congressman Hank Johnson with the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia Trailblazer Award. She is also the recipient of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders 2021 Vision Award. Superintendent Fuhrey was recognized by the University of Georgia's Mary Frances Early College of Education when she was awarded the Johnnye V. Cox Award in June, 2020. Maywood University, where Mrs. Fuhrey earned her undergraduate degree, recognized Superintendent Fuhrey with the Distinguished Alumni Award in June 2019. Additionally, Mrs. Fuhrey's exceptional leadership abilities were recognized by the Georgia School Superintendents Association when she was awarded the President's Award in 2016.

Having extensive experience at the executive level, Mrs. Fuhrey previously served as the Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, the Executive Director for Secondary Education, the Director of Secondary Education, and the Director of Professional Learning for the Newton County School System. Mrs. Fuhrey also served as the principal of Indian Creek Middle School in Newton County after having been promoted from the assistant principal position. Prior to her employment with the Newton County School System, Mrs. Fuhrey worked with the DeKalb County School System as an assistant principal and English teacher.

Mrs. Fuhrey earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Marywood University and her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the State University of West Georgia. She added an Education Specialist's Degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia College and State University (GCSU).

Serving on education and community boards is important to Mrs. Fuhrey. As such, she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia School Superintendents Association; The John H. Lounsbury College of Education Leadership Board; Georgia Piedmont Technical College; the Newton County Chamber of Commerce; the Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale Board of Health; the Arts Association in Newton County; Newton County Tomorrow; NAACP; the Newton County Library System, and Griffin RESA. She is also a member of a community steering committee that works to reduce the incidences of domestic violence in Newton County. Mrs. Fuhrey serves as a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council for the Executive Director of the Georgia School Boards Association, the Georgia School Boards Association Rural Community Task Force, the Georgia Education Coalition, and she is also a chartering member of Ford Next Generation Learning Communities' Superintendent's Council. She has served on the State School Superintendent's Innovative Assessment Pilot Task Force.

Mrs. Fuhrey is a certified poverty coach and has served as a Leadership Preparation Performance Coach. She has also completed the Georgia School Superintendents Association's Executive Leadership Program and is trained to serve as a coach to newly appointed superintendents. She has led many presentations throughout the state and across the country including the utilization of cameras in the classroom to impact student achievement and eradicating poverty using a community approach. She has presented at the Georgia Association for Educational Leaders conference, the Georgia School Boards Association conference, the Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors, the Georgia School Superintendent's Association, the WestEd conference, the Alabama Association of School Boards conference, the International Reading Conference and the National Council of Teachers of English conference. Mrs. Fuhrey has conducted workshops on Leadership Development, Teacher Leadership, Poverty Awareness, and School Safety. She has volunteered for many organizations including the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Covington Relay for Life, and Newton County Literacy Volunteers.

When not at work, Mrs. Fuhrey enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter.

Young Alumnus of the Year

ONLY GEORGIA COLLEGE ALUMNI GRADUATED WITHIN THE PAST 10 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD, ESTABLISHED TO HONOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NOTABLE RECOGNITION IN A PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESS CAREER, AND PROMISE FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS.



Ms. Jessica Chatman is one of three teacher representatives of the Peachtree Charter Middle School Foundation. She is a two-time graduate of Georgia College with a Bachelor's of Science in Middle Grades Education and a Master's of Education in Educational Leadership. Previously, Chatman was a member of the facilities and hospitality committee, and assisted in planning and executing staff morale boosters like attendance breakfast celebrations, the annual holiday party, and spirit weeks. Chatman is in her third year at PCMS as a 6th grade English/ Language Arts teacher.

In addition to being a teacher, she also coordinates the Pride of Peachtree, school-wide Spelling Bee, and Parent University. Chatman is currently the co-department chair for the English/ Languages Art Department, and she has a website dedicated to education students called "Prepare to get Schooled."

