



Bobcat CALENDAR

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Tuesday

13

Noon-1 p.m. Online GCSU Alumni LifeLong Learning Series on "Crafting Compassion in Chaos." Register at <https://cpe.gcsu.edu/gcsu/course/course.aspx?C=1180&pc=6&mc=112&sc=0>.

Wednesday

14

Noon to 8 p.m. GCSU Softball vs. Erskine College doubleheader at Peeler Complex, W. Campus.

Thursday

15

4:30-5:30 p.m. Zoom discussion on Flannery O'Connor's letters from 1960. Register at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4199a0b6a9a04b4b93d7295466f4e31c>.

7-9 p.m. Battle of the Bobcats with bands and artists competing for a chance to perform at the Spring Concert, at Student Activities Center.

Friday

16

3 p.m. GCSU Alumni Homecoming Parade Watch Party on Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion lawn.

3-9 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. University of Tampa at John Kurtz Field, W. Campus.

6-8:30 p.m. GCSU Alumni Awards Ceremony at Student Activities Center.

Saturday

17

9 a.m.-4 p.m. GCSU's Sixth Annual Day of Percussion: Workshop with Masterclasses and Clinics at McComb Building. Register at <https://bit.ly/GCSUDayofPercussion24>.

Noon-6 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. University of Tampa, doubleheader at John Kurtz Field, W. Campus.

1-8 p.m. GCSU Men's and Women's Basketball vs. Lander at Centennial Center.

GCSU's online graduate programs rank in nation's top 100

Georgia College & State University's online nursing program recently ranked first in the state and tied for No. 28 nationally in the "Best Online Programs" rankings by U.S. News & World Report.

Only three schools from Georgia ranked in the top 100 on U.S. News & World Report's list of best online nursing programs.

The online graduate programs offered by Georgia College in business, criminal justice and education all ranked in the top 100 overall against other programs across the nation.

"The School of Nursing at Georgia College & State University continues to attract the best and brightest students at every level from bachelor's to master's to our Doctor of Nursing practice," said Georgia College President Cathy Cox.

"Our online graduate degrees in nursing provide even more students access to our talented and dedicated faculty and assure that working nurses can pursue advanced degrees with convenience. Our ranking as No. 1 in the state is well deserved," Cox said

Two programs from Georgia College's J. Whitney Bunting College of Business and Technology are also highly-ranked. The online Master Degree in Business (non-MBA) is second only to the University of Georgia statewide and No. 43 on U.S. News & World Report's overall list.

Georgia College and UGA are the only two schools in Georgia to rank in the top 100 on U.S. News & World Report's list.

The Georgia College online MBA is No. 94 nationally and second in Georgia.

Again, Georgia College was one of only two schools in the state to rank in the top 100 for online MBA



programs.

"These rankings speak to the superb quality and innovative spirit of our faculty," said Dr. Micheal Stratton, dean of the College of Business and Technology.

"They consistently deliver a student-centered, highly engaging learning experience for working professionals and emerging leaders," Stratton said.

Two other graduate programs round out Georgia College's top 100 rankings: the online Criminal Justice program at No. 61 nationally, third in Georgia; and the

online Master of Education at No. 100 in the nation and top 10 in the state.

The online education graduate program at Georgia College made significant gains in the rankings since last year, climbing to the top 100 from No. 132.

"These rankings are another indicator that our accessible and affordable graduate programs are of the highest quality," said Dr. Holley Roberts, associate provost for Academic Affairs and director of the Graduate School.

"These programs remain innovative and forward-looking to anticipate the needs of maturing professionals in all sectors represented by the rankings," she added.

U.S. News & World Report designates Georgia College as a "Regional University South" institution, in a geographic area that includes a dozen Southern states.

According to U.S. News, "Regional Universities offer a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's programs" and limited doctoral programs.

Among Georgia's other regional South public institutions, Georgia College is No. 1 for its online Master of Business, online MBA and online Criminal Justice programs – in addition to being the No. 1 online graduate nursing program among all Georgia institutions, both public and private.

U.S. News & World Report is a multi-platform publisher of news and information, which includes www.usnews.com, as well as the digital-only U.S. News Weekly magazine.

U.S. News publishes annual print and e-book versions of its authoritative rankings of Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools and Best Hospitals.

Grant-funded program improves diversity in research, encourages careers in biomed



At Georgia College & State University, a three-year program is in motion to provide underrepresented minority students access to research and mentorship in the biomedical field.

The Diversity in Cancer Research Institutional Development Grant, funded by the American Cancer Society, encourages students to join research activities, attend graduate school and either pursue careers in research or the biomedical workforce.

"The goal is to address the lack of diversity in the biomedical workforce by first engaging students early on in their educational pursuit," said co-investigator of the program and associate professor of public health, Dr. Ernie Kaniñjing. "By giving them the opportunity to participate in research and be mentored, we hope they will be pursuing careers, leading them into biomedical research."

