

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST ROBERTS
25 APRIL 2025 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. **FACULTY PROMOTION & TENURE** 17 GCSU faculty members recently received promotions with 9 also earning tenure. Congratulations to each of you for your service and dedication to our students and to Georgia College & State University!
 - a. **College of Arts & Sciences**
 - i. Dr. Guy Biyogmam – Promotion to Full Professor
 - ii. Dr. Kerry Evans – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - iii. Dr. Dominic DeSantis – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - iv. Dr. Juli Gittinger – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - v. Professor Matthew Forrest – Promotion to Full Professor
 - vi. Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak – Promotion to Full Professor
 - vii. Dr. Brantley Nicholson – Promotion to Full Professor
 - viii. Dr. Peter Rosado Flores – Promotion to Full Professor
 - ix. Dr. Chika Unigwe – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - x. Dr. Katie Whipple – Promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - b. **College of Business & Technology**
 - i. Dr. Mehrnaz Khalaj-Hedayati – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - ii. Dr. Cullen Wallace – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - iii. Dr. Aric Wilhau – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - c. **College of Health Sciences**
 - i. Dr. Krystal Canady – Promotion to Full Professor
 - d. **College of Education**
 - i. Dr. Kim Muschaweck – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - ii. Dr. Suzanna Roman-Oliver – Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - iii. Dr. Robert Sumowski – Promotion to Full Professor
2. **USG/BOARD OF REGENTS UPDATES**
 - a. The Board of Regents held its April meeting on the campus of Georgia Southern University last week on April 15-16.
 - b. As is customarily the case with the Board's April meeting, following the adjournment of the annual General Assembly session, we received our state funding allocation for the coming fiscal year. I am pleased to tell you that for the first time since before the pandemic, we did not receive a budget cut. At last, the two-year lag in the funding formula worked to our benefit because two years ago our enrollment started bouncing back after the pandemic – and we thus received an increase in our state allocation over the previous year.
 - c. The budget includes funding for 10 new faculty positions, four administrative positions in academic areas and one laboratory assistant. We will also be able to raise student worker wages to \$10/hour, provide an increase for graduate teaching assistant stipends, and adjust the pay structure for our Public Safety Department to meet intense competition in that market – all of which are long overdue. Staff positions will be added in various departments including the School of Continuing

& Professional Studies, Simulation & Translational Research Center, Fraternity & Sorority Life, University Events & Protocol, and Governmental Relations.

- d. We also received the third and final year of funding for the renovation of Herty Hall, which is \$1.4 million for furniture, fixtures and equipment. As you know, the construction phase of that renovation will begin this summer and continue over the next 18 months.
- e. We also received an additional amount of MRR funding from an extra pool that the General Assembly appropriated for the USG. We hope that we will be able to use the additional funds for a much-needed refresh in the Library, to include new carpeting, painting, and furniture updates.
- f. The General Assembly did not provide any COLA funding this year for general state employees, but the Board of Regents decided to allocate a small pool of funding to support merit increases for top performers at each university. When I say small, I mean small. The funds cannot be used for more than 15% of an institution's employees with a maximum increase of 4% to any one employee, and they are leaving it up to each university as to how its allocation is distributed. We were allocated just over \$180,000, which means that only a small proportion of our employees could be awarded the raise. So the Executive Cabinet is in discussions with our HR office as to how this amount can be fairly and appropriately used to recognize truly exceptional performance among a lot of great employees and we'll communicate that further when those plans are developed.
- g. As you may have heard, the Regents also voted to consolidate East Georgia State College into Georgia Southern University. The campus of East Georgia, which is located in Swainsboro, will remain open as an access campus, and the Chancellor said it would be his intention to try and provide more services for students in that area through the campus under the Georgia Southern banner.
- h. The Regents voted to add new Policy Subsection 6.28, which I will include in my report, which required all USG institutions to develop and implement "policies or procedures that govern the ethical, responsible, and secure use of artificial intelligence (AI) in academic contexts. This ensures consistent standards and best practices throughout the system while permitting institutional flexibility to meet specific needs and circumstances."
- i. The Chancellor noted that the USG staff tracked 304 bills during the legislative session that would have had an impact on the USG's operations; very few passed both Chambers to make it to the Governor's desk, but the Chancellor noted that all of the bills remain alive for next year's session and cautioned that we "have to be aware of the mindset of the Legislature" in how we are operating. He went on to remind presidents that "there will be accountability" and "we expect what we expect."
- j. The Chancellor also said in his remarks that the USG has a renewed "emphasis on showing up," now that Covid is over, referring to his frequently expressed posture that remote work should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances that benefit the institution. The Chancellor also expressed his expectation that when families call campus offices on Friday afternoons, we are there to answer their calls. The