Humanitarian Award Recipient

APPROPRIATE CANDIDATES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A HISTORY OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, NOT NECESSARILY IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, THAT RESULTED IN VISIBLE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN HIS OR HER COMMUNITY.



Ms. Jasia Clark attended Georgia College and State University (GCSU) where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2020 with her Bachelor of Science in Special Education. While attending Georgia College, she joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Clark was inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies. She was named the 2020 John H. Lounsbury College of Education Outstanding Student, Outstanding Program Major for Special Education, and received the Outstanding Academic Performance Award. Clark was recognized as the graduating senior who left the biggest impact and legacy in the community and received Georgia College's Eve Puckett Giving Tree Award.

Following graduation, Clark served as an 8th grade teacher at Oak Hill Middle School in Milledgeville, Georgia, while enrolled in graduate school. Last year, Clark earned her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Georgia College and received the College of Education 2021 Humanitarian of the Year.

Clark is the Founder of the L.O.V.E Project. L.O.V.E. stands for Lending Our Voices Everyday and aims to prevent and bring awareness to bullying while empowering youth to use their voice. Currently, Clark serves youth and adults with disabilities part-time as a Virtual Transition Specialist for Daivergent in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, Clark presently serves full time as the Coordinator of Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction at Our World School, serving students with exceptionalities in grades K-12. In her spare time, Clark serves youth in the community as an academic tutor, also specializing in mathematics mastery.

BALDWIN COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Seticia Smith's path to education was a little different from most. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Georgia College and State University (GCSU) in 2010. Although she always had a desire to teach and coach girls' basketball, she ran with psychology.

While an undergrad, she began volunteering at Oak Hill Middle School, assisting with the girls' basketball team. As time quickly passed, she felt her path steer into education; she wanted to do more than just coach. In 2012, Smith received her Master's in Middle Grades Education with a concentration in Math and Science. In 2016, she received her Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership.

Smith has taught at Oak Hill Middle School for eight years, but has been there since she started as a volunteer in 2009. She currently teaches 7th grade math, and works in GC's YES program.

In December of last year, Smith was diagnosed with breast cancer, and although her teaching style may have changed energies, she has remained encouraged as she finds her strength in God. She resigned from being an assistant coach of the high school girls' basketball team and middle

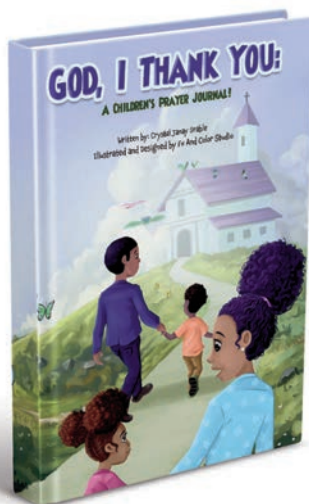
school girls' track team this past school year.

Her advice to anyone who is battling something in their personal life and trying to find their balance while teaching is "to stay encouraged, keep pushing, find your purpose, find what you love and do what you're passionate about. At the end of the day, you want to enjoy and love what you're doing."

This summer, Ms. Seticia Smith, a Baxley, Georgia native, was recognized for her perseverance in teaching by the Milledgeville-Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the Baldwin County Teacher of the Year.

