

Faculty Excellence Award Application Form



Name: Gita Phelps

Rank: Associate Professor

Department: Information Systems & Computer Science

Award applying for:

(Check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellence in Teaching Award*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellence in Online Teaching Award*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Endeavors Award*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellence in University Service*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellence in Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department/Program Excellence Award^
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Irene Rose Community Service Award^
<input type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Hendrickson McMillian Faculty Award^

*college selection required before being forwarded to university

^university awards

College nominees' final applications received by Center for Teaching and Learning (ctl@gcsu.edu) by March 1.

Please insert the required documentation in the pages below for the award category you have noted above. Detailed information associated with each award is available online at the [Center for Teaching and Learning website](#).

February 25, 2021

Dear Members of the Irene Rose Community Service Award Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Dr. Gita Phelps for the Irene Rose Community Service Award. Dr. Phelps teaches computer science classes for the Information Systems and Computer Science Department in the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business at Georgia College.

Gita Phelps is always willing to volunteer to help where needed. While this is true for the department, college, and institution, it is also true for the community. Dr. Phelps serves as a foster mom. This is not always easy, but she has been a temporary mother to a number of children through the years. In addition to being a foster mother, Gita has used her computer science knowledge to benefit the community.

Dr. Phelps has presented, and encouraged her students to present, timely information on everything from cyberbullying to identity theft to the Baldwin County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association. She has applied her talents to creating a newsletter for her church, Vaughn Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Phelps has also worked with the Unlock Agency in Sparta to offer advice and assistance to high school students who have not previously considered attending college. She serves as a role model to these individuals by being an African American female with a Ph.D. in computer science. Gita also provides mentorship to minority students at Georgia College.

Dr. Phelps has consistently had her software engineering classes write software for non-profit organizations. The students have worked with the Chard Wray Food Pantry, Georgia College Student Night Auxiliary Patrol, and the Youth Challenge Academy, just to name a few, to create free software applications. Working with real organizations takes significant professor time and effort compared to using case scenarios for programming assignments.

I believe that Dr. Gita Phelps is the best choice for the 2021 Irene Rose Community Service Award. It is an honor to add my recommendation to her portfolio. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding her application.

Tanya Goette

Dr. Tanya Goette
Chair and Professor
Information Systems and Computer Science

Narrative Statement from Gita Phelps for the Irene Rose Community Service Award

I am applying for the Irene Rose Community Service Award. A few of the areas where I have served the community include fostering abused children, encouraging youth in schools, providing opportunities for computer science students to share their knowledge and community outreach programs at church.

I grew up in Fort Valley Ga. My mother was a teacher for 32 years and my father served in the US Army. I am the youngest of 3 girls. My home was a place of love, cooperation, respect and positive reinforcement where you were expected to always do your best. My parents were great role models for serving in the community. My father would grow vegetables to give to families in need and my mother served as a surrogate mother in the Peach County School system and held leadership positions on several boards in the community. I was taught from an early age that we must help others that are less fortunate than us.

There are over 400,000 children in foster care in the United States. I have found joy in being a foster parent and have been serving in Milledgeville as a foster mother since 2001. In addition to providing the food, shelter, care, and love good parents would provide for their own kids, I also have to deal with the special psychological needs of each foster child.

It is not surprising that children in foster care usually perform poorly in school. I work closely with the teachers to ensure the kids have an education plan. I tutor them and prepare grade-appropriate study guides for reading and mathematics.

I am a leader in the Baldwin County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association. I have been Vice President and am currently Treasurer. I help organize fundraising activities for the organization. We meet monthly, and I have provided workshops for other foster parents using my expertise regarding computer technology. Several topics I have provided include measures parents can take to keep children from accessing inappropriate material on computers and other mobile devices, information about how to prevent identity theft, cyberbullying and sexting. I have also provided an opportunity for computer science students at Georgia College to improve their oral presentation skills by inviting them to share their knowledge at foster parent meetings.

I usually foster one child at a time so that I can give them individual attention. I expose them to things that they may not be exposed to when they are home. I have reinforced positive behavior with field trips to the Atlanta Zoo, ballet lessons and special nights out where they have attended plays at Georgia College and the Fox Theater in Atlanta.

