

# Faculty Excellence Award Application Form



Name: Stephen Wills

Rank: Associate Professor

Department: Teacher Education

Award applying for:  
(Check one)

	Excellence in Teaching Award*
	Excellence in Online Teaching Award*
	Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Endeavors Award*
X	Excellence in University Service*
	Excellence in Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award*
	Department/Program Excellence Award^
	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](#).



**Department of Teacher Education**

John H. Lounsbury College of Education

Campus Box 72

Milledgeville, Georgia 31061-0490

Phone 478-445-4577

Fax 478-445-0692

February 28, 2019

Dr. Steven Jones  
Faculty Excellence Awards Committee  
Georgia College  
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

I am writing to nominate Dr. Stephen Wills for the Excellence in University Service Award. It is my great honor to do so. Stephen has long exemplified a high level of commitment to service at Georgia College. He has been involved in service at the university, college, departmental, program and professional levels for the past 10 years and has made a clear impact.

Dr. Wills has served as the program coordinator for our four special education programs (Bachelors, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education, and Education Specialist) for most of his tenure at Georgia College. While he has successfully maneuvered the minefield of accreditation agencies and formal national recognition, his biggest impact to our program has been his ability to create and maintain an ongoing culture of collaboration where everyone's contribution is valued and our work is in partnership with each other. In a truly collaborative work environment, the leaders must be willing to ask others what they can do to help. Dr. Wills serves as a model of servant leadership; collaboration has become an ingrained part of the culture in our program, and it contributes to the success of each faculty member, the program, department, and the college.

In service to the profession, Dr. Wills has remained on the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Executive Board for ten years. The CEC is the leading global professional organization that advocates for people with disabilities and the families and teachers who support them. During his involvement in CEC, Dr. Wills has served in just about all of the Georgia executive positions including president, and he served on the CEC Representative Assembly at the international level. He currently chairs the Georgia CEC Mini-Grants Committee, the student chapter committee of faculty sponsors, as well as serving as the faculty advisor for our Georgia College chapter.

He continues his commitment to service at the professional level through his partnership with Baldwin County schools. Over the past three years, he conducted five professional development sessions with new teachers in Baldwin County. Most notably, he partners with Lakeview Academy to hold his Literacy Strategies Course on-site. The teacher candidates, in the class, are taught literacy strategies that they then implement with Lakeview students through weekly individualized literacy sessions. This partnership has proved to be mutually beneficial for Lakeview and Georgia College students.

Dr. Wills is committed to shared governance at the University level. As a College of Education senate representative, he served on the Subcommittee of Core Curriculum (SoCC) and as chair of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Committee (CAPC). Dr. Wills currently serves on the Graduate Council. He has sustained service in shared governance and leadership throughout various curriculum-related committees.

Additionally, Dr. Wills serves as a Team MISTER mentor for two students in our Call Me MISTER Program. The Call Me MISTER program is a program that seeks to increase the pool of available teachers from diverse backgrounds; Georgia College's Call Me MISTER program is the only one in the state. I can think of no greater mentor and advocate than Dr. Wills to lead these future teachers through this initiative as they prepare for their future roles as teachers.

Dr. Wills' areas of service extend far beyond all that was included in this letter of nomination. For every new project in which he becomes a part, whether it is developing a 100% online MAT program or speaking to a community group about 504 Plans for students with diabetes, he takes it on with passion, collegiality, and initiative. I offer my fullest endorsement of Dr. Stephen Wills for this prestigious award.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole M. DeClouette, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Special Education  
Georgia College & State University



## Department of Teacher Education

Campus Box 72  
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061-0490  
Phone (478) 445-4577  
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March 1, 2019

Greetings Committee Members,

This letter is in support of the nomination of Dr. Stephen Wills for the Georgia College Excellence in University Service Award. Dr. Wills has a record of sustained service to the Department of Teacher Education, the John H. Lounsbury College of Education, Georgia College and State University, and to the profession of education, specifically special education. In this letter, I will outline the outstanding service Dr. Wills has contributed and the impact of that work.

### Service to the Department

For the past eight years, Dr. Wills has served as the Program Coordinator for four programs (BS, MAT, MED, and EDS) in the area of special education. It is important to note that although these programs are all in the area of special education, they are very distant in the program requirements, accreditations standards, and students' needs. As Program Coordinator, Dr. Wills is responsible for prioritizing and planning for program continuous improvement, leading program meetings and mentoring new and part-time faculty, determining course offerings, answering questions from prospective students and handle student issues, and reviewing and processing student applications, as well as, advising students as they matriculate through their program. These activities impact the maintenance of viable programs and over 100 students and the students they serve.

In ensuring viable programs, accreditation is vital. Accreditation in the field of education is extremely rigorous, especially in special education due to the vulnerable populations our students serve. There are three levels of accreditation required. The first level is at the university level through SACCOCS requirements. Dr. Wills leads the team in ensuring the programs meets these requirements by writing the SMART report each year. The next level of accreditation is through our state agency, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (gaPSC). Without state accreditation, the program cannot exist. The process is similar to the third level of accreditation, the professional level. Programs in special education are governed by the Council for Exceptional Children at the professional level. Obtaining professional recognition from this external agency (and state accreditation) involves the review and revision of assessment instruments and their rubrics, and the collection, analysis, and interpretation of multi-year data and then creating a data-driven plan for continuous improvement. Dr. Wills has served as the leader for the work, which not only includes the aforementioned aspects, but all writing an extension report that aligns specific standards, skills, and knowledge and responding to conditions, if needed. In 2013, the BS and MAT programs were recognized at the professional level and the MED program received recognition in 2019. Receive professional recognition is an enormous undertaking and not easily obtained. Due to Dr. Wills efforts, our programs not only have an honor not given to all program, but also receiving national rankings. The MED program was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation by the SR Education Group.