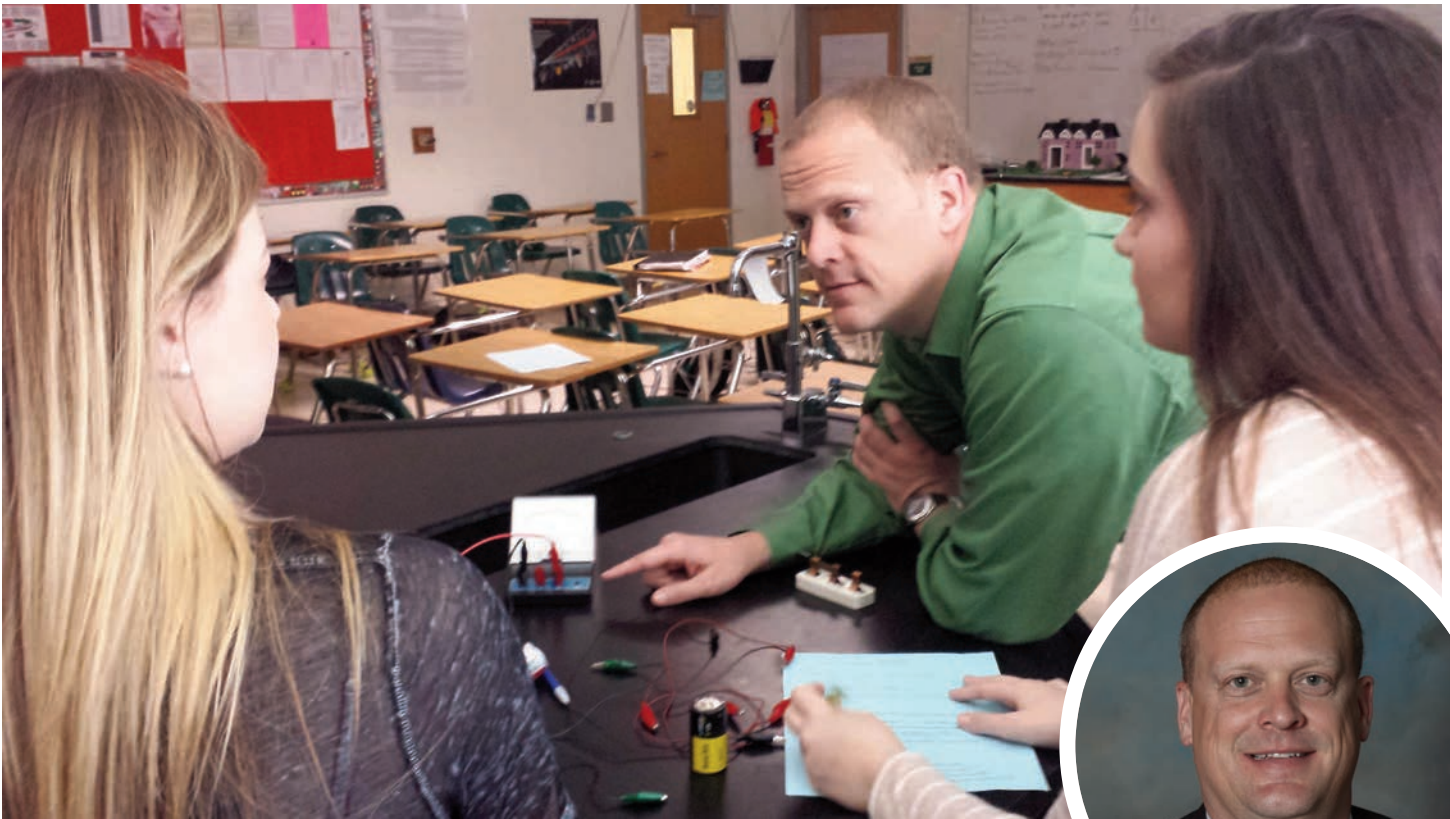


HEALTH TEACHER AND COACH WRITES CHILDREN'S BOOK



Ms. Crystal Grable of Sparta, Georgia has been a health teacher, basketball and track coach at Oak Hill Middle School for three years. Shortly after receiving her Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science with a minor in Education in 2011, she was encouraged by a relative to become an educator. She avoided the education field for a while before heeding the call. In 2020, she received her Master of Arts in Teaching degree with a major in Kinesiology/Physical Education from Georgia College and State University (GCSU). Her longstanding desire to write a children's book and her later pursuit to become a teacher aligned as she went on to write "God, I Thank You: A Children's Prayer Journal."

ALUMNUS USES EDUCATION TO BUILD A SCIENTIFICALLY-INFORMED SOCIETY



Brian Butler, '07, '13, always loved science and the weather. When he was young, Butler recalls looking out the window just waiting for the first snowflakes to fall. If there was a storm, he was glued to the window, watching the lightning strike. Later, as a meteorology student at the University of Oklahoma, he was a storm chaser.