CHROs have been in a 3-day workshop this week to further discuss these personnel issues and we'll be hearing more about them soon.

3. **CAMPUS UPDATES**

- a. **Executive Searches** We have both of our dean searches underway - Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Dean of the College of Business & Technology. Thank you for your participation thus far. Please remember to complete the feedback forms following each interview as your feedback is important.
- b. **The Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO)** position is now posted - https://careers.hprod.onehcm.usg.edu/psc/careers/CAREERS/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_SCHJOB_FL&Action=U.
- c. Soon we will be kicking off the searches for our next Vice President for Finance and Administration and Associate Vice President / General Counsel.

4. **SAVE THE DATES**

- a. **Midnight Breakfast**
Monday, May 5, 2025
9:45 p. m. - The MAX
- b. **Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies:**
Centennial Center
May 9 & 10, 2025

College of Health Sciences	Friday, May 9, 2025 at 2:00 PM
Speaker: Dr. Joy L. King, '09, '15, '17, Nursing/Healthcare Management and Provider	
College of Education	Friday, May 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Speaker: Hon. Nathan Deal, Former Governor of Georgia	
College of Business & Technology	Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM
Speaker: Mr. Cade Joiner, Founder of Shred-X Corporation and Member of the Board of Regents	
College of Arts & Sciences	Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Speaker: Mr. Christopher Eby, Attorney, King & Spalding	

5. **THANK YOU!** My thanks to all our faculty and staff for their commitment to our students, and to the upkeep and operation of our campus, every single day. You've all worked so hard to make this another incredible year at Georgia College! Thank you and best wishes for the summer months ahead!

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. **BOR UPDATES**

- i. The BOR approved [Board Policy 6.28 Artificial Intelligence in Academic Contexts Policy](#) at its recent meeting on April 16, 2025. The policy must be fully implemented by October 1, 2025.
- ii. The BOR also expanded the approved TCSG-USG Course Transfer Chart including 10 new courses. Georgia College adheres to the TCSG-USG Transfer Chart and only accepts those approved courses.

- b. **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS** GCSU has engaged in the

National Institute for Student Success (NISS) at Georgia State University Diagnostic Process. This review involves a Diagnostic Review and provides a Playbook for addressing barriers to student success. The diagnostic portion will consist of gathering a variety of data including surveys and a focus group. The timeline for completion will be October 2025.