I know that while providing community service, a person also acquires life skills and knowledge, as well as providing a service to those in need. I encourage my Computer Science students to use their talents to give to the community. Computer Science students in my Software Engineering class have developed software for free for organizations in the community including Chard Wray Food Pantry, American Legion and various departments on campus. Current students are developing software for the Youth Challenge Academy, an alternative high school for students sponsored by the National Guard Youth Challenge program.

I am a member of Vaughn Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and work with the missionaries in outreach. I am also responsible for our church newsletter, The Samaritan. I use the newsletter to keep people in the community informed of happenings in our church and to promote events in the community.

I support various non-profits financially and often speak at workshops to encourage African Americans to pursue a college education. The Unlock Agency in Sparta, GA offers financial assistance and hosts workshops where speakers offer advice to high-school seniors from Hancock County High School. Often these students do not have any family members who have attended college.

My family and I have adopted a classroom at Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support in Hancock County. These are children who have both physical and mental disabilities. We realize that teachers often have to spend their own money to provide material for their students. We support this classroom by purchasing care packages and incentives to encourage the students to do their best every day.

I will always continue to do my best to help others in the community. I don't want to survive this life -- I want to thrive and encourage others to see what is possible.

Gita Phelps



**IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR DEDICATION TO THE LIVES OF THE
CHILDREN IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

February 25, 2020

*Baldwin County Department of Family and Children Services would like to Thank You
for your 19 years of service and assistance in placement of nearly 15 children.*

Gita Phelps

Shakilrah Walker

Shakilrah, CRR Case Manager

<https://frontpage.gcsu.edu/announcement/women-computing-georgia-college-work-local-foster-parents-internet-safety>

frontpage.gcsu.edu/announcement/women-computing-georgia-college-work-local-foster-parents-internet-safety

Women in computing at Georgia College work with local foster parents on internet safety

Parents often worry about the dangers children face every day on the internet. Parental control software can record activities and block unsafe materials while still allowing children to take advantage of the wonderful resources online. Some applications log keystrokes and send email messages. Some things they access can be inappropriate.

Computer science students Virginia Vandyck, Alexandria Valentine and Samantha Carlile researched parental software and shared their findings with the Baldwin County Foster Parent Association. They discussed using the parental control software available by Internet service providers, subscribing to one of the top ten parental control software, Net Nanny for a monthly fee, disabling Safari and installing safe web browsers apps such as Mobicip on mobile devices and setting the restrictions available on iPhones and iPads.

Kari Brown
Coordinator, Business Outreach
kari.brown@gcsu.edu
478-445-1310



Women in computing at Georgia College work with local foster parents on internet safety



GCSU Students Create App for Campus Safety | Schools

Title (Max 100 Characters)

GCSU Students Create App for Campus Safety



Submitted by [Jacqueline Harnevious \(/profile/46189/jacqueline-harnevious/\)](#), 13WMAZ Community Web Producer
Friday, August 19th, 2011, 9:43am

0

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[E-mail \(#\)](#)

Topics: [Schools \(/news/schools\)](#)

With a touch to a smart phone screen, Georgia College students now can request a safety escort for transportation during evening hours.

That's according to a Georgia College and State University news release.

"With the SNAP app, students have instant messaging to SNAP officers and Public Safety disp

The automated and paperless SNAP app also provides pickup and drop off locations, hours of operation and emergency phone numbers students' mobile devices.

Georgia College students designed, developed and implemented the web-enabled SNAP app.

A five-member team of undergraduates and graduate students worked on the project with help from Dr. Gita Williams Phelps, associate professor of computer science.

"The SNAP app was a great opportunity for information systems and computer science students to work together," Phelps said. "Students learned new techniques in programming, collaborating with each other and working with clients."

Additional software sends instant messages from students to drivers' iPads mounted in SNAP carts, bypassing phone calls to dispatchers and freeing public safety phone lines.

