



October 2026 Provost Notes

Congratulations to these External Award Recipients!

Dr. Dominic DeSantis - Biological and Environmental Sciences - College of Arts & Sciences

Project Title: *Phase 2: Recording of Habit Use, Movement Patterns, and Thermal Ecology in Eastern Diamond-Backed Rattlesnakes*

Sponsor: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Awarded Amount: \$15,000 (FY27)

Dr. Nicholas Creel - Accounting and Business Law - College of Business & Technology

Project Title: *GCSU Bobcat Business Incubator*

Sponsor: US Small Business Administration

Awarded Amount: \$313,000

Dr. Sterling Roberts - Simulation and Translational Research Center - College of Health Sciences

Project Title: *GREAT Health Program: GCSU Simulation Training Expansion*

Sponsor: GA Department of Community Health (Prime) through the University System of GA (PTE)

Awarded Amount: \$2,000,000

New Places, New Faces

Dr. Mandy Jarriel has been appointed as Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School, effective October 1st, 2026, after serving in the interim role since August 2024.

Her insight, dedication, and leadership over the past two years were instrumental in the progress of Academic Affairs and its future. Dr. Jarriel co-led the realignment of Graduate Admissions, supported the development and successful approval of the Master of Science in AI Strategy, and

chaired the university's Graduate Education Task Force. She also co-led the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and played a pivotal role in the adoption of the university's revised mission statement.

In her permanent role, Dr. Jarriel will continue to oversee faculty affairs, graduate education, and provide leadership for key support units, including Grants & Sponsored Projects, the Center for Teaching & Learning, the Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities, The Deal Center for Early Language & Literacy, and the GCSU Montessori Academy at the Early Learning Center.



2026 Governor's Teaching Fellows Program

Dr. Jim Beger, Director of The Center for Teaching & Learning, has been selected to teach at this year's Governor's Teaching Fellows Program and Dr. Liz Speelman, Senior Lecturer of Outdoor Education, will participate in this year's Governor's Teaching Fellows Program at the University of Georgia.

The Governor's Teaching Fellows Program (GTF Program) was established in 1995 by Governor Zell Miller to provide Georgia's higher education faculty with the expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills and innovative pedagogies. The program is offered through the Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia.



Provost's Highlights

As we mark GCSU's 30th anniversary, of being designated by the University System of Georgia as the state's public liberal arts university, we reflect on the numerous initiatives guided by our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan, as well as our renewed mission as Georgia's designated liberal arts university.

The [2025-2026 Georgia College & State University Provost's Highlights](#) capture the initiatives, strategic growth, and academic excellence as we prepare students to do more, learn more, and seize more of what the world has to offer.

Throughout these highlights, you will see the impact and accomplishments achieved together this past academic year, as well as in setting visionary goals for a bright future. These highlights also include the strategic pillars from the Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan throughout the pages of the publication.

Gray DI Workshops

Georgia College & State University partnered with Gray Decision Intelligence (DI) for a two-day workshop on September 24th and September 25th, 2026, as part of our ongoing efforts to support data-informed academic planning, enrollment growth, and program innovation.

Attendees were trained in using Gray DI's Markets and Program Remix tools and engaged in discussions about program opportunities, market demand, student interest, and institutional strengths.

This resource and opportunity allow departments to make data-informed program decisions that support the needs of students and the university.



Faculty Fellows Leadership Academy Program

The Faculty Fellows Leadership Academy Program will provide a selected group of current faculty with dedicated time to develop and hone leadership skills and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education. The program will specifically focus on leadership concepts individuals face in academic administration.

This year's program begins in November 2026 and runs through May 2027. Fellows will attend monthly meetings where they will learn from senior administrators on campus as well as visiting speakers from academia, business, and other fields. Participants will be GCSU faculty who hold the rank of associate or full professor who represent all colleges and the library and/or academic administrators with faculty status. A selection committee will review the submissions and make recommendations to the Provost.

Applicants should submit materials to Rhonda Griffin, Office Coordinator for the Office of the Provost (rhonda.griffin@gcsu.edu) by Monday, October 12th, 2026. The application materials should include:

- a) a letter not to exceed two pages presenting evidence of interest in academic leadership, experience in academic governance or administration to date, and what the nominee hopes to accomplish with the support of the program;
- b) two letters of recommendation; one of which needs to be from an immediate supervisor. Each recommendation letter is limited to one page in length;
- c) a current C.V. or resume.

The Faculty Fellows Leadership Program is administered by the Office of the Provost. More information about the program can be found at the Faculty Fellows Leadership Academy [website](#).

Questions about the program may be directed to [Dr. Mandy Jarriel](#) or [Dr. Liz Speelman](#).

To ensure compliance with [USG guidelines](#), all syllabi must be submitted for chairs to review by **Monday, October 12th, 2026**, and approval from chairs must be completed by **Monday, October 19th, 2026**, 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.

At a minimum, the posted syllabus must include the following information:

- **Course Prefix, Number, and Name**
- **Semester and Academic Year**
- **Course Description**
- **Course Learning Outcomes:** These are the approved outcomes for the course.
- **Required Course Materials:** List of textbooks with ISBN, articles, lab supplies, equipment, course packs, etc. that students are expected to read or reference as part of the course.
- **Grading Policy:** Specify how final grades will be determined, including weighting scales or points assigned to various course requirements.
- **Attendance Policy**
- **Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement**
- **Core IMPACTS Statement** (if applicable)

If you are teaching a cross-listed course that is required to have a published syllabus, *each section within that cross-listed course must have a published syllabus.*

Faculty are encouraged to access their [Simple Syllabus dashboard](#) to view and edit syllabi for their course sections. A direct link to the Simple Syllabus dashboard is available in Service Apps on [my.gcsu.edu](#), and via the Course Syllabi link at the bottom of any [gcsu.edu](#) webpage.