- c. **IRB PORTAL** As of May 1, 2025, the current IRB Portal will no longer be accessible to faculty, staff or students. This will have no effect on currently approved projects, which may continue implementation as planned. However, new projects, extension projects, and project closures will now be submitted through D2L using the “IRB Portal – GCSU Institutional Review Board” course. First-time users will need to self-enroll in the course to gain access to the new IRB Portal. All directions and instructions required for submitting an IRB application or extension can be found on the course homepage. Principal Investigators should take time to carefully review the homepage and accompanying documents. Expedited, Exempt, and Full Applications, along with all associated forms have been updated to be aligned with current Federal Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator(s) to ensure any submitted application is complete and comprehensive.
 - d. **DEAN SEARCHES** The College of Business & Technology and College of Arts & Sciences searches are at the stage of on campus interviews for both searches. Candidates will be on campus all next week. Please watch Front Page very closely for the times and locations of open forums. Your participation is critical for these important leadership positions.
 - e. **UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS** May 1, 2025 is the deadline for Fall 2025 Freshman to complete their deposit to the university and housing deposit. Currently, we have a record number of applications of more than 8,600.
 - f. **HERTY RENOVATION** is moving forward and a communication was sent to the University community on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 with further details of the upcoming transition.
2. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**
- a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
 - i. **Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences**
 - 1. 6 undergraduate students won presentation and/or travel awards at regional scientific meetings and 11 graduate students won presentation and/or travel awards at regional scientific meetings; that included local and state awards.
 - 2. Brady Bennett, Lab coordinator, was awarded the Individual Service Excellence Award this year at the GCSU Celebration of Excellence Ceremony
 - 3. Faculty were awarded funding for 2 research projects
 - 4. 11 peer reviewed publications were published by faculty
 - ii. **Department of English**
 - 1. Professor Peter Selgin and Dr. Chika Unigwe were finalists for Georgia’s Townsend Prize for Fiction
 - 2. Dr. Sidonia Serafini received a 2024 NEH Summer Stipend Award

3. Dr. Kerry Neville is an invited speaker at University of Limerick's Creative Writing Festival
4. Dr. Emily Pucker was elected president of the Georgia and Carolinas English Association
5. Seven faculty presented at national and international conferences
6. Five faculty had journal or anthology publications
7. MFA student Serena Kerkstra was awarded an Associated Writing Programs Intro Journals Award for her short story "Used Books" which will be published in Puerto del Sol journal. The AWP Intro Journals Project is a literary competition for the discovery and publication of the best new works by students currently enrolled in [AWP member programs](#). This is a national award with typically 15 emerging writers selected annually.

iii. **Department of Psychological Sciences**

1. The Psychology Department has had an outstanding spring semester marked by strong student engagement in research with national and regional conference participation.
2. A total of 38 MURACE award letters were sent out to students traveling to the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) annual meeting (April 9-12), reflecting a robust commitment to undergraduate research in the discipline.
3. In addition, four psychology students were selected for MURACE funding to attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR April 7-9), comprising two-thirds of all students funded by MURACE for NCUR participation this year.
4. On campus, Psychology also had a significant presence at Research Day (April 15), with an estimated 30–35 presentations and approximately 90 student presenters from the department.

- iv. **Department of Philosophy, Religion, & Liberal Studies** The department received a \$4000 gift from Dr. Jasvant Modi, to hold a Vegan Fest at Georgia College. At the Vegan Fest held at the University Banquet Room about one hundred students, faculty, staff and community members enjoyed a sumptuous vegan meal provided by Sodexo. In addition to sampling a range of vegan foods from East Asia, Mexico, India and the Mediterranean, attendees heard short presentations on topics such as Veganism and the concept of Ahimsa; Veganism's role in Sustainability; and Veganism and Nutrition.

b. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

i. **Faculty Searches**

1. Two Assistant Professor of Foundations, Curriculum, and Instruction positions (one position with a start date of August 2025, the other starting January 2026)
2. Assistant Professor of Reading, Literacy, and Language (August 2025)