"It's much quicker for students and SNAP officers and frees dispatchers for other duties," Williams said. "The program has streamlined the process, eliminating hand logging of the calls by storing the information in the computer system for instant review and daily and weekly reports."

Georgia College created the SNAP Program in 2009 to ensure student safety during evening hours. Begun with student volunteers, SNAP now has seven paid student workers who operate 8 p.m. to midnight Monday and Tuesday and 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

"SNAP services mainly the campus and adjoining property, generating an average of 80 calls a night," Williams said.

SNAP officers answered 1,469 calls escorting 3,206 students during spring semester 2011. Those figures represent a 224 percent increase from the previous year.

The web-enabled app allows for officers to access information from various media, Phelps said.

"The app allows public safety to update information instantly," she said. "This project illustrates how our students' hard work makes them more marketable once they complete their degrees."

SNAP encourages Georgia College students to download the app on their smart phones and desktop computers.

"We asking everyone to use the SNAP app," Williams said. "SNAP and public safety officers will be happy to set up the app for you on mobile devices."

To download the SNAP app visit www.gcsnap.com (<http://www.gcsnap.com/>).

Topics: [Schools \(/news/schools\)](#)

[. \(#\)](#) [. \(#\)](#) [. \(#\)](#) [. \(#\)](#)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/unlockagency/posts/dr-gita-phelps-computer-science-professor-at-georgia-college-state-university-di/1224156554295258/>

facebook.com/unlockagency/posts/dr-gita-phelps-computer-science-professor-at-georgia-college-state-university-di/1224156554295258/

Unlock Agency

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Dr. Gita Phelps, Computer Science Professor at Georgia College & State University, discusses the importance of Professor-Student relationships. #TheUnlockAgency #HancockCounty #SpartaGA

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Kyah Shenee and 2 other friends like this

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Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page. See actions taken by the people who manage and post content.
Page created - June 14, 2014

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Established May 2017

Dr. Gita Phelps, Computer Science Professor at Georgia College & State University, discusses the importance of Professor-Student relationships. #TheUnlockAgency #HancockCounty #SpartaGA

Dr. Gita Phelps, Computer Science Professor at Georgia College & State University, discusses the importance of Professor-Student relationships. #TheUnlockAgency #HancockCounty #SpartaGA

From The Pastor's Desk: Missionary Work

Senior Pastor: Rev. Tony E. Fraley, B Th

Missionary work is the responsibility of all who follow Christ. Members can, by the goodness of their lives and the strength of their testimonies, share the gospel message and help family members, friends, and other acquaintances. Vaughn Chapel "Missionary" Baptist Church was able to bless several residents of the CorrectLife Bostick Nursing Center with suits this Easter.

Matthew 25:35-40:

35 **For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,**
 36 **I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'**

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"

38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?"

39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



If anyone else is interested in donating clothes for residents at CorrectLife Bostick Nursing Center, please see **Rev. Lee Curtis Reeves** or **Missionary Shinholster** for sizes. We ask that any gently-worn donated items be dry-cleaned before donating and bring "All" donated items on a hanger; presentation is everything.

Each Thursday at 6:00 pm **Rev. Lee Curtis Reaves** leads Bible Study at the Bostick Nursing Center. See **Rev. Lee Curtis Reaves** or **Missionary Shinholster** if you are interested in volunteering we are looking to initiate activities for the women residents in the near future.

GIFT IDEAS FOR SOMEONE LIVING IN A NURSING HOME

- **Essential Oil Diffuser / Air Freshener:** Make their room smell like home. Many oil diffusers have calming essential oils that may alleviate stress.
- **Cosmetics or Toiletries:** razor, shaving cream, eye-shadow, mascara, toothpaste, lotion, toothbrush, denture cleaner.
- **Puzzles & Games** can help them connect with others and keep their brain sharp.
- **Mini Fridge** to store leftovers. Stock their fridge with snacks.
- **Personalization Tools For Mobility** such as a wheelchair pouch
- **A Comfy Blanket**

Vaughn Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

1980 North Jefferson Street; Milledgeville, GA 31061
 (478) 453-8976 * vaughnchapelmbc.com
 Senior Pastor: Rev. Tony E. Fraley, B.Th

Sunday School 9:45 am
 Church Service

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 11:00 am

2nd & 4th Sundays 8:30 am

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Our mission is to be a Christ centered church that develops and supports ministries that meet the needs of individuals, families and communities through the Word of God.

