

# Faculty Excellence Award Application Form



Name: Renée J. Fontenot, Ph.D.

Rank: Professor of Marketing

Department: Management, Marketing & Logistics

Award applying for:

(Check one)

	Excellence in Teaching Award*
	Excellence in Online Teaching Award*
	Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Endeavors Award*
	Excellence in University Service*
	Excellence in Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award*
	Department/Program Excellence Award^
X	Irene Rose Community Service Award^
	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](mailto:ctl@gcsu.edu)) by March 1, 2019.

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](#).



**Office of the Dean**  
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Milledgeville, Georgia 31061-0490  
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gcsu.edu/business

February 27, 2019

### **Letter of Nomination - Georgia College Faculty Excellence Awards**

As College of Business Dean I strongly endorse Dr. Renée Fontenot for the university's *Irene Rose Community Service Award*. She is a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics in the College of Business (CoB). Dr. Fontenot joined the CoB in 2005. She completed her Ph.D. in Marketing in 2001 at New Mexico State University.

Dr. Fontenot's teaching focuses on courses for Marketing majors, especially the capstone course, which requires significant oversight from the faculty member because of the client-based projects used in the course. During the past 14 years of sustained community service she has conducted over 300 client-based projects. In the capstone course student groups develop marketing strategies for clients. In these and other client projects Dr. Fontenot's students have recorded over 56,000 hours of work within Central Georgia at an economic value of over \$1.0 million. These activities are highly consistent with our mission regarding engaged learning and local economic development. These projects extend well beyond volunteer duties and well past typical teaching demands for a project-based course. As evidence of impact, some clients, who are not asked to pay for these consulting services as they would from some business schools, have made donations to the CoB.

Dr. Fontenot is a Rotary member and has served as president. She has been instrumental in several community service projects that have directly impacted the local economy. For example:

- She was instrumental in the formation of an entrepreneurial community over ten years ago. That project involves partners such as the Twin Lakes Library System, Milledgeville/Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, and the Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority. Services to startup firms include mentorship, training, and networking. She works with startups, as well as fundraise through grant writing and presentations to civic clubs.
- She was on the ground floor of the local Milledgeville Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) chapter. She is SCORE certified and is mentoring several prospective businesses.
- Her other board service includes the Milledgeville/Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, Partners-for-Progress, the Oconee River Greenway, and the Milledgeville Farmer's Market.

Based on this brief summary of her highly engaged community service, I endorse without reservation Dr. Renée Fontenot for Georgia College's *Irene Rose Community Service Award*.

Sincerely,

Dale Young, Ph.D.  
Dean, J. Whitney Bunting College of Business

## Irene Rose Community Service Award

**Nominee:** Renée J. Fontenot, PhD, Professor of Marketing

In 2005 I joined the faculty at Georgia College explicitly because of the Liberal Arts Mission and the expressed desire of the Dean of the College of Business to develop a program that included experiential learning.

Over the course of the past thirteen and one-half years, I have been an active member of the community bridging students in my classes and through the Entrepreneurial Residential Learning Community, GC Entrepreneurs, SIFE, and ENACTUS, with the community. To accomplish student engagement, I have assumed a variety of positions in community organizations and on boards, and in the Rotary Club of Milledgeville, a civic organization. A complete list of organizations and roles is documented below.

The most significant service to the Central Georgia Community has been through the engaged/experiential learning experiences in my courses. When appropriate and relevant, I incorporate client based projects into my classes. Since 2005, students in my classes will have worked with 302 clients by the end of this semester. The vast majority of those experiences have been in the capstone marketing course, strategic marketing. A complete list of clients is documented below.

Of these 302 clients, 47% have been not-for profit organizations. Across the client experiences, students have recorded in excess of 56,000 hours of experiential learning experience, as defined by the GC Office of Academic Engagement. Using the State of Georgia annual values for volunteer labor this equates to an economic value in excess of \$1.2 million.

Beginning with an in-class exercise in 2011, I began requiring students to create their personal elevator pitch for use at career fairs and networking events. Since 2013, the elevator pitch has become a semi-annual competition for students as preparation for career fairs and networking events. Each year, I secure corporate funding of \$5,000 to award prizes each semester. The competition has grown to have over 425 students participate each semester; this is the largest number of competitors in a single elevator pitch competition in the nation. First round judges are community leaders and recruiters. In the most recent competition over 85 business leaders and professionals came to campus to serve as judges and provided feedback for the first round of competition. Several recruiters specifically participate so that they can see the talent and potentially recruit those best suited for their organization. This is the largest singular non-class activity in the college of business with roughly 30% of all college of business students participating across a year.