- ii. **SchoolSims**, software that provides simulation-based experiential learning for educators and administrators, is being integrated into curriculum with graduate students in the Department of Professional Learning & Innovation.
 - iii. **Senior Send-Off** On Monday, May 5th, Senior Send-Off will celebrate achievements of senior teacher candidates.
 - iv. **Sensory Room** The creation of a Sensory Room in Kilpatrick was completed this month and will be available for use by students, staff, and faculty in fall 2025. The space will provide a calm, comfortable environment for educational and wellness purposes.
- a. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
- i. **Mobile Health Unit** We have operationalized the mobile health unit this year and have attended 8 events with the unit performing over 100 screenings including one women's health preventive screening in conjunction with Atrium's mobile mammography unit.
 - ii. **Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship Program** We have 7 additional middle Georgia students who have been admitted into our nursing program on the Lettie Pate Whitehead scholarship program expansion, bringing the total to 28 students in the program.
 - iii. A new **Simulation and Translational Research Center** has been designed and renovations to the space ongoing for a target date of relocating the center in July of this year.
- b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**
- i. **Annual Alumni Giving Challenge** The CoBT had 118 individual donations and raised over \$19,700 in the Annual Alumni Giving Challenge!
 - ii. **Atkinson Honors Day** The CoBT held its annual Atkinson Honors Day on April 3 where students, faculty, and staff were recognized for their achievements. Liam Baldwin, BS Economics, was selected as the Outstanding CoBT student for 2025.
 - iii. **Baseball Tailgating** On Friday, April 18, CoBT faculty and staff enjoyed tailgating before the GC baseball game as they watched GC take on Columbus State.
 - iv. **Faculty Searches** The CoBT is currently conducting 10 faculty searches.
 - v. **Summer Research and Teaching Grants** Dr. Ania Rynarzewska and Dr. Heather Patterson were selected to receive CoBT summer research grants. Dr. Whitney Ginder and Dr. Mary Rickard were selected to receive CoBT summer teaching grants.
- c. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
- i. **Commencement Program Collection** In honor of Spring Commencement, Special Collections invites visitors to view our online Commencement Program collection. Programs included range from 1892 to 2019 (with some exceptions). The collection is available at: <https://kb.gcsu.edu/commencements/index.9.html>.

- ii. **Finals Week Hours** In support of finals, between May 5-8, the library will the 2nd and 3rd floors of the library will be open from 8:00 a. m. - 2:00 a. m.
 - iii. **Student Exhibits** The library is currently hosting the following student exhibits:
 - 1. On the 3rd Floor -Have You Seen That Zine?, by Sandra Trujillo's ARTS1200 2D Design class
 - 2. On the 2nd Floor - Head Sculpture Exhibit, Sandra Trujillo's ARTS3510 Ceramics II class
 - 3. Also on the 2nd Floor are two Museum Studies Exhibits from Megan McNaught's ARTS3400 Museum Stds II: Exhibit Design course
 - a. A Deeper Look Into Minerals
 - b. Southern Hospitality, Unspoken Realities
 - 4. In collaboration with Evan Leavitt and Special Collections & Galleries, Sidonia Serafini's BLST 2010 Introduction to Black Studies: Archives + Public History (C-bEL) Spring 2025 class is crafting a student-curated exhibit that engages with the library's Rare Books Collection and digital archival resources to curate a thought-provoking exhibit centered on slavery and freedom in Georgia and the broader United States for future installation in the Rare Book Room, Russell Library,
3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
- a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
 - i. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** was April 14 – 18, 2025.
 - ii. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** To provide more opportunities for graduate students interested in attending professional conferences in July and August, the Graduate Research Travel Grant Committee recommended increasing the number of travel grant cycles from two to three, with the first cycle beginning in August, the second in October, and the third in January. This recommendation was approved by the Director of The Graduate School and will take effect in Fall 2025.
 - iii. **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards** A total of 19 nominations were submitted for this year's Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards. The OGA Awards Committee selected six recipients based on the established criteria. Graduate Assistants in graduate programs in Accountancy, Biology, MIS, and Health and Human Performance, received awards.
 - iv. **Research Day 2025** There were a total of 39 graduate student submissions, with a total 76 presenters.
 - b. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
 - i. **Honors College**
 - 1. In collaboration with MURACE, the Honors College brought Kevin Morris ('17, Economics and History) to serve as keynote speaker for the Research Day Kickoff Event on Tuesday, April 15.