Sick & Shut-in

Mother Idell Bundradge

Deacon Joe Davis

Sis. Annie Clyde Lawson

Bro. William McDowell

Sis. Lillian Wright

Sis. Frances Davis (picture)



Let's continue to pray for our aging members.

Prayer List

Sis. Essie Mae Bryson

Sis. Lottie Mae Harris

Dea. Melvin Hurt

Sis. Carolyn Lee

Sis. Betty Washington

Sis. Gladys Fraley

Bro. James Havior

Dea. Matthew Lawson

Sis. Isabelle Hall

Rev. Joseph Macklin

Events at Vaughn Chapel

May 5 (1st Sun) 146th Church Anniversary

Speaker: Rev. Wayne Evans (Ebenezer Baptist
 Macon, GA)

May 26 (4th Sun) Youth Sunday

Speaker: **Johnny Brookins**

Join us each 4th Sunday when
 one of our youth will speak.



Community Announcements

- **Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church,**
 Church Missionary 22nd Anniversary
 May 5 @ 11am
- **Union Baptist Church (City)**
 Annual Revival - May 8 @ 7:30pm
- **Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church,**
 Revival - May 15 @ 7pm
- **Springhill Baptist Church**
 Celebrating 147th Church Anniversary
 May 19 @ 2pm
- **Lee's Chapel CME**
 Annual Revival - May 22 @ 7pm

Voyage Of Hope (Transportation Services)

ATL Airport Shuttle: \$62 one-way, \$102 round-trip

Personal Services: Call for trips to
 doctor appointments and small
 group outings. **(478) 251-1533**



Youth Spotlight: Jordan Waller

God is working with us at Vaughn Chapel Church in character building for youth. We believe strong character cannot be without a strong spiritual foundation. Our little **Jordan** (who is not so little any more) is graduating high school and has a base built in Sunday school with a great Sunday school teacher, **Missionary Lisa Shinholster**.



Jordan Waller received a softball scholarship to attend Albany State University. She will study Political Science and Government and plans to attend law school in the future.

During spring break, Jordan's family decided to visit the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. They were immersed in the sights and sounds of slave trade and the Jim Crow South. Jordan was inspired to share her experience and encourage youth to embrace the past and build on the experiences of our ancestors.

Jordan was the speaker for our Youth program on April 28th and the **President of Georgia Military College, Lt. General William Caldwell** came to support her.



WE LOVE YOU AND ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

Pray With Me (Min. Donald Hill)

A Prayer For Teenagers To Pray (PART 2 of 2)

Please Lord, put godly people in my path. Help me to find Christian friends that stick closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24). Help me Lord, to be a good and Godly friend to others. Open my eyes to see the good qualities in people around me. Help me to do the right things instead of wearing a mask and being a phony just to be popular. Heavenly Father, remind me of Your unconditional love when I seem to have no hope. Help me keep my thoughts on You when I become weak. Help me to continue to praise You during low times. I thank you for drawing me closer to You and allowing me to soak up Your strength. Thank you for never leaving me. In Jesus Name I pray Amen!

PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The research is clear, consistent, and convincing -- **Parent, family, and community involvement in education correlates with higher academic performance and school improvement.** When schools, parents, families, and communities work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and enroll in higher-level programs.

Congratulations: Mikkayla Imahni Phillips



Mikkayla will graduate from Baldwin High School and plans to attend GMC for two years and then go to George Mason University in Virginia. She will study *Early Childhood Education*.

Way To Go: Issac Harris and Timothy Evans Jr.



Timothy Evans Jr. and **Issac Harris** received certificates of participation for soccer!

Issac Harris also received the Oak Hill Middle School **Best Defensive Player** Boys Soccer trophy.

The **I Promise School**, for 3rd and 4th graders, in Akron Ohio was opened in July 2018 for disadvantaged students with the lowest test grades in the district. Basketball star, **Lebron James** donated \$600,000 to support this school and now in just 6 months 90% of the students have outpaced their fellow district students.

The school is unusual in the resources and attention it devotes to **parents**, which educators consider a key to its success. Mr. James's foundation covers the cost of all expenses in the school's family resource center, which provides parents with G.E.D. preparation, work advice, health and legal services, a food pantry and even a quarterly barbershop.

A Preschool Inside a Nursing Home

The *Intergenerational Learning Center* consists of a preschool inside the Mount St. Vincent nursing home in **Seattle, Washington**. The 400 adults in the assisted-living center join the kids in daily activities from music and dancing to storytelling and just plain visiting. The Center's managers say *the children learn from their elders and are nurtured by the adults while the invigorated seniors get a new sense of purpose and well-being from the playful tots.*

Back the Blue Good Friday, April 19th

Vaughn Chapel hosted a luncheon for the First Responders in the community.



Focus On Rehabilitation And Not Retribution

Back in September 2016, five teenagers were charged with painting graffiti on a historic old schoolhouse in **Ashburn, Virginia**. The schoolhouse, which had been used to teach black children during segregation, had been covered in swastikas and racist statements. The community was in an uproar.

Rather than punishing the teenagers for a racist act of vandalism, a judge asked them to read books about racism and injustice each month for a year and write a 3,500-word essay on the consequences of racism, bigotry, and prejudice for each book. Additionally, the teens were made to visit the Holocaust Museum and a history museum exhibit on the Japanese-American internment camps following Pearl Harbor.

Two years after the incident, the sentencing did exactly what the judge hoped it would. The kids are sticking to their education; they have not reoffended; and based on their essays as well as statements from the teens' parents and lawyers, they were all regretful of their crime.

Word Search: MAY BIRTHDAYS!

N S R E G D O R E I R E L A V C
 N E C D O J Y C J S T L J S Z
 O L J O R O E L O L O E C D D
 S L Q N I R L Y H L N W V R E
 N A X A A D A D N E Y O S A V
 H W G L N A R E W W B D C W E
 O E Z D H N F L O Y A C W D L
 J D Q H I W S A O R K M O E Y
 K U X I G A Y W D A E A J L N
 N A O L H L D R A M R I T U W
 A L Q L T L A E R Q V R D A R
 R C G Q O E L N D N F O Z P I
 F B R P W R G C I R D L T P G
 Y M P N E Y N E Q F N G T D H
 L A M A R C U S H A R R I S T



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/4	John Woodard	5/17	Jordan Waller
5/5	Clyde Lawrence, III	5/20	LaMarcus Harris
5/5	Dea. Claude Waller	5/23	Dorian Hightower
5/8	Mary Wells	5/24	Min. Donald Hill
5/8	Evelyn Wright	5/25	Paul Edwards
5/12	Valerie Rodgers	5/29	Gladys Fraley
5/13	Gloria Jean McDowell	5/30	Tony Lee Baker
5/16	Frank Johnson		

LAUGHTER IS LIKE MEDICINE

- ❖ What did Rihanna say to her Grandmother with Alzheimer's?
Oh nana, What's my name?
- ❖ On his deathbed, my grandfather said, "Remember these two words. It'll open a lot of doors for you in life."
Push and Pull.
- ❖ I ordered a chicken and an egg from amazon...
I'll let you know.



Submit information for the newsletter by the 3rd Sunday to
gita.phelps@gmail.com with the subject: **The Samaritan**

Diversity: Gita Phelps doles out hope and tough-love

Submitted by Cindy O'Donnell on Mon, 2019-11-04 08:20

Source:

<https://frontpage.gcsu.edu/article/news/diversity-gita-phelps-doles-out-hope-and-tough-love>



Dr. Gita Phelps is a trailblazer. But the tracks of that trail are swept away by her quiet modesty. Phelps prefers to be anonymous and focus on others.

