



August 2026 Provost Notes

Congratulations to these External Grant Recipients!

Dr. Arnab Sengupta - Biological and Environmental Sciences - College of Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *2026 Cottrell Scholar Award*

Sponsor: Research Corporation for Science Advancement

Awarded Amount: **\$120,000**

Dr. Shantee Henry - School of Nursing - College of Health Sciences

Project Title: *The Georgia College ANE-SANE Training Program-Year 3 of 3*

Sponsor: Health Resources & Services Administration/U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Awarded Amount: **\$464,827**

Dr. Sallie Coke – School of Nursing - College of Health Sciences

Project Title: *Advance Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW)– Year 4 of 4*

Sponsor: Health Resources & Services Administration/U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Awarded Amount: **\$649,978**

Ms. Courtney Bentley - Communities In Schools

Project Title: *CIS Model to Improve High School Graduation Rate FY27*

Sponsor: CIS Milledgeville

Awarded Amount: **\$50,000**

Mr. Evan Leavitt - Ina Dillard Russell Library

Project Title: *Strategies of Resistance*

Sponsor: Georgia Humanities Council

Awarded Amount: **\$7,500**

Congratulations!

New Places, New Faces

Welcoming the newest members of our leadership teams—visionary deans and dynamic department chairs and directors, who bring fresh energy, bold ideas, and deep expertise to our academic community. Their leadership marks an exciting chapter in GCSU's journey of innovation, excellence, and student success.

College of Arts & Sciences:

Dr. Lauren Brown: Chair of the Department of History & Geography

Anthony Pearson: Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance

J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology:

Dr. Amit Ghosh: Dean

Dr. J.J. Arias: Interim Chair of the Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics

John H. Lounsbury College of Education:

Dr. Loleta Sartin: Dean

College of Health Sciences:

Dr. Conrad Woolsey: Director of the School of Health & Human Performance

Dr. Krystal Canady: Interim Director of the School of Nursing

Faculty & Staff Fall Kickoff

This year's Faculty & Staff Fall Kickoff Event will celebrate GCSU's 30th anniversary as Georgia's designated public liberal arts university and will take place **Friday, August 14th, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** in Russell Auditorium. Enjoy fellowship and brunch on the Russell Lawn following the program.

Please encourage all faculty and staff to attend this important kick-off to the 2026-2027 Academic Year as we celebrate our shared history. Ask your teams not to schedule meetings or other events during this time. We hope to see a great turnout from Academic Affairs.



The Class of 2030 First-Year Convocation

The First-Year Convocation is scheduled for **Friday, August 21st**.

- Meet your Major: 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
- Faculty lineup for Convocation near the pool entrance on the first floor: 3:30 p.m. (**regalia is required**)
- First Year Convocation ceremony: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Convocation Picnic on Front Campus: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (**meal tickets provided to faculty/staff at the conclusion of the ceremony. Students will swipe their Bobcat Card.**)
- Week of Welcome Block Party and Bobcat Marketplace on Greene Street: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Please plan accordingly for attending the First-Year Convocation and Picnic!

For any questions regarding transportation or accommodations, please contact the University Event Office at (478)-445-6542.

The 7th Annual HIPS Summer Institute had another successful year of collaboration, innovation, and engagement. Congratulations to all of the participants on completing the summer institute. Your dedication to enhancing student learning through high-impact practices is commendable, and we look forward to seeing these innovative approaches implemented in your courses.

Community-based Engaged Learning (C-bEL) Completers:

- Dr. Christine Mutiti - Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences
- Dr. Madison Gannon - Department of Professional Learning & Innovation
- Dr. Whitney Ginder - Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics
- Mentor: Dr. Liz Speelman - Department of Health & Human Performance

Integrated Writing Completers:

- Dr. Jennifer Flaherty - Department of English
- Dr. Linda Bradley - Department of Professional Learning & Innovation
- Mentor: Dr. Roberto Leon - Department of English

Leadership Completers:

- Dr. Scott Bassett - Department of Health & Human Performance
- Mentor: Ms. Chelsey Brantley - Leadership Programs

Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (MURACE), Humanities & Social Sciences Completers:

- Dr. Alex Berglund - Department of Professional Learning & Innovation
- Dr. Caley Smith - Department of Philosophy, Religion, & Interdisciplinary Studies
- Mentor: Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang - Department of Psychological Science

Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (MURACE), STEM Completers:

- Dr. Kelly Massey - Department of Health & Human Performance
- Dr. Matt Milnes - Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences
- Mentor: Dr. Kasey Karen - Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences

Academic Affairs Leadership Council Retreat

On Wednesday, July 29th, Academic Affairs hosted a Leadership Council Retreat that covered a host of topics, including the *Graduate Education Taskforce*, *Leadership and Institutional Development Training*, *Embracing Data Informed Decision Making*, *Academic Freedom*, *AI Policy*, *Post-Tenure Review*, *Faculty Evaluation and Norming*, *Programmatic Focused Attention*, and *Faculty Leadership and Succession Planning* as well as updates and training from various departments around campus.



2026-2027 Governance Calendar

As a reminder, please make sure you are aware of the approved dates published on the [2026-2027 Senate Governance Calendar](#).

