The online graduate business programs at Georgia College, excluding the MBA, were listed on the 23rd, tied with several other schools (including Georgia Southern University). This ranking assesses master’s level business degree programs that are not MBA programs. Examples include degrees in accounting, finance, insurance, marketing and management. U.S. News & World Report also recognized the online bachelor’s degree offerings at Georgia College ranking them fourth best in the nation and tied with several other schools. According to U.S. News, the vast majority of students enrolled in these ranked programs have earned at least some college credit. They are more likely to be working professionals in their 20s to 40s looking to advance in or change their career then for first-time college students. "Georgia College has always taken pride in providing working professionals a quality online education and experience, and these rankings indicate that others recognize our quality and expertise," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kelvin Brown. "As Georgia's designated public liberal arts university, we will continue to meet the needs of working professionals through our online programs." U.S. News & World Report is a multi-platform, publisher of news and information. U.S. News publishes annual print and book versions of its authoritative rankings of Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools and Best Hospitals.

The 2016 Georgia’s State of the State Poll was conducted by a department for a couple of years before I came here," said McKinney. "The way my parents raised me was to give back, so my choices were teaching, the military or law enforcement," said McKinney. "I chose law enforcement." Since coming to Georgia College about two years ago, McKinney feels like he’s been able to do that in a multitude of ways. "I worked at a central Georgia city police department for 13 years before I came here," said McKinney. "Working in the community atmosphere is so rewarding because I really feel like I can make an impact on students’ lives." McKinney takes the opportunity to educate and form relationships with every student he gets the chance. From hosting DUI programs for fraternities and sororities on campus to teaching first year students in the residence halls about under the influence drinking, he always has one goal in mind. "It's all about keeping people safe. That's why we focus so much on education," said McKinney. Georgia College’s Department of Public Safety not only hosts the Campus Public Safety Desk but also participates in statewide efforts like Click It Or Ticket. While at Georgia Southern University, McKinney decided this year to try to showcase their programs on a larger stage. He put together an application for the Governor’s Challenge Awards hosted by the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. The awards program recognizes outstanding achievements in high-way safety enforcement and education. They honor agencies for the approaches and effectiveness of their highway safety programs. Agencies are evaluated not just for enforcement initiatives, but for innovative problem-solving in their communities, strategic information activities and creating departmental policies that support their traffic enforcement campaign efforts. "We always pull together the numbers and data to report, but our department had never completed an application for the awards," said McKinney. "I just thought that out of our first year, we were recognized as third place in the category of Campus and University Police." For their work with the campus community, the department received a trophy of $3,000, which will be used to further programming efforts in the next year. "Honestly the whole process was fun. We all put in a lot of work, so we are proud of the award," he said. "And to see all in all come together is really great for our department." In the next year, McKinney and the rest of the officers plan to continue to improve the outreach and programs on campus with the hopes of moving up another notch in Governor’s Challenge Awards. But it’s just about the awards. In the end the main goal is to make a difference in the lives of students, and McKinney continues by spearheading that. "Sgt. McKinney leads the department in providing educational opportunities to our students in academia and other ways to ensure they have personal safety," said Chief Scott Beckner, Department of Public Safety. "He is doing a stellar job in being an ambassador for the university."