She's quick to praise her oldest sister, who broke barriers as the first black valedictorian at their Peach County High School in Fort Valley. But when it comes to her own accolades—being the first female and first African-American to get a Ph.D. in computer science at

the University of Georgia (UGA)—she simply says, “That’s just normal. That’s in my family that we do our best.”

By doing her best, Phelps opened a path for others. “I could tell by looking around, it was mostly other cultures like Indian, Chinese and mostly male,” Phelps said. “I knew no females or blacks had graduated before me, but it wasn’t an issue. I didn’t feel like the first. I didn’t think I was breaking a barrier. It was all fun to me.” “I’m a computer nerd,” she said. “I wasn’t there to set records. I just enjoy learning and working with computers.”

Now, Phelps shares her optimism and, when needed, tough love with students. If they don’t come to class, she emails and calls to make sure they’re OK. When one student was unreachable, she sent Public Safety to the dorm to make sure he wasn’t hurt. Phelps told another student he would fail, if he didn’t get his life in order, no excuses. When that student graduated in May, he wrote Phelps to thank her, saying she was the reason he graduated.

Phelps’s firm approach is reinforced with plenty of support. She told one lazy student he might as well go home, because she doesn’t accept poor work. But, if he applied himself, Phelps promised to work with him. Her high expectations helped him learn time management and how to organize class assignments.

Phelps has a pile of student letters, all expressing gratitude. Some changed majors and pursued computer science, because of her. One transfer student said she came to Georgia College, motivated by Phelps’s success. Phelps is touched by the sentiment. But she’ll also tell you she’s perplexed by it. “Students tell me I inspire them, but I was just being me,” Phelps said. “I don’t have an official program that says ‘follow me.’ I just treat all students the same. It’s always a joy, when they write and say they couldn’t have done it without me.”

[ONLY PART OF ARTICLE INCLUDED - Reference source for complete article]

December 11, 2019

Re: Dr. Gita Phelps
Nominee for Irene Rose Community Service Award

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am writing to recommend Dr. Gita Phelps for the Georgia College Foundation's Irene Rose Community Service Award. Her ongoing efforts to serve the young people in our community through foster parenting and to empower her students to create resources for organizations that support our less fortunate and at-risk youth in Central Georgia show an uncommon commitment to community service.

I met Gita back in 2001 when we completed foster parenting courses together. Gita has a passion for helping less fortunate youth and has been serving the Baldwin County area as a foster mother since 2001. She provides one-on-one attention to the children in her care. She has taken them on field trips, introduced them to activities such as ballet, and attended plays at Georgia College and the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. Gita has also supported other foster parents by providing respite care. Gita is a very giving person.

Gita is an avid educational advocate with the Baldwin County School System for the foster children placed in her care. She works closely with teachers to ensure children have a solid educational plan. She tutors them and prepares grade-appropriate study guides for reading and mathematics. Gita ensures that any child placed in her care will have the best educational opportunities possible.

Besides taking many children into her home, Gita is a leader in the Baldwin County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association. She has served as both the Vice President and the Treasurer for the Association. She continues to provide leadership, energy, and motivation to help raise funds to enrich the lives of foster children. She helps to plan and execute pool parties, barbeques, Easter egg hunts, Christmas parties, and various other activities for the children and their foster parents. She is a great leader in helping to organize the fundraising and activities for the organization.

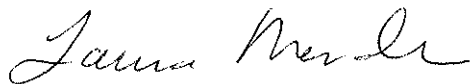
Gita was my go-to person during the four years that I served as the President of the Foster & Adoptive Parent Association. Gita assisted me in writing a grant to obtain children's equipment (cribs, strollers, pack-n-plays) for the Association which resulted in us receiving a \$750 grant from Tri-County EMC. I could always count on Gita for anything that needed to be done.

Gita is a Computer Science professor and has provided several workshops for foster parents about computer technology. The topics include measures parents can take to keep children from accessing inappropriate material on computers and other mobile devices and information about how to prevent identity theft, cyberbullying and sexting. These are all very important topics in today's world and our changing technological environment. In addition, Gita provided an opportunity for computer science students at Georgia College to improve their oral presentation skills by sharing their knowledge of computers and today's society at a foster parent meeting. This was an opportunity for Georgia College students to become involved with the community, share their knowledge, and learn more about the foster care system.