Through my participation in the Chamber of Commerce, both in Milledgeville and in Eatonton; the Main Street Development Authority; Rotary club of Milledgeville; and as Vice Chair of Partners-for-Progress; I recognized a need for a community based business incubator. A business incubator helps to foster entrepreneurship and provides support to grow viable community based businesses. In 2009, I initiated a series of community discussions, "Dreaming Aloud/Allowed", as the first steps towards a feasibility plan to develop an entrepreneurial spirit in Milledgeville

and a potential business incubator. Through the past decade, I have partnered with various entities working towards develop what has become MIC (Milledgeville Incubator Community). Through a partnership with SCORE, Twin Lakes Library System, Milledgeville~Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority, and other local business supporters, MIC provides mentorship, training, networking and other services to help support fledgling and growing businesses in Baldwin and surrounding counties. I have contributed to fundraising through grant writing, presentations to potential stakeholders and civic clubs, and personal appeals and outreach to community leaders.

To further support the Entrepreneurial Academy that I started through a minority church in the community to provide guidance and leadership to early stage businesses, I initiated the Milledgeville SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) branch of the Macon Chapter of SCORE. I became a SCORE certified mentor and provide leadership and mentorship to numerous community members and student mentees.

For three years, I hosted a weekly radio program called “Business Casual with Renée Fontenot”. I interviewed business owners and community leaders about their business, their commitment to the community, and their philanthropic efforts. The program was hosted replayed twice weekly on WRGC.

In 2015, I initiated “Holiday Lights”, an annual December celebration of lights around the Pecan Grove at Central State Hospital. Organizing community business and civic organizations, together the groups lite over 1/2 mile of parkway along three rounds surround the pecan grove.

In 2011, after a couple of failed attempts, I led a group to initiated First Fridays a monthly celebration of art and culture downtown Milledgeville. The purpose of First Fridays was three fold. First was to bring the community to the downtown district of Milledgeville, an area that was becoming nearly synonymous with college students. Second was to increase commerce in eh downtown area. Third was to provide an outlet for all types of local artists to show case their art. First Fridays continues as a Main Street monthly activity.

Through these accomplishments, I hope I have demonstrated my commitment to service to and through our community that has benefited Georgia College Students, businesses and organizations, and the community at large. Thank you for your consideration.

Renée J. Fontenot

**Documentation of Community Service Described in Narrative**

**Community Organizations and Clubs:**

- Rotary Club of Milledgeville: Service Project Chair 2008-2014; President elect, President, immediate past President 2014-2017. Was chosen as Rotarian of the year three times, and awarded the prestigious “Service Above Self” award.
- Historic Piedmont Scenic Byway, board member since 2014, actively engaged in fundraising activities for the organization
- Old Capital Museum & Brown-Stetson-Sanford House Museum, board member 2016-2018, assisted with developing marketing strategies.
- Partners-for-Progress, Vice Chair of Business Development and Stewardship 2010-2013
- Milledgeville & Baldwin Co. Chamber of Commerce, board member 2010-2012
- Oconee River Greenway, board member 2011-2015, secretary for one term
- Milledgeville Farmer’s Market, board member 2010-2012.
- Creative Expressions/Life Enrichment Center, board member 2007-2011, served as vice-chair for one term

**Student initiatives:**

**Elevator Pitch Competition**

	competitors	Comp/yr	# judges	CoB BBA Majors	% of CoB BBA Majors	Sponsor
Sp19	455	897	93	1449	30%	GEICO
FA18	442		81	1449	30%	GEICO
SP18	491	840	60	1389	32%	GEICO
FA17*	349		61	1389	24%	GEICO
SP17	333	538	99	1443	21%	GEICO
FA16	205		65	1443	13%	GEICO
SP16	118	246	49	1417	6%	GEICO
FA15	128		41	1417	7%	GEICO
SP15	132	210	52			Northwestern Mutual
FA14	78		24			Northwestern Mutual
SP14	58	114	38			Northwestern Mutual
FA13	56		23			Northwestern Mutual
	2845		686			

\*Prior to FA17, the first round of the competition were videotaped and judged via YouTube.