On Research Day itself, Mr. Morris joined Dr. David Snow ('86, Marketing), Prof. Holly Croft, and Dr. Damian Francis in a "Careers-in-Public-Service" panel discussion moderated by Dr. Harold Mock.

2. At the Research Day Kickoff Event, six Honors students were also recognized as recipients of Saladin Scholarships: Katie Cooper ('26 Political Science & Philosophy), Isabella Dattilio ('25 Chemistry), Avery Halseth ('27 Biology), Sydney Irons ('26 Environmental Science), Sam Paton ('26 Political Science & Criminal Justice), and Caleb Rogers ('26 Biology & Spanish).
3. The Honors Awards & Graduation Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 PM in Magnolia Ballroom.

c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

- i. **Academic Outreach** Ruth Eilers, Director of Academic Outreach, won the Eve Puckett Community Service award at the 2025 Celebration of Excellence Awards. Nancy Finney, Staff Council Chair, wrote, "Ruth is an all-around life-saver, scientist, and educator committed to service. She truly exemplifies the heart and spirit of service at Georgia College. "
- ii. **Adult Learner Services** Information Session for working paraprofessionals seeking a B. S. in Special Education, Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p. m. via ZOOM. [Register Now](#).
- iii. **Afterschool Achievement**
 1. The High Achievers Program in collaboration with OGSP, submitted a \$200,000 proposal for FY26 to the Georgia Department of Human Services on 4/21/25 which if funded, will provide services for Baldwin County high school participants grades 9-12, part time employment for up to two GCSU students, and service-learning opportunities for GCSU students for up to two years.
 2. The High Achievers and YES Programs are gearing up for summer programs to occur at Midway Hills Academy and Oakhill Middle School from June 2-30. Collectively, the programs will provide free services to approximately 300 Baldwin County students.
 3. YES Programs at Lakeview Academy and Oak Hill Middle School are concluding several spring collaborative opportunities with GCSU Programs including GC Journeys and the College of Education. Afterschool Achievement provided approximately 20 site placements for GCSU Pre-EDUC 2120 students to complete observations, supported over 50 hours of direct service for GC Journeys students, and hired two GCSU students as tutors.
- iv. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County** CISMBC was awarded \$8,500 by the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to support a neighborhood leader program in Oconee Heights neighborhood. This program will help strengthen the relationship between Baldwin County School District and residents of Oconee Heights.
- v. **Continuing & Professional Education**

1. CPE is now offering a variety of [Safety Courses](#). Departments and organizations that would like to arrange a group safety course can contact Angie Woodham at angie.woodham@gcsu.edu
 - a. Currently scheduled: [Home Alone Safety Measures](#)
 - b. Upcoming: Heart Saver First Aid, CPR & AED, I Am My Sibling's Keeper
2. Summer Camp registration is open!
 1. [Kids' U](#)
 2. [Specialty Camps](#) (options for rising 3rd - 12th grade students)
 3. [Athletic Camps](#)
 4. [Band Instrument Repair Academy](#) (8-session workshop to learn the basic mechanical and technical functions of each instrument and the tools needed to complete repairs)

vi. **Historic Museums**

1. Andalusia participated in a campus-wide initiative to celebrate Flannery O'Connor's 100th birthday celebration, which unveiled O'Connor's artwork in two different exhibits. The birthday week activities brought hundreds of people to the Andalusia farm to celebrate her legacy.
2. An oral history interview was conducted with Susan Fenwick to have a greater understanding of her friendship with Lousie Florencourt.
3. The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) conducted a site visit to assess our preservation practices. Their report is forthcoming.
4. Approximately 230 guests and 50 musicians participated in April's Music at the Mansion event which extended beyond planned hours.
5. In collaboration with the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Art, the Sallie Ellis Davis House's WWI-era recruitment poster for African American soldiers was scanned by a digital spectrometer to determine the various components of the object. A student within the art department created a replica via a printmaking process. To see the story visit <https://frontpage.gcsu.edu/node/21219>
6. An oral history interview was conducted with Sandra Flagg, whose mother attended school with Sallie Ellis Davis as a teacher.