### Service to the College

In assisting with accreditation across the college, Dr. Wills serves on the Assessment Committee, and the Educator Preparation Stakeholder Council. These committee are vital to the continued success of the programs. Dr. Wills is also leading the development of an online MAT program in Special

Education that will start this summer. He has been working hard with the Center for teaching and Learning to develop his online teaching and course development. In addition, he is creatively utilizing Edthema for virtual field observations and lesson sharing among students.

#### Service to the University

Over the years, Dr. Wills has served the university as a member and in leadership roles primarily in areas related to the governance of curricular changes. Dr. Wills served on the University Senate from 2014-2017. During the 2015-2016 academic year, Dr. Wills served as chair of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Committee (CAPC) and led the committee in overseeing curricular changes across the university. From 2016-2018, he served as a member of Subcommittee on the Core Curriculum (SOCC) and is currently serving as a member of the Graduate Council. All of these committees impact policies and procedures within the university.

#### Service to the Profession

There is two levels to serving the profession within our field. There is service to profession in a higher education profession and service to the community. Dr. Wills engages in serve at both levels. For the past nine years, Dr. Wills worked with the Georgia Council of Exceptional Children Executive Committee. During this time, he has served as president, vice president, and immediate past president and currently serves as chair the mini-grant committee and chair of the student chapter faculty sponsor committee. He also serves as a Georgia College faculty sponsor for the GC Student CEC Chapter, and was heavily involved in Georgia College hosting the CEC Student conference during 2016-2018.

In serving the community, Dr. Wills has worked extensively with Baldwin County Schools. He has conducted five professional development sessions with the new teachers in Baldwin County for over three years, and partnered for the past three years with Lakeview Academy in the implementation of an on-site Literacy Strategies course. The Lakeview students receive weekly individualized literacy instruction and our teacher candidates are provided experience implementing the taught literacy strategies with actual students with disabilities. The value and impact of Dr. Wills' work in teacher preparation is shown in repeated invitations to work with professors in Alabama in preparation of the implementation of a state teacher licensing examination.

Dr. Wills commitment to service is exceptional. He often sacrifices personal time to serve the department, college, university, and profession. The majority of Dr. Wills' service is focused and intentional. These service activities impact the lives of what is considered a vulnerable population, students with exceptionalities. Because of the long-lasting implications of his service, Dr. Wills is extremely deserving of the honor of receiving the Georgia College Excellence in University Service Award.

Sincerely,

*Desha L. Williams*

Desha L. Williams, Ph.D.

Chair of the Department of Education

**Milledgeville • Macon • Warner Robins**

Georgia College, the state's designated public liberal arts university, combines the educational experience expected at esteemed private liberal arts colleges with the affordability of public higher education.

February 27, 2019

Dear Selection Committee for the Excellence in Service Award:

This letter is written with enthusiastic support for Dr. Stephen Wills in his nomination for the Excellence in Service Award. Dr. Wills has a long history with Georgia College and during that time he has committed to continued service. His commitment and passion are obvious in all that he does. The depth and breadth of Dr. Wills' sustained service spans the Special Education program, Teacher Education Department, College of Education, university, community and the profession. In this letter, I will include selected, yet, significant contributions made by Dr. Wills in each area of service.

**Sustained Service to the Special Education Program, Department of Teacher Education, and the College of Education**

Dr. Wills has served as the Special Education Program Coordinator for eight years and has coordinated four different programs; the Special Education Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education and Education Specialist. Dr. Wills has provided leadership as he prioritized, planned, and implemented the program assessment system for program continuous improvement, led program meetings, mentored new and part-time faculty, determined course offerings based on multiple programmatic changes, answered all inquiries from prospective students and served as an advisor on all student issues. In addition to his leadership in his program, he has completed all of the annual reports for the programs, such as the SMART reports and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's Preparation Approval Annual Reports.

The Special Education programs are Nationally Recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children. Each time the programs under his coordination have been up for review, Dr. Wills has completed the reports for recognition and any response to conditions reports. He has spent countless hours gathering and analyzing assessment data and providing specific changes to improve the programs through these self-study reports that are evaluated by external reviewers for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The MAT and BS programs received National Recognition in 2013 and the M.Ed. in Special Education was most recently Nationally Recognized in February 2019.

Several years ago, the state of Georgia opted to require a national assessment for teacher candidates seeking certification, the edTPA. The edTPA is a teaching portfolio that takes weeks of data collection and writing to complete. The COE created a professional learning community around this assessment, and Dr. Wills has been a member since 2014. He received training in local scoring early in the process and has provided guidance to other program faculty and all special education students, even if he was not their instructor. Through his guidance, mentoring, and leadership, the Special Education undergraduate and MAT cohorts have a 100% pass rate on the edTPA, which is above the state and national average. The success of the program in the edTPA is directly related to the support he provides his colleagues and to the Special Education students.

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Established in 1889

Georgia's designated public liberal arts university since 1996

Recently, Dr. Wills has developed an entirely new online MAT in Special Education. He provided all documentation for the curriculum review process and has spent the last year creating engaging online courses to expand the Georgia College teacher preparation to all parts of the state. Expanding our reach is very important as special educators are in great need throughout the state. This program would not be possible without Dr. Wills' commitment to serving the college as we seek to increase our impact across the state through increased graduate enrollment and supporting the high needs area of certified special educators.

#### **Sustained Service to the University**

While Dr. Wills has served in various capacