

## **GC Journeys Wins Excellence & Innovation Award!**

The *GC Journeys* program ensures all students engage in high-impact experiences. The program was recognized with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AACSU) 2023 Excellence & Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion.

*GC Journeys* includes five HIPs that students can pursue; three are required: First-Year Experience, Career Planning, and Capstone. Students can then select two other experiences from mentored undergraduate research, study abroad, internship, community-based engaged learning, or the leadership program.

For more information, visit the [website](#) and [Front Page article](#).

## **Bobcats FIRST QEP Update**

As the university prepares for the SACSCOC 10-year Reaffirmation visit, Academic Affairs and Student Life launched the phased implementation plan for the QEP, Bobcats FIRST on July 26, 2023. In support of this important initiative, the Division of Student Life has recently undergone a reorganization to align units with the pillars of the strategic plan and GCSU's new QEP. The Empower pillar and the new QEP, among other initiatives, are reflected in a new unit, Student Health & Wellbeing. Two new positions are situated within this unit, AVP for Student Health & Wellbeing (Emily Jarvis) and Director of Student Care & Outreach (Amy Whatley) as well as Counseling Services, Student Health, Wellness & Recreation, and Fraternity & Sorority Life.

If your department would like to learn more about the QEP, please contact Emily Jarvis [emily.jarvis@gcsu.edu](mailto:emily.jarvis@gcsu.edu) or Cara Smith [cara.smith@gcsu.edu](mailto:cara.smith@gcsu.edu). Please visit <http://gcsu.edu/wellbeing> to learn more about the QEP and wellness initiatives.

## *Congratulations!*

### **New Grants Funded**

**Arnab Sengupta, PhD, Biological and Environmental Sciences**, *Structural regulation of cap-independent translation in eukaryotic mRNAs* - Year 1 of 3, National Science Foundation, \$192,313 (of \$501,868).

**Sallie Coke, PhD, Nursing**, *Advance Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW)*– Year 1 of 4, Health Resources & Services Administration, \$649,997 (of \$2,599,911).

**Susmita Sadhu, PhD, Mathematics**, *Early warning signals of population collapse in higher-dimensional models featuring multiple timescales*, American Mathematical Association, \$3,600.

**Kayla Brownlow, Human Resources**, *Georgia College Well-Being - CPR Certifications*, University System of Georgia, \$6,868.

### **Continuing Grants Funded**

**Josie Doss, PhD, and Shantee Henry, DNP, Nursing**, *Advanced Nurse Education-Sexual Nurse Assault Examiner program*– Year 2 of 2, National Science Foundation, \$528,210 (of \$1,016,771).

**Sam Mutiti, PhD, Biological and Environmental Sciences**, *Rapid, Integrated Geotechnical and Geochemical Characterization of Mine Waste for Phytoremediation and Biofuel/Bioenergy Production* – Year 3 of 3, \$55,535 (of \$165,987).

**Janet Cavin, Executive Director, Communities in Schools**, *CIS Model to Improve HS Graduation Rate*, CIS-GA, GA Dept Of Education, \$28,000 (annual renewal).

## Annual Events

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome Back Faculty</b></p> <p>The <i>Welcome Back Faculty</i> event is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, starting at 9:00am at Russell Auditorium.</p> <p>A light breakfast will be served outside in the courtyard (rain location: Library Atrium).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Making Excellence Inclusive Day</b></p> <p>The 7<sup>th</sup> <i>Annual Making Excellence Inclusive Day</i> will be held on Tuesday, August 15, beginning at 9:00am in the A&amp;S Auditorium. Breakout sessions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding Title IX</li> <li>• GC Hiring Updates</li> <li>• Eliminating Bias in Recommendation Letters</li> <li>• Ethics &amp; Allyship</li> <li>• Building Community through Restorative Practices</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ Inclusion</li> </ul> <p>To register for lunch and/or sessions, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Year Convocation</b></p> <p>The GCSU First Year Convocation is scheduled for Friday, August 18. Lineup begins at 8:30AM and regalia is required.</p> <p>The event takes place in the Centennial Center and is followed by a full day of activities for GCSU's largest incoming first year class.</p>
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## Volunteer Opportunities

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GC Reads</b></p> <p>Due to the size of the incoming first-year class, 20 additional faculty facilitators for <i>GCReads</i> are needed this year. <i>GCReads</i> is our common reading program for incoming first-year students designed to introduce them to the GCSU classroom experience. Students will select one of eight articles to discuss during a 75-minute micro seminar on Friday, August 18. Faculty can choose to facilitate their session from 1-2:15 p.m. or 2:30-3:45 p.m. Faculty consistently rate the experience as “excellent” or “good,” and students describe <i>GCReads</i> as a “good introduction to college.” Please consider joining the program this year. Faculty can sign up <a href="#">here</a> as soon as possible. If you have any questions about <i>GCReads</i>, please contact Dr. Erin Weston at <a href="mailto:erin.weston@gcsu.edu">erin.weston@gcsu.edu</a> or 478-445-0145.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Show Your Bobcat Spirit! Volunteer to Assist Students!</b></p> <p><b>Cat Crew</b></p> <p>Wednesday, August 16   8:00am-Noon   West Campus Thursday, August 17   7:15-11:00am   Central Campus <a href="https://www.gcsu.edu/housing/cat-crew">https://www.gcsu.edu/housing/cat-crew</a></p> <p><b>Bobcat Brigade</b></p> <p>Monday, August 21 and/or Tuesday August 22 7:45am-4:00pm (one-hour shifts) <a href="#">Sign-up to Volunteer for Bobcats Brigade 2023</a></p> <p>A tent will be provided along with coffee and water in the morning, then lemonade and water in the afternoon. We will also have "swag items" you can give out to students.</p>
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### GCSU Gives Day Site Leaders

This year, *GCSU Gives Day* will be hosted on Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. during Week of Welcome. Site leaders are faculty, staff, alumni, and returning students who participate in the volunteer project and assist the site host with delegating tasks. [Sign up to be a Site Lead Volunteer!](#)

Email [Ashley Copeland](#) for more information!