Initially the grant was offered to the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, but the school extended the program to Georgia College through a collaboration.

"We're having our students interact with graduate students at Morehouse," Kaniñjing said. "They're benefitting from seeing other students, role models not much older than them, pursuing research or a master's program."

"They can ask them questions, learn from them and see what it looks like to pursue something like this at the gradu-

ate school level," he said.

The Diversity in Cancer Research program began this summer, providing mentorship to four students under the guidance of Kaniñjing and Dr. Damian Francis, assistant professor of public health and co-investigator.

To help them focus on their studies, program participants received a \$2,000 stipend from the American Cancer Society.

Over the summer, chemistry and psychology graduate Brittany Jones, '23, with senior public health majors Jasmine Harrison, Justine Savizon and Christine Hughes, trained to develop their research competencies.

Fine tuning questions, collecting data, conducting and analyzing research, communication and career development were the focuses of their first year.

Jones wants to be a behavioral scientist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and she thinks this

experience set her up for that future. Now at Emory University for her master's in public health, it would seem the program is already a success.

"I have noticed that I am very rare in that I got a lot of research experience in my undergrad at Georgia College," Jones said.

"Reading research papers and doing your own writing is very new to my classmates. I was very lucky that I got that experience firsthand," she said.

After developing their concept and conducting research, students presented their work twofold. In July at a one-day symposium in Opelika, Alabama, and a second time in October at the American Cancer Society Atlanta forum.

"To see them capture what they learned during the course of those eight weeks and present that poster at an academic event was really gratifying," Kaniñjing said.

GCSU's new workforce readiness program will prep high schoolers for local jobs

In the Middle Ages, youth were matched with master craftsmen through apprenticeships. Employers received inexpensive labor, while molding and training an upcoming workforce.

Similarly, Georgia College & State University, in collaboration with the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce, is launching a new Workforce Readiness Program.

It will connect businesses with high school seniors who want to stay in Milledgeville and find local employment.

A Zoom information session for business owners to learn about the program was held last week.

"If you're a high school student standing at the intersection of 441 looking down Columbia Street, what do you see as a job opportunity? Running a cash register and selling fries, right? Milledgeville is so much more than that," said Angela Criscoe, executive director of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at Georgia College.

"We want to match a high school student who wants to stay here in Milledgeville with businesses seeking

quality talent. We want to help build a workforce pipeline for local businesses so they can train and mold workers for jobs they need to fill," she said.

The program runs June 3 to July 26 with the ultimate goal of students getting permanent jobs.

Participants are nominated for the program by their Baldwin County High School counselors.

At a career fair April 9, students will get an idea of the types of jobs available this summer.

Local business owners will interview candidates at the fair and, soon after, a committee will determine best matches.

"Sometimes, young employees lack proper job etiquette," Criscoe said. "They don't always have good customer service skills yet or understand how to form relationships with clientele. That's why our program starts with a week of education at Georgia College."

Students will receive instruction from Georgia's Best Workforce curriculum. They'll do team-building activities, listen to guest speakers about leadership and meet local business owners.

Then, students will have the opportunity to work four weeks for a local business, earning a minimum of \$8 an hour. They might work on an assembly line or in human resources. There could be jobs in healthcare, city government, retail, construction, transportation and media groups.

During that time, students will receive valuable coaching, training and job skills—making them stronger candidates for future, full-time employment.

Businesses benefit too with a pool of already-trained job applicants to choose from. To participate, businesses must commit by March 15. There is a commitment fee of \$200 that pays for student instruction and an award ceremony at summer's end. Students will receive a certificate of completion, showing they are workforce ready.

"This is a collaborative effort to connect people," Criscoe said. "This program will develop our youth to be better workers, better thinkers and better citizens. This will help our community grow."

"If we can fill jobs with quality talent, by growing and developing our own workforce," she added, "we're going to have a stronger, local workforce environment."

Business owners can obtain more information about the program from Angela Criscoe at angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu.

Did you know?

Annual mammograms can detect cancer early. With early detection, mammograms can also prevent the need for extensive treatment for advanced cancers and improve chances of breast conservation.

On March 5, you can take advantage of the opportunity to have a mammogram completed in 15 minutes, right on the GCSU campus in the privacy of the traveling mammogram mobile. The mobile unit has been affectionately nicknamed the "Pink Baby!"

Quantum Radiology accepts most major insurance plans, so it's not limited to Georgia College & State University insurance plans only.

Participants must be 40 or older and have a primary physician who they've seen in the last 12 months. Clinical results will be provided directly to the participant and their primary care physician. Visit this HIPAA secure link to schedule your appointment today: <https://gcsu.mymammo.net>.