4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

- i. The **Office of Admissions** has received a record number of new student applications for the third straight year. As of April 21, 2025, 8,682 applications have been received for Fall 2025, a 5% increase over last year.
- ii. The **Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships** collaborated with Bobcats First to host a Financial Literacy Workshop on April 17, 2025, in Donahoo Lounge from Noon to 2:00. This workshop allowed students to gain

valuable insight on budgeting, saving, and managing money through expert-led presentations while also enjoying an ice cream bar, making vision boards and visiting department tables for valuable information.

iii. **Office of Graduate Admissions**

1. Graduate Admissions applications have increased by 126 students for the Summer 2025 term and by 116 students for the Fall 2025 term compared to the same period last year.
2. The Office of Graduate Admissions has completed the initial phrasing for communication plans targeting students who have not yet finished their applications.
3. New Graduate Student Orientation for summer term is scheduled for May 3, 2025.

iv. **Office of Student Success & Career Development**

1. On April 18, the Office of Student Success and Career Development facilitated a student site visit to PruittHealth – Peake in Macon, GA. The visit included a presentation on PruittHealth’s mission, workplace culture, and current and future employment opportunities. Students also had the chance to network with PruittHealth leadership and tour the facility to gain a deeper understanding of the healthcare environment.
2. The Office of Student Success and Career Development will host the Hajoca Team on campus on April 30th for an exciting career engagement opportunity. With over 450 locations, Hajoca is the nation’s largest privately held wholesale distributor of plumbing, heating and air-conditioning, industrial pipes-valves-fittings, pool and waterworks supplies for residential, commercial, industrial and infrastructure construction. They are a new employer partner actively recruiting for several roles, including interns, management trainees, and sales and leadership trainees. During their visit, Hajoca team members will meet with students to offer personalized résumé reviews, provide interview preparation support, and share valuable career development tips.

v. **Registrar’s Office**

1. Spring Commencement will be held on Friday, May 9 and Saturday May 10. There will be four combined graduate/undergraduate ceremonies, one for each college. Faculty should arrive at the line up area near the swimming pool at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony; for security purposes, faculty must enter the building through the swimming pool corner door. Any faculty member who needs accommodations to participate should contact the registrar at kay.anderson@gcsu.edu as soon as possible. Additional information for graduates, families, faculty, and staff is available at <https://www.gcsu.edu/registrar/spring-commencement>
2. Spring Final Grades are due by Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM. The Spring term requires particularly prompt processing

since the Summer term starts before the grade deadline. The green “completed” indicator in the grading status column will confirm that faculty have successfully entered their grades for each class; academic department staff can also confirm completion.

Additional information will be distributed by the Registrar.

3. Summer No-Show Reports for summer classes must be submitted by the second class day of each part-of-term. This applies to all courses: graduate and undergraduate, in person and online.
4. Summer Semester will include holidays on two scheduled class days. Summer classes that would have met on Memorial Day (Monday, May 26) will have a make-up day on Friday, May 30. Classes that would have met on Juneteenth (Thursday, June 19) will have a make-up day on Friday, June 27.

b. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS**

i. **Conference Presentations**

1. GCSU showcased nine presentations at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) held in Pittsburgh, PA, from April 7-9, 2025. This included six student presentations and three faculty-mentored sessions. Students from the Departments of Chemistry and Psychological Science delivered both posters and oral presentations, demonstrating GCSU's commitment to research excellence.
2. Additionally, GCSU students received funding from MURACE to present their research at several conferences, including
3. 7 students presented at the Pittcon in Boston, MA, from March 1-5, 2025
4. 8 students presented at the 86th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists, held from March 12-15, 2025, in Myrtle Beach, SC.
5. 39 students presented at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, April 9-12, 2025, in Atlanta, GA.

