



The Sallie Ellis Davis House

In late 2008, Georgia College & State University (GCSU) President, Dorothy Leland, and Carolyn Thomas, Chair of the Sallie Ellis Davis Foundation, announced that GCSU would be embarking on an exciting partnership to renovate one of Milledgeville's historic homes. The Sallie Ellis Davis House was the former home of a local educator who touched the lives of hundreds of African-American children.

Sallie Ellis Davis was born in Baldwin County, Georgia, in 1877. She was the child of an African-American woman and a native Irish man. Davis attended Atlanta University and returned to Milledgeville to teach at the Eddy School. Davis taught at the neighborhood Eddy School from the late 1890s until her retirement in 1949, serving as principal for 27 years. Through the years Davis taught hundreds of African-American children not only academic lessons, but also valuable life lessons. Many of her students went on to become productive citizens throughout Georgia and beyond. After she died in 1950, Baldwin County recognized her by naming the Sallie Ellis Davis School in her honor. In 2000, Davis was inducted into the Georgia Women of Achievement.

The Sallie Ellis Davis House was built in 1890 and served as Davis' residence from 1912 until her death. The House was used as a residence until 1989, when the Board of Regents purchased it. In 2003, the city of Milledgeville received a grant to pay for an assessment of the House and develop a rehabilitation plan. In October 2008 the House became one of ten sites on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's 2009 Places in Peril. Coinciding with this designation was Georgia College's announcement to form a partnership with the Sallie Davis Foundation – comprised of a group of her former students – to renovate the House and open it as a cultural center.

During the announcement of the partnership President Leland said, "Through this partnership, we will work to preserve the legacy of a great educator who committed herself to nourishing the minds of the community's African-American youth at a time when true equality was still many years off."

This project provides Georgia College with a unique opportunity to build further the relationship between the university and the local community. The renovation and restoration of this historic home will cost some \$379,950. A steering committee has been formed to lead this effort. It is co-chaired by Melanie Cook and Pierre Clements ('86) who are both trustees on the GCSU Foundation.



GCSU Foundation

Georgia College & State University
Campus Box 96
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 445-5400
www.gcsu.edu