USG Syllabus Policy Reminder - Spring Semester

To ensure compliance with [USG guidelines](#), all syllabi must be submitted for chairs to review by **Monday, October 12th** and approval from chairs must be completed by **Monday, October 19th**, one week prior to the start of registration for spring semester.

Each syllabus must include **nine key elements** (see attached guidance below), six of which will be automatically populated using university policy and catalog data. Faculty will be responsible for providing the remaining three components of the required template:

Auto-Populated Fields of the Simple Syllabus Template:

- Course Prefix, Number, and Name
- Semester and Academic Year
- Course Description
- Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement
- Core IMPACTS Statement (if applicable)

Faculty-Populated Fields of the Simple Syllabus Template:

- **Required Course Materials:** Textbooks (with ISBNs), articles, lab supplies, equipment, course packs, etc.
 - **Grading Policy:** Clear explanation of how final grades will be determined, including weighting or point distribution.
 - **Attendance Policy**
 - **Course Learning Outcomes** (as approved)
 - **Additional areas** based on faculty preference (Not required)
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Updated Policy Guidance on Political Activity

With the upcoming 2026 general election approaching, the USG Legal Affairs' office has issued a memorandum regarding free expression and political activity in the University System of Georgia (USG). This memorandum is a guidance pertaining to certain USG policies related to political activity including [Employee Expression of Political Opinions](#), [Employee Involvement in Political Campaigns](#), and the [Use of Institution Facilities in Political Campaigns](#).



Political Activity Guidance July 2026 FINAL (1).pdf

Download
161.5 KB

Be a Conversation Catalyst-Facilitate GC Reads

Support student engagement and critical thinking by leading a **GC Reads** discussion group this year. **GC Reads** will be held on Friday, August 14th, for all new students during Week of Welcome.

Group A: 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Group B: 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

GC Reads is a 75-minute micro-seminar that gives new students an introduction to college academic discussion. In alignment with the QEP, *Bobcats FIRST*, all of the essays are related to mental health and wellbeing. Seventy (70) facilitators are needed to make **GC Reads** a success.

Facilitators are faculty and staff who help guide a discussion about the assigned essay. Facilitators can be as creative as they wish, and discussion templates will be made available for those wanting more guidance.

To sign up, please complete the form [here](#).

Reach out to emily.jarvis@gcsu.edu or cara.smith@gcsu.edu with any questions.

Thank you! We appreciate your support of students in their first academic endeavor here at GCSU.



GCSU Gives Day 2026

Help make GCSU Gives Day 2026 unforgettable as we welcome more than 1,700 new Bobcats through service.

Integrated into *Week of Welcome* programming, all first-year students will participate in *GCSU Gives Day* on **Saturday, August 15th from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Through this half-day of service, students engage in community service projects alongside their first-year seminar classmates, fostering a connection to the Milledgeville-Baldwin County community.

GCSU faculty, staff, and alumni are needed to serve as site leaders (chaperones) to travel to the non-profit sites.

Become a Host Site

Provide a volunteer project where students can serve and make an impact.

[Host Site Sign-Up](#)

Become a Site Leader

Guide and support a group of students at a volunteer site.

[Site Leader Sign-Up](#)

Thank you for helping us inspire our newest Bobcats through service and create a lasting impact in the communities we call home.

For more information and details please contact, Ariana Dugger at Ariana.Dugger@gcsu.edu

Don't Cancel Class

The "Don't Cancel Class" Program is a collaboration between the Divisions of Student Life and Academic Affairs that invites faculty to schedule a workshop for their normally scheduled class in the event of a planned absence or as part of the class plan.

Faculty are invited to choose from a menu of workshops, discussions, and trainings focused on topics like transitioning to college, resilience, time management, growth mindset, effective communication, academic confidence, and many more. Faculty may also request a customized workshop or training for their department, program, or class.

To request a workshop, please [complete the request form](#) or email [Dr. Cara Smith](#) or [Dr. Emily Jarvis](#) for more information.

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Fall 2026 Workshops

Given the upcoming deadline related to the Department of Justice's new regulation requiring all digital materials available in the learning management system to be accessible, the Center for Teaching and Learning has put together resources and programming to support our faculty as they work to meet the April 2027 deadline.

Below are some of the workshops CTL will be offering, including a concerted effort to provide resources and training on creating and updating accessible Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, and HTML documents while also ensuring that audio and video resources have the appropriate transcript and closed captions.

CTL has also continued to provide workshops and faculty engagement in support of teaching in the digital environment.

These workshops will be offered in face-to-face and hybrid formats.

Brightspace Essentials Workshop for Instructors - August 11th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Accessibility and Blackboard Ally - August 26th at 2:00 p.m. and again on August 28th at 12:00 p.m.

Accessibility Essentials: A Practical Guide to Course Accessibility - September 2nd at 3:00 p.m. and again on September 3rd at 3:00 p.m.

Accessibility Essentials: Creating Accessible Multimedia - September 8th at 3:00 p.m. and again on September 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Accessibility Essentials: Creating Accessible Documents - September 22nd at 3:00 p.m. and again on September 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Accessibility Essentials: Using Accessibility Tools & Features in GeorgiaVIEW/D2L - September 29th at 9:00 a.m. and again on September 30th at 3:00 p.m.

Accessibility Essentials: Open Lab - October 5th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and again on October 6th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

More information to come!



Office of the Provost

<https://www.gcsu.edu/provost>

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