ii. **Research Day 2025**

1. GCSU's 3rd Annual Research Day took place on April 16, 2025. The event celebrated student scholarship and creative endeavors, featuring over 250 presentations across a wide range of academic disciplines. It featured 110 poster presentations in the Magnolia Ballroom and 121 oral presentations held in classrooms across the campus. Other contributions were from the Women's & Gender Symposium, bringing the total number of presentations to an impressive 254, which included 38 graduate projects and 216 undergraduate projects.
2. Across the two days, April 15 and 16, the event also included an Honors Keynote address and a Civic Service Panel. It further offered other opportunities for student showcases, such as the Writing Center Poster Competition and the Career Center's 3-in-3

Competition. To celebrate the students' remarkable accomplishments, the campus community gathered for a barbecue lunch on the Front Campus.

c. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- i. **Carnegie Classification** In collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and the Office of Community Engagement & Service, the Re-Classification Application for the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement was submitted. This application is for the continuation of the original classification awarded in the 2015.
- ii. **Leadership Programs**
 1. On Friday, 11 April 2025, Georgia College Leadership Programs hosted the annual Leadership Ideas Festival. The Georgia College Leadership Ideas Festival brings together the brightest minds from across our state for a days-long discussion of creative ideas and public leadership. The festival showcased the exciting and innovative work of Georgia College's faculty, fellows, and students in our commitment to leadership and the public good.
 2. On Wednesday, 23 April 2025, the Georgia Education Mentorship Program hosted its thirtieth Spring Reception & Dinner, co-hosted with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. A one-of-a-kind partnership between Georgia College & State University and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the GEM Program prepares the next generation of Georgia's leaders for the public good.
- iii. **The Learning Center**
 1. Tutoring and support will continue through Finals for STEM and most econ classes.
 2. Summer academic support will be provided for in-person and online courses in STEM and econ and finance.
 3. Over 60 SI leaders are in place and training for Fall '25 to partner with 100+ sections and over 3500 seats.
 4. Faculty requests for Excel Bootcamp and Algebra Review Workshops are open until the end of the semester.
- iv. **Writing Center** Writing initiatives for the coming year, led by the Writing Center Director and Writing Studies Faculty include the following: Integrating writing support into the HIPS Institute for the first time and beginning a Writing-Enriched Curriculum approach (championed by our HIPS Institute kickoff speaker Chris Anson). Both efforts will pilot evidence-based, faculty-driven approaches to enhance writing at the course and programmatic/departmental levels

5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

a. **CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING**

- i. **Instructors** If you know you want to have instructors added to your summer or fall courses, please start that process now to save time and get a jump on your planning. Contact CTL for more information.
- ii. **SRIS** is now open for students to complete their surveys. Remember that all classes have been marked to be surveyed. Please consider setting

aside time in class for students to complete their portion. The goal is for the university to have a 65% completion rate.

iii. **Workshops** We have two offerings coming up.

1. Active Learning 101 - 5/13/2025 9 a. m. to 10:30 a. m. & 5/14/2025 3-4:30 p. m.
2. Improve Your Online Course, 5/28/2025 9 to noon and 5/29/2025, 9 to noon.
3. Please contact the CTL to find out more and to register.

b. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE & LITERACY**

- i. **Literacy Coaches** The General Assembly included \$2,028,970 in the state budget to the Deal Center for establishing competency-based standards and evaluation for Georgia's literacy coaches.
- ii. **Community Coalition Grant** We have sent award letters to sixteen Community Coalition Grant recipients in FY25 totaling \$248,860. This represents a 71% increase in total applications compared to last year and our highest number of applications since the grant was first awarded in 2018.
- iii. **Georgia Preschool Conference** The Deal Center exhibited at the Georgia Preschool Conference in Atlanta and attended the Georgia Conference on Children's Literature at UGA.
- iv. **Sponsorships** The Deal Center kicked off sponsorships for the 2025 Governor's Summit and already has one Platinum sponsor and one Silver sponsor, with others in process.