"If you love weather, there's no other place on earth that displays the incredible power of nature like a thunderstorm in Oklahoma," he said. "I think that solidified my passion in weather and science."

Now, Butler's experienced the best of both worlds. He became a meteorologist with the United States Air Force, then decided to pursue a career in teaching science. So, he researched the different ways to do that in Georgia. He visited Georgia College and State University (GCSU) to discuss the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program with Dr. Cynthia Alby, faculty director of GC Journeys. "I was impressed with the discussion we had about Georgia College's approach to education," Butler said. "And the MAT degree just seemed like a good fit for me." That day,

Butler came to Georgia College only intending to get questions answered, but left feeling the program was right for him. So, he began to pursue the MAT program with a science emphasis.

The late Dr. Martha Jones, assistant professor of Foundations and Secondary Education, also made quite an impression on Butler. "She brought that practical piece of knowledge to the curriculum," he said. "And it really helped me when I began teaching in 2007 to have had that experience of seeing how what I learned was actually applied. She brought all of it to life."

Another one of his favorite professors was Dr. Melanie DeVore, professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Butler had her for two courses. "She was excellent at making biology very interesting," he said. "She's a plant specialist. I found that rather fascinating, especially since I'm a gardener. And I kept thinking, 'I just learned something new.' She was fantastic."

After teaching science for four years and becoming a finalist for the 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year, he started thinking about pursuing an education specialist degree. "At that point in my career, I was a little more accomplished as a classroom teacher," Butler said.

Dr. Marcie Peck, program coordinator of Teacher Leadership at Georgia College became his guide through the education specialist program for his cohort.

"It really helped me see my role in education beyond the classroom, how it fits into the bigger picture and relating it to how this is my way to make an impact on society as a whole versus just the children in my classroom," he said. Butler found the cohort model worked well for him, since he excelled in collaboration. "The concept that really stands out about my master's and specialist degrees is the cohort model, where we worked together," he said. "It was extremely useful for my development as an educator to see other people's perspectives and work with those who had a different view on things. It really helped me see the world in a broader sense."

Butler achieved a 4.0 in both his MAT and Specialist in Education degrees because he could relate to the topics. "I viewed college as a job, where I only get out of this what I put into it," he said. "I also think the way Georgia College was structured played a role in that most of the courses directly related to my job, so I could see how the coursework benefited me."

When Butler taught, he had children from all different backgrounds with different experiences. "I learned not to approach teaching with just my point of view," Butler said. "Those experiences I had at Georgia College helped me to stop and think, 'Okay, what is the point of view that this child has? Let me understand it from a different perspective to better relate to that child.'"

Today, as the school improvement specialist for science for Bibb County Schools, Butler works with school leaders and teachers to guide them and improve science instruction and learning across the district in kindergarten through 12th grade. He also visits classrooms, meets with content coordinators of other subjects and the Teaching and Learning Department to address overarching issues.

The highlight of his job is getting involved to help solve problems in the classroom. "My absolute favorite thing to do is to go into the classroom and work directly with teachers on whatever they're having an issue with. I just love to help them figure out how to best address a specific topic or how to incorporate a lab activity," he said. "I see the kids with their innate curiosity want to understand the world around them and learn science. This reframes why I do what I do." One of his biggest challenges was transitioning out of the classroom to work with adult learners in the district. "In working with adults, understanding things from different perspectives has become even more important," Butler said. "I remember in our education specialist program at Georgia College, we collaborated on assuming everyone is approaching a problem with good intentions. And the reason they have a different perspective is because they've had different experiences. That's really helped me in my profession."

As a result, Butler reevaluates his own bias and considers that other people have had different experiences, which gives them a different point of view.