## Engaged/Experiential Learning – Clients

Fitness Bug, Milledgeville  
Jack's Hamburgers, Dublin  
Morgan Co. Library, Madison  
Bee Co Apiaries, Hancock  
Queen of Bags, Milledgeville  
Salvation Army, Milledgeville  
Baldwin Co Community Pool,  
Milledgeville  
Old Capitol Productions, Milledgeville  
Scouting, Milledgeville  
GC Leadership Programs, Milledgeville  
Relay for Life, Milledgeville  
GC Foundation/Senior Giving,  
Milledgeville  
Hope Springs Institute  
Suttles Flooring, Macon GA  
Landmark Associates, LLC, Eatonton  
Small Home Property Development,  
Milledgeville  
Food Service Partners, Milledgeville  
The Cottages at Woodland Terrace,  
Milledgeville  
GC Dept. of Management, Marketing, &  
Logistics, Milledgeville  
First Presbyterian Church, Milledgeville  
Lake Country Beekeepers Association,  
Sparta  
Old School History Museum, Eatonton  
Twin Lakes Incubator, Milledgeville  
The Log Cabin, Milledgeville  
The Innovation Station, Milledgeville  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
Milledgeville  
SCORE - Milledgeville~Baldwin Co.  
Branch, Milledgeville  
Rotaract District 6920  
Old Capital Racing, Milledgeville  
New Beginning Church of Christ,  
Milledgeville  
Milledgeville~Baldwin Entrepreneur  
Ecosystem, Milledgeville  
Lockerly Arboretum, Milledgeville  
Keep Milledgeville & Baldwin Co  
Beautiful, Milledgeville  
Fall Line Press, Atlanta  
Eventful Success, Macon  
Eatonton-Putnam County Library,  
Eatonton  
Divine by Design, LLC, Eatonton  
Chard Wray Food Pantry, Milledgeville  
Brown Parcel Press, Milledgeville  
Art Healthy, Milledgeville  
GC Marketing Department, Milledgeville  
Elite Gymnastics & Dance, Milledgeville  
Nurturing Minds Tutorial, Milledgeville  
Cravings, Milledgeville  
Philadelphian Group Tours, Inc.,  
Gresham, OR  
IBody Project, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville: City Welcome Kit,  
Milledgeville  
Good Karma, Milledgeville  
Broken Shackle Ranch, Davisboro  
J. Whitney Bunting CoB Foundation,  
Milledgeville  
Healing Hands Chiropractic,  
Milledgeville  
Habitat for Humanity, Milledgeville  
The Market Basket, Milledgeville  
Octagon Café, Milledgeville  
GC Montessori School, Milledgeville  
Yellow Rose Farm Soap Company, Jasper  
County  
Uncle Remus Regional Library, Hancock  
County  
Georgia's Writers Museum, Eatonton  
Rotary District 6920  
The Depot: Museum & Cultural Hub,  
Milledgeville  
Cotton Warehouse, Eatonton  
Voyage of Hope: CDL Training,  
Milledgeville

Tony Havior Automotive, Milledgeville  
GC Homecoming, Milledgeville  
Broken Shackle Ranch, Davisboro  
Glen Mary Plantation, Sparta  
Voyage of Hope, Milledgeville  
Rotary District 6920  
Adult Literacy Project, Milledgeville  
Twin Lakes Library System,  
Milledgeville  
The Cottages at Woodland Terrace,  
Milledgeville  
St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Outreach  
Services Committee, Milledgeville  
Smarty Pants Day Care/Papa's and Nana's  
Adult Day Center, Milledgeville  
Oconee Regional Healthcare Foundation,  
Milledgeville  
Luma Sleep, Milledgeville  
Jasper County Mentor Program, Jasper  
County  
Habitat for Humanity, Milledgeville  
GMC Athletics, Milledgeville  
Floral Arrangements by Murali Thirumal,  
Milledgeville  
First United Methodist Church,  
Milledgeville  
Chard Wray Food Bank, Milledgeville  
Baldwin County Rec Department,  
Milledgeville  
Scenic Mountain RV Park &  
Campground, Milledgeville  
Baldwin County School District,  
Milledgeville  
Performance Auction Team, Milledgeville  
Metropolis Café, Milledgeville  
Old Capital Museum, Milledgeville  
Good Karma, Milledgeville  
Oral Lab Tests To Go, LLC, Conyers  
Baldwin County School District,  
Milledgeville  
Abundant Life Word Fellowship Church,  
Eatonton  
Keep Milledgeville Baldwin Beautiful,  
Milledgeville

GFG Strategic Advisors, Milledgeville  
American Heating & Air, Milledgeville  
Southern Fabrics, Milledgeville  
Chick-fil-a Catering, Milledgeville  
Central State Hospital Local  
Redevelopment Authority, Milledgeville  
Styrax Home Inspections, Milledgeville  
Visit Eatonton, Eatonton  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
Milledgeville  
Oconee Regional Humane Society,  
Greensboro  
Metropolis Curry & Kabob, Macon  
Local Yokel Café, Milledgeville  
Firehouse Subs, Milledgeville  
Eatonton - Putnam Tourism Arts Heritage  
Partnership Inc.  
Butler Volkswagen of Macon, Macon  
Eatonton Putnam Tourism, Arts &  
Heritage, Eatonton  
Georgia Local Government Personnel  
Association  
Milledgeville Country Club, Milledgeville  
Summit Communiversity, Milledgeville  
Artisans Village, Eatonton  
Eatonton Putnam Chamber of Commerce,  
Eatonton  
Need-a-Nerd, Milledgeville  
ViziTech USA, Eatonton  
Cashmere Restaurant & Lounge, Eatonton  
Oasis Management Systems, Inc.,  
Cummings  
AJ's Hot Wings and More, Milledgeville  
Twiggs Academy, Jeffersonville  
The Caboose Restaurant of Madison,  
Madison  
Pamlico Pools/Curtis Cox, Milledgeville  
Kia of Anniston, AL  
Filmstigator.org/Michael Curtis,  
Milledgeville  
Eco Tourism- Liz Havy, Milledgeville  
JERALT Enterprises LLC, Milledgeville  
Habitat for Humanity, Milledgeville

American Logo Gear, Suwanee  
Georgia College: Human Resources,  
Milledgeville  
Game Bazarr, Milledgeville  
Palmico Pools, Milledgeville  
Craig Massey Real Estate, Milledgeville  
Sonic restaurant, Milledgeville  
Old Capitol Treasures, Milledgeville  
Georgia College: Learning in Retirement,  
Milledgeville  
SMAXBros.com, Roswell  
Consumer Credit Counseling, Macon  
Spherion, Macon  
Georgia Dream Ice Creamery,  
Milledgeville  
Peachy Keen, Milledgeville  
Oconee Citizen Advocacy Center,  
Milledgeville  
View Visitor, Roswell  
The J. Whitney Bunting College of  
Business MBA Program, Milledgeville  
Southern Prep Hoops, Milledgeville  
The Ferst Foundation, Baldwin Co.  
Community Action Team, Milledgeville  
Georgia College: Special Collections,  
Milledgeville  
Georgia College: Outdoor Recreation,  
Milledgeville  
Butler Ford Honda, Milledgeville  
WRGC 88.3 FM , Milledgeville  
Milledgeville Main Street, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville Community Garden  
Association, Milledgeville  
Metropolis Grille of Warner Robins  
MeddBill, Middle  
J. C. Grant Co, Milledgeville  
Glen Mary Plantation, Sparta  
Georgia College Women's Studies,  
Milledgeville  
Farm Fresh Food Initiative, Sparta  
Courson's Winery, Sparta  
Chick-fil-A, Milledgeville  
Charmed Salon and Spa, Milledgeville

The Fun Factory, Milledgeville  
Martin 3, LLC, Milledgeville  
Doodles, Milledgeville  
Baldwin County Fire Dept., Milledgeville  
Georgia College Outdoor Education,  
Milledgeville  
Tabitha's Bakery, Milledgeville  
Jackson's on Sinclair, Milledgeville  
Old Governor's Mansion, Milledgeville  
Rotary Club of Milledgeville,  
Milledgeville  
Salvation Army, Milledgeville  
Rooms of Hope, Milledgeville  
Quiznos, Milledgeville  
Oconee River Greenway, Milledgeville  
UPS Store, Milledgeville  
Georgia College Web Enabled Resources  
(IDEAS), Milledgeville  
Georgia College Human Resources & The  
Clean Air Campaign, Milledgeville  
Putnam County School District, Eatonton  
Metropolis, Milledgeville  
Francis Kennedy Painting, Milledgeville  
Asian Bistro, Milledgeville  
Sparta/Hancock Produce Growers  
Cooperative, Inc., Sandersville  
Georgia College Auxiliary Services,  
Milledgeville  
Sandella's, Milledgeville  
Ultra Force Security, Milledgeville  
Oconee Regional Symphony,  
Milledgeville  
Georgia College Media Lab,  
Milledgeville  
Partners for Progress: Business  
Development, Milledgeville  
American Tall Ship Institute, Oxnard, CA  
Georgia College - Early College,  
Milledgeville  
42nd Floor, Milledgeville  
Professional Cleaning Service of  
Milledgeville, Milledgeville  
Puebla Mexican Restaurant, Milledgeville

Fields Photography & Framing,  
Milledgeville  
Holiday Inn Express, Milledgeville  
Kent E. Watson, FASLA, Landscape  
Architect & Planner, Missoula, MT  
Wundering Heights, Missoula, MT  
Adler Architects, Inc., Missoula, MT  
Payroll Management Corp., Milledgeville  
Harris Pet Parlor, Madison  
Washington County~City of  
Sandersville~Washington County  
Chamber of Commerce, Sandersville  
Flair for Hair, Milledgeville  
Birthflowers, Milledgeville  
Heritage Garden, Milledgeville  
Justpaperroses.com, Milledgeville  
Flooring America, Milledgeville  
Animal Rescue Foundation, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville Players, Milledgeville  
Georgia Old Capital Museum,  
Milledgeville  
GC International Programs, Milledgeville  
Fitness Plus, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville & Baldwin County Partners  
for Progress: Business Development  
Committee, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville & Baldwin County Partners  
for Progress: Retirement Committee,  
Milledgeville  
TNT Icy Remedy, Milledgeville  
Elite Studio, Milledgeville  
Oconee Greenway, Milledgeville  
Dirt Road Barbeque, Sandersville  
ExtraordiNailry, Milledgeville  
MidSouth Community FCU,  
Milledgeville  
Fire & Water Creations, Souris, PEI  
Art Spaces Gallery, Charlottetown, PEI  
Happy Glass, Charlottetown, PEI  
Milledgeville Cares, Milledgeville  
Z97, Milledgeville  
C.S. BBQ, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville: An Art Destination,

Milledgeville  
Villane's, Milledgeville  
The Integrity Project, Milledgeville  
Southern Orthopaedics, Milledgeville  
Hudson & Marshall, Macon  
ACE Alarms, Macon  
Andalusia, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville Bicycle Club, Milledgeville  
Sticky Fingers, Macon  
GCSU Library Information Technology  
Committee, Milledgeville  
Oconee Outfitters, Milledgeville  
Healing Hands Chiropractic Inc.,  
Milledgeville  
hotfindz.com, Macon  
Creative Expressions, Milledgeville  
GCSU LMBA, Milledgeville  
Amici's Italian Restaurant, Milledgeville  
HR Consulting, Milledgeville  
GCSU Athletics, Milledgeville  
GCSU Honors & Scholars Program,  
Milledgeville  
The French Vill'Edge, Milledgeville  
New Town Macon, Macon  
Deano's Pizza, Milledgeville  
Mason & Johnson Saw Company, Inc.,  
Milledgeville  
The Gift Basket, Sandersville  
Evergreen Approach, LLC, Sandersville  
The Washington County Chamber of  
Commerce, Sandersville  
Carriage Home Antiques & Collectibles,  
Sandersville  
BirthFlowers, Milledgeville  
Life Enrichment Center and Creative  
Expressions, Milledgeville  
Children's Books by B & M, Dallas,  
Texas  
Digital Innovations Group of GCSU,  
Milledgeville  
Master's of Public Administration Degree  
Program at GCSU, Milledgeville  
Master's of Science in Criminal Justice