Syllabus templates are still available to edit in GeorgiaVIEW, but, once you click on the Syllabus link in the course navbar, you will need to select the specific section from your list of courses in order to edit the syllabus.

Please see the [Simple Syllabus Helpful Info document](#) for more details.



SyllabusPostingGuidance v5.pdf

Download
77.3 KB

Faculty Professional Leave Application Deadline

Applicants interested in applying for [Professional Leave at GCSU](#) must complete the [Professional Leave Application](#). The application deadline is **Thursday, October 15th, 2026**.

- If the professional leave application is approved at the chair level, the Chair should provide workload coverage documentation to the Dean via email.

- If the professional leave application is approved at the dean level, the Dean should provide the workload coverage documents along with the Dean's cover letter to the Provost via email at provost@gcsu.edu.
- If the application is approved by the Provost, faculty will need to fill out the [Faculty Leave of Absence Request Form](#). Please see the [Faculty Leave of Absence Policy](#) for more information.



Attached are the rubrics that will be used at the college and provost's level of review.



COAS_Prof.LeaveWorkflow_v4_9_22_2026 (2).pdf

[Download](#)

187.9 KB



26_Advisory Committee Rubric Professional Leave (002).pdf

[Download](#)

103.2 KB

Provost's Summer Research Fellows

The office of the Provost would like to invite you to apply for the **Provost's Summer Research Fellows Program**. Recipients of the fellowship receive one of the most valuable resources of all - time.

The program provides additional support for faculty so they can disseminate research, artistic work and/or teaching and learning scholarship in a peer-reviewed publication and/or juried context.

The intent is to increase the scholarly productivity of Georgia College & State University faculty. By increasing our dissemination of scholarship through peer-reviewed/juried outlets, we will continue to enhance our national reputation; and the higher education learning community will have an opportunity to learn about the great research, creative works, and teaching and learning that is occurring at Georgia College.

For more information, please see the [program guidelines](#), [application](#), and [rubric](#).

USG Teaching & Learning Conference: Call for Proposals

The USG is accepting proposals for the 2027 USG Teaching & Learning Conference. The Conference will be held on April 8th-9th, 2027, in Columbus, Georgia.

The conference will feature presentations centered around the following four conference strands:

- Teaching, Learning, and Student Success
- Faculty and Student Well-Being: Creating Communities and Connections
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education
- Educational Development: Connecting Knowledge to Practice



To encourage broad participation across USG institutions, each presenter is limited to appearing on no more than two proposals, regardless of session format or role (primary submitter, lead presenter, or co-presenter).

Timeline:

- **Proposal Deadline:** Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST
- **Decision Notifications:** Friday, January 29th, 2027
- **Registration Opens:** January 2027

For more information, please visit the conference [website](#).

Get Your Tickets for TEDxGeorgiaCollege!

The Institute for Leadership and the Public Good at Georgia College & State University will host this year's [TEDxGeorgiaCollege](#) on Tuesday, November 10th, 2026, in the Russell Auditorium.

The 2026 TEDx event will feature speakers and performers who will deliver talks on the latest ideas and research, all in the spirit of TED's commitment to "Ideas Worth Spreading." Each talk will be broadcast internationally and shared through TED's global network.

Speakers:

- **Shaun Andrews:** Executive Director - Accelerate Augusta
- **Sairsha Connor:** ('25): Digital Content Specialist - GCSU
- **Lauren Jones:** Bachelor of Arts Candidate - Political Science and Criminal Justice
- **Andre' Joseph:** Assistant Director of Residence Life - GCSU
- **Bekir Mugayitoglu:** Assistant Professor of Education - GCSU
- **Tatiana Thompson:** Bachelor of Arts Candidate - English

Tickets can be purchased online on the TEDxGeorgiaCollege website [here](#).

To learn more about TEDxGeorgiaCollege, please visit tedxgeorgiacollege.com.



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Student Success and Retention Series Session

2025 First Year Retention Data Overview and New Freshman Insights

- Date: November 18th, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
- Location: Library 211 Pat Peterson Museum Education Room
- To attend the session, please register [here](#).

Center for Teaching & Learning

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Student Rating of Instruction Survey (SRIS):

- Department Admins: Mark all courses **NOT** being surveyed in Banner by October 10th, 2026.
- Faculty: The Objective Selection Form opens on October 16th, 2026.
- For more information on SRIS, please visit the CTL-SRIS [website](#).

Affordable Materials Grants:

- Apply for Round 30: The submission deadline is October 9th, 2026.

- For more information, please visit the CTL Grant Opportunities [website](#) or the Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) [website](#).

Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoT's):

- Offered until October 9th, 2026, and request can be submitted [here](#).
- For more information, please visit the CTL Course Feedback [website](#).

Small Group Instructional Diagnostic (SGID's):

- Offered from October 12th, 2026 - November 6th, 2026, and request can be submitted [here](#).
- For more information, please visit the CTL Course Feedback [website](#).

Accessibility Essentials:

- Open Lab is scheduled for October 5th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. or October 6th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
- To attend the Open Lab, please register [here](#).

"Why GCSU?": Benefits of the Liberal Arts Experience:

- The workshop is scheduled for October 21st, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.
- To attend the workshop, please register [here](#).



Graduate Admissions Application Fee Waiver

The Office of Graduate Admissions will launch its application fee waiver this year from October 18th, 2026 - November 1st, 2026. The fee waiver will be available for all graduate programs.

Candy Corn is....

Delicious

Disgusting

Loading...

 Voting ends in 24 days

 Votes are anonymous but results are public



Office of the Provost

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

Contact:

academic.affairs@gcsu.edu

(478) 445-4715

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