"This thought process has been instrumental in helping me work with adult learners,"

he said. "I really feel we can make progress in our society by ensuring we have scientifically literate citizenry and to have a collective voice of science educators who work with children every day, to improve their scientific knowledge and literacy."

At Georgia College, Butler was encouraged by Jones to join state and national professional organizations to extend his instructional reach. "That's why I became involved with the National Science Teaching Association, where I serve as a district director representing science teachers of Alabama, Florida and Georgia," he said. "This is my third year in this position."

He also served for 10 years, as well as president, on the Georgia Science Teachers Association. "One of the biggest things of any professional organization is to help members see the power of collective organization," he said. "I think, regardless of your political affiliations, everyone would agree that science and good critical thought is something that the world could probably use a bit more of."

“I REALLY FEEL WE CAN MAKE
PROGRESS IN OUR SOCIETY BY
ENSURING WE HAVE SCIENTIFICALLY
LITERATE CITIZENRY...”

PROFESSOR PROMOTES CONSERVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

in multifaceted educational series



Photography by Chris Greer



From Cumberland Island to Blood Mountain, Chris Greer, professor of instructional technology, has traversed many of Georgia's iconic landmarks.

A professor by day and photographer any chance he can get, Greer loves landscape photography. Often, he'll set out with friend and co-producer Jason Clemmons to hike and capture atmospheric shots.

It was these experiences, coupled with his educational endeavors for Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB), that inspired Greer to create View Finders. The show airs every Saturday on GPB and follows Clemmons and Greer as they explore distinctive landscapes in Georgia, looking for the perfect shot.

But their enterprise doesn't end there. The pair consult conservational experts and historians along the way to paint a picture of Georgia through treasured landscapes and history. The tribute to Georgia goes so far as to feature music — rock, folk, classical, hip hop — from Georgian musicians.

A Memphis, Tennessee, native, Greer has appreciated Georgia's scenery for more than 15 years and immersed himself in the education of its landscape — the state he now calls his home.

"If, after watching an episode, a viewer appreciates Georgia a little more, learns a little more about their state or are motivated to get up and go out to see something new — someplace they've never seen before, because they want to see something beautiful," Greer said, "then we've succeeded."



▲ **View Finders**, a GPB broadcast television program, is hosted by Chris Greer and co-producer, Jason Clemmons.

Locations like the Okefenokee Swamp, Cumberland Island and Chattahoochee River have already been visited by the duo. Production of season two is already underway, and they want to explore beyond

Georgia by filming at the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Greer's expertise focuses on the use of technology for education. Thus, his program is a real-life example of how anyone, regardless of skill, can use technological

equipment to share important topics for others to comprehend and enjoy.

"Each one of the locations we visit is very important to Georgia," Greer said. "I've always been a big proponent of media, multimedia, education and enhancing access to information through video, audio and photos — beyond text. It allows all types of creative outlets in the classroom. Not only for teachers but to have their students do the same."

The importance of technology in educational settings has grown over time but especially during the pandemic, he said. With the show, he's educating those unfamiliar with precious Georgia terrain, opening discovery to new and exciting forms of expression and communicating the importance of technology in information's delivery.

"Schools that were reluctant to embrace technology realized how important it can be when situations change rapidly," Greer said. "I think it's shifted the perception of technology's importance. People are more comfortable with it now, because they've been forced to use it and recognize its value in the world of education."

Now that viewers know how important technology is to access information, the hosts don't stop there. Along the way, they share photographic and compositional knowledge while empowering the viewer to use their own technology to do the same.

"We didn't have a team of experts who came along to help with all of it," he said. "It shows that anyone with training, comfort and access to tools, like a camera, can create something really professional."

The GPB show can be viewed on TV or online.

"These places are unique, they're beautiful, they're special, and they've been around a long time," Greer said. "I would hate to see anything change that. I want my children to enjoy Cumberland Island, Okefenokee Swamp and Blood Mountain in the exact same way I've been able to."

► Greer's book, *Naturally Georgia: From the Mountains to the Coast*, was published on July 1, 2022





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