Degree Program at GCSU, Milledgeville  
Safety Step, Oklahoma City, OK  
Toyota of Milledgeville, Milledgeville  
Glow Salon, Milledgeville  
Baldwin Service Center, Milledgeville  
Eatonton Judicial Museum, Eatonton  
Physical and Athletic Rehabilitation  
Clinic, Milledgeville  
Horton Components, Eatonton  
Monroe Academy, Monroe  
*Adopt-a-Grandparent Program,  
Milledgeville*  
Glow Salon, Milledgeville  
Horton Components, Eatonton  
Lower Oconee Regional Hospital, McRae  
Retailing of Milledgeville & Baldwin  
County, Milledgeville  
Horton Haulers, Eatonton  
One-Stop/SBnow.info/Milledgeville  
Chamber of Commerce, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville Chamber of Commerce,  
Milledgeville  
Just Add Wine, Atlanta  
Microsoft Academic Alliance,  
Milledgeville  
GCSU School of Business Advising  
Center, Milledgeville  
Baldwin Service Center, Milledgeville  
Youth Baseball, Milledgeville  
Oconee Home Inspections, Milledgeville  
T & S Bed & Breakfast, Madison  
Cards from Heaven - Sara Skagegard,  
Storvreta, Sweden

Villaine's, Milledgeville  
GCSU School of Business Graduate  
Programs, Milledgeville  
Scoops, Milledgeville  
Sam's Voice, Milledgeville  
John Milledge Academy, Milledgeville  
GCSU Energy Use & Conservation Task  
Force, Milledgeville  
Peachstate Nursing Agency, Milledgeville  
Lokey Chiropractic Clinic, Milledgeville  
Lowe's Collectibles, Redmond, OR  
Baldwin County & Milledgeville  
Development Authority, Milledgeville  
Big Brothers and Big Sisters,  
Milledgeville  
GCSU Library Museum, Milledgeville  
Milledgeville Country Club, Milledgeville  
Hattaway Printing, Milledgeville  
Oconee Home Inspections, Milledgeville  
Petland, Milledgeville  
Villaine's, Milledgeville  
Sylvia's Restaurant, Milledgeville  
GCSU School of Business Career Center,  
Milledgeville  
GCSU School of Business International  
Business Degree Program, Milledgeville  
GCSU Women's Resource Center,  
Milledgeville  
GCSU School of Business Information  
Systems and Computer Science Degree  
Program, Milledgeville  
Hometown Eatonton, Eatonton

28 February 2019

Georgia College Foundation  
Re: Dr. Renée J. Fontenot  
*Nominee for Irene Rose Community Service Award*

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am writing to recommend Dr. Renée J. Fontenot for the Georgia College Foundation's Irene Rose Community Service Award.

Since her arrival to Georgia College in 2005, Dr. Fontenot has rendered distinguished service to our Central Georgia community and has worked indefatigably to knit together Georgia College with the communities of our region. Dr. Fontenot doesn't just teach the abstract principles of community engagement; she brings her students into partnership with local agencies to turn community needs into mutually beneficial learning experiences. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Fontenot has arranged more than 300 client-based student experiences in the community, simultaneously providing innovative learning opportunities for her students and meeting compelling community needs. Those efforts have generated a net impact of more than 56,000 hours of contributions to the community and an economic impact of \$1.2 million.

So often in community service, we treat the *symptoms* of problems rather than the *chronic problems* themselves. Dr. Fontenot works to meet immediate community needs and simultaneously addresses the systemic concerns that created the needs in the first place. Dr. Fontenot has provided an institutional model, embraced by her colleagues from across the university, that integrates students' classroom-based experiences with community-based learning. She has built an infrastructure that will outlive her own tenure at Georgia College and will distinguish this institution for decades to come.

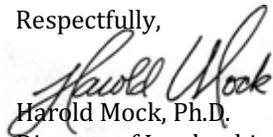
She ranks among Georgia College's most productive scholars and continues to innovate pedagogically. As Dr. Fontenot and I share many students in common, I see firsthand the depth of experience they cultivate in their courses with her. So frequently, I hear "In Dr. Fontenot's class, we saw . . ." and "In our project for Dr. Fontenot's class . . ." and so on. As a faculty member new to Georgia College, I quickly came to rely on Dr. Fontenot's encyclopedic knowledge of community needs and relationships, as I aspired to institutionalize some of her innovative practices into my own courses.

As her application dossier bears out, Dr. Fontenot has been the guiding force behind the Milledgeville Incubator Community, which provides mentorship, training, networking, and other services to support fledgling and growing businesses in Baldwin and contiguous counties. By bringing together SCORE, the Twin Lakes Library System, the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce, the Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority, and other community organizations, Dr. Fontenot has built this important community institution. Additionally, she began the Milledgeville SCORE branch—the Service Corps of Retired Executives. She initiated and manages the semiannual elevator pitch competition for GC students and has secured \$5,000 in external funding to sponsor the event and award student prizes each semester. Dr. Fontenot has made the competition a communitywide initiative, recruiting and hosting external judges from across the region to meet with our GC students and to participate in the program.