Gita encourages Computer Science students to use their talents to give to the community. Computer Science students in her Software Engineering course have developed software for Chard Wray Food Pantry, American Legion, and various departments on campus. Her students are currently developing software for the Youth Challenge Academy, an alternative high school for students sponsored by the National Guard Youth Challenge program. Youth who are at risk of not completing high school come from across the state to Milledgeville to attend this residential academy where they have an opportunity to graduate high school or earn their GED. Gita continues to instill a sense of community in all her students.

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Gita's nomination for the Irene Rose Community Service Award.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura Mender".

Laura Mender, MBA
Systems Analyst
Center for Teaching & Learning

December 2, 2019

To whom it may concern:

It is with pleasure that I support Dr. Gita Phelps' nomination for the Irene Rose Community Service Award. Dr. Phelps' drive to help others has been consistent since I met her approximately five years ago. Through her love for education, passion for teaching others, and genuine community service, she has impacted the lives of many children, teens, and adults. Dr. Gita has been a professor at Georgia College & State University for 25 years and is driven to ensure her students reach their maximum potential. Therefore, she often works diligently beyond the workday to motivate students and brainstorm possible strategies to increase students' success. Additionally, her community service is substantial. She often spearheads community service projects and donates her time and money to various local causes.

For example, in 2011, Dr. Phelps assisted her students with creating the SNAP app to enhance the communication of campus safety. The invention of the SNAP app provided students with the ability to instant message SNAP officers and Public Safety dispatchers and automated and paperless access to information about pick-up and drop-off locations, hours of operation, and emergency phone numbers. The students enrolled in Information Systems and Computer Science classes worked collaboratively to design, develop and implement the web-enabled application.

In addition, in 2013, Dr. Phelps worked closely with sponsors and the Hancock County Library to organize an iPad Application Development Workshop for high school students grades 10th through 12th. Along with her former students, Dr. Phelps provided the students with information about the topic. For instance, the students watched a video about Codea, explored example Codea apps, created a program, learned about editor functions, and created a simple game indicative of beginners. Students learned many transferrable skills.

Dr. Phelps has also offered her support by donating funds and supplies to the Unlock Agency in connection with Saint Mark A.M.E. Church in Sparta, Georgia. With her contributions, the organization was able to have successful College Survival Workshops and scholarship giveaways for three consecutive years, 2014 through 2016. Please note Dr. Gita's contributions made up the majority of monetary donations each year. Most importantly, at-risk students were able to beat the odds and attend a post-secondary institution with valuable information about college practices (scholarship application pointers and websites, RateMyProfessor.com, free tutorial services, professor office hours, college students' testimonials etc.).

Similarly, she has supported the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support classroom in Hancock County. She donated various items to put in the class treasure chest. Due to her contribution, teachers were able to offer tangible Positive Behavior Intervention and Support incentives to motivate students to positively manage their behaviors and emotions. Currently, she is working on personalized care packages for the nine students with disabilities. Dr. Phelps willingness to sponsor care packages shows her admiration and love for serving others regardless

of their status. Please note three of the nine students are from Washington County and transported to Hancock County Schools Monday through Friday.

In the past, Dr. Phelps has fostered children. Each time I have observed her interacting with a child, it has been positive. She always attempts to instill the love of education into the children she has fostered and children in the community. When I was in college Dr. Phelps acted as my mentor. She voluntarily offered advice and support as needed. She bought me food to eat and gave me self-help, parenting, and spiritual books. She works tirelessly to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and she has for various individuals, young and old.

In short, Dr. Phelps has shown herself worthy of the Irene Rose Community Service Award. She gives and loves unconditionally. Most importantly, whenever she is able, she uses her knowledge and abilities to serve others from various backgrounds and ages. She has remained humble and sincere wanting nothing in return. I support Dr. Phelps' nomination for the Irene Rose Community Service Award without reservation.

Sincerely,



Rakyah Washington
Special Education Teacher
GNETS of Oconee

