

Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

September 2016

LEAP Initiative at GC

Georgia College is transitioning from LARP to LEAP (USG Initiative) and embarking on a multi-year process to reinvigorate our commitment to offering an inclusive, superior, and distinctive liberal education at Georgia's Public Liberal Arts institution. Our LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) initiative, "Liberal Arts Renewal Project" is grounded in the philosophies and initiatives of AAC&U and closely aligned with the LEAP essential practices.*

A group of six faculty members attended the 2015 AAC&U Institute on General Education and Assessment where one of the main objectives of the institute was for teams to develop a comprehensive general education program for their home institutions that is grounded in the liberal arts and makes education inclusive for all students.

First year LEAP activities, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016, began with a campus-wide kickoff event and included a campus-wide discussion series and the establishment of four work groups that engaged in visioning, planning, and designing GC's new intentional, high-impact Liberal Arts general education program.

Second year activities will include designing and implementing a plan based on the outcomes of the campus discussion series, numerous campus meetings, and work and recommendations produced by the work groups. As we move from planning to implementation, a Liberal Arts Council will be formed in order to continue to design, pilot, and plan for sustainability of the LEAP. The implementation plan will include measurable goals, objectives, targets, and a plan for assessing the quality of the education and signature experiences that students will encounter during their liberal arts general education program at GC. The implementation plan will kick off during Fall 2016.

GC's LEAP Leaders are **Amy Sumpter, PhD**; **Cynthia Alby, PhD**; and **Cara Smith, PhD**.

* LEAP Experiences and Best Practices

- ⊙ Essential Learning Outcomes
- ⊙ Principles of Excellence
- ⊙ High-Impact Educational Practices
- ⊙ Authentic Assessments
- ⊙ Students' Signature Work
- ⊙ LEAP Principles of Excellence

Congratulations



The J. Whitney Bunting College of Business received accreditation from the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET). ABET accreditation ensures that the Computer Science program meets the quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce.

The John H. Lounsbury College of Education was ranked twice in the top 20 in the Annual Teacher.org Education Degree Rankings: #4 Early Childhood Education degree program in the U.S. of 425 qualifying colleges. #19 Special Education degree program in the U.S. of 400 qualifying colleges.

Nathan P. Lord, PhD, Assistant Professor Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences received a grant from the USDA in the amount of \$4,982 for the *Biology of Asian Longhorned Beetle in Ohio*. This will allow proper identification of the invasive species that the USDA is currently working to eradicate in New York, Massachusetts and Ohio.

Ken McGill, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, was awarded a patent from the United State Patent and Trademark Office for Conduit Bound Propagation Separation Model (CBPSM). It measures the flow of fluid in a conduit by simply "listening" to the sound of the fluid rushing through the pipe. The CBPSM represents a change to a theory that has stood the test of time for over a century. This is the first GCSU patent!

Institutional Research (IR):

IR curates data and provides data analysis to support reporting and decision making by faculty and administrators. These data maintained by IR primarily derive from academic and administrative departments across campus through Banner and ADP, the campus' reporting database. IR works with the University System of Georgia to validate the Banner data against established edits in order to ensure consistency and cleanliness. Then these data are frozen on the USG census date (October 7th) to confirm consistency with system and institutional reporting. The curated data are then provided to the campus via various means. IR also creates statistical models to help other GC departments evaluate policies and interventions.

IR's work in data visualization and statistical modeling is cutting edge for the field. GC has the first data scientist to be employed at an institutional research department in USG. Georgia College's IR has received statewide and national recognition through its presentations at various conferences. The 2015 Factbook produced by IR was awarded first prize at the 2015 Southern Association of Institutional Research conference.

Constitution Week (September 16th and 19-23rd)

Friday, September 16th: Constitution Day Festival – music and constitution-themed activities on Front Campus (11am-2pm).

Monday, September 19th: Chief Justice **Hugh Thompson** of the GA Supreme Court will discuss access to justice and expansion of the GA Supreme Court (6-6:45pm); State Rep. Allen Peake will discuss medical marijuana and associated issues of federalism (6:45-7:30) (A&S Auditorium)

Tuesday, September 20th: Supreme Court Review– A panel of lawyers, judges, and law professors will discuss the most recent term of the U.S. Supreme Court. Moderated by Matt Roessing of the College of Business (6-8pm) (A&S Auditorium)

Wednesday, September 21st: Times Talk- A discussion of recent GA legislation on Campus Carry and Religious Freedom (noon) (GC Library)

Wednesday, September 21st: “**God and Guns**” – A discussion of recent GA legislation on Campus Carry and Religious Freedom with GA legislators **Rep. Stacey Godfrey Evans, Rep. Susan Holmes, and Sen. Josh McKoon** (6:30-8:00) (A&S Auditorium)

Thursday, September 22nd: Jason Carter and Josh Belinfante to discuss redistricting, voter identification, and voter registration. Moderated by Jehan El-Jourbagy of the College of Business. (6-8pm) (A&S Auditorium)

Upcoming Programming:

- *2015 GC Faculty Scholarship Support Program*
Panel Presentation, September 28th, 10AM-Max Noah
Dr. Kristina Dandy, Psychological Science; Dr. Donovan Dominique, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy; Dr. Mary Magoulick, English and Rhetoric; Dr. Katie Simon, English and Rhetoric. Moderated by Dr. Beauty Bragg, 2016-2017 Provost Fellow.
- *Department Chair Retreat*
September 30th - Mansion Education Room

Free Membership to CUR: With the support of Academic Affairs and MURACE, GC holds the highest membership in the Council on Undergraduate Research CUR-Enhanced Institution Member. Faculty, administrators, students & staff can join CUR with no additional cost.

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge: GC is now a participating campus in ALL IN, focusing on improving democratic engagement and increasing student voter participation. More info <http://www.allinchallenge.org/>

2016-2017 Provost Lecture Series (Dates-TBA)

Making an Impact: Examining Faculty-Derived Campus Ethos & Engagement among Black Males in the Community College
John D. Harrison, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor, College of Education

Meat: To Eat or Not to Eat? Interrogating the Politics of Diet from Colonial to Contemporary India
Samiparna Samanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Department of History and Geography

Online Vs. Face-to-Face: Pilot Study of a Comparison of Student Outcomes with Random Assignment
John Swinton, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Finance

Benefits of Mindfulness for Health Behaviors
Whitney L. Heppner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychological Science

A Comparison of Selected Supervisory Skills of Content Specialists and Non-Content Specialists University Supervisors
Kevin Hunt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Education, School of Health & Human Performance

A Comparison of the Libraries of the 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities
Shaundra Walker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Ina Dillard Russell Library