Dr. Fontenot serves on eight local boards and has long been an active member of the Rotary Club of Milledgeville, serving as president, named three times as Rotarian of the Year, earning the "Service Above Self" award, and maintaining ten years of perfect attendance.

Beyond her years of service to Georgia College and the community, Dr. Fontenot maintains a record as an unparalleled educator. Although the concepts that she teaches are complex, Dr. Fontenot is quick to make them accessible to her students through experiences and field-based work. She is one of the most productive scholars at Georgia College, and her professional work ripples far beyond our university — through her scholarship and through the lives of a generation of students who remain in her debt.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Mock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Harold Mock, Ph.D.  
Director of Leadership Programs  
Assistant Professor of History

28 February 2019

Georgia College Foundation  
Re: Dr. Renée J. Fontenot  
*Nominee for Irene Rose Community Service Award*

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am writing to recommend Dr. Renée J. Fontenot for the Georgia College Foundation's Irene Rose Community Service Award.

Since her arrival to Georgia College in 2005, Dr. Fontenot has rendered distinguished service to our Central Georgia community and has worked indefatigably to knit together Georgia College with the communities of our region. Dr. Fontenot doesn't just teach the abstract principles of community engagement; she brings her students into partnership with local agencies to turn community needs into mutually beneficial learning experiences. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Fontenot has arranged more than 300 client-based student experiences in the community, simultaneously providing innovative learning opportunities for her students and meeting compelling community needs. Those efforts have generated a net impact of more than 56,000 hours of contributions to the community and an economic impact of \$1.2 million.

So often in community service, we treat the *symptoms* of problems rather than the *chronic problems* themselves. Dr. Fontenot works to meet immediate community needs and simultaneously addresses the systemic concerns that created the needs in the first place. Dr. Fontenot has provided an institutional model, embraced by her colleagues from across the university, that integrates students' classroom-based experiences with community-based learning. She has built an infrastructure that will outlive her own tenure at Georgia College and will distinguish this institution for decades to come.

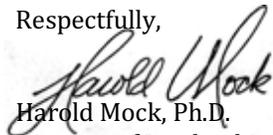
She ranks among Georgia College's most productive scholars and continues to innovate pedagogically. As Dr. Fontenot and I share many students in common, I see firsthand the depth of experience they cultivate in their courses with her. So frequently, I hear "In Dr. Fontenot's class, we saw . . ." and "In our project for Dr. Fontenot's class . . ." and so on. As a faculty member new to Georgia College, I quickly came to rely on Dr. Fontenot's encyclopedic knowledge of community needs and relationships, as I aspired to institutionalize some of her innovative practices into my own courses.

As her application dossier bears out, Dr. Fontenot has been the guiding force behind the Milledgeville Incubator Community, which provides mentorship, training, networking, and other services to support fledgling and growing businesses in Baldwin and contiguous counties. By bringing together SCORE, the Twin Lakes Library System, the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce, the Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority, and other community organizations, Dr. Fontenot has built this important community institution. Additionally, she began the Milledgeville SCORE branch—the Service Corps of Retired Executives. She initiated and manages the semiannual elevator pitch competition for GC students and has secured \$5,000 in external funding to sponsor the event and award student prizes each semester. Dr. Fontenot has made the competition a communitywide initiative, recruiting and hosting external judges from across the region to meet with our GC students and to participate in the program.

Dr. Fontenot serves on eight local boards and has long been an active member of the Rotary Club of Milledgeville, serving as president, named three times as Rotarian of the Year, earning the "Service Above Self" award, and maintaining ten years of perfect attendance.

Beyond her years of service to Georgia College and the community, Dr. Fontenot maintains a record as an unparalleled educator. Although the concepts that she teaches are complex, Dr. Fontenot is quick to make them accessible to her students through experiences and field-based work. She is one of the most productive scholars at Georgia College, and her professional work ripples far beyond our university — through her scholarship and through the lives of a generation of students who remain in her debt.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Mock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Harold Mock, Ph.D.  
Director of Leadership Programs  
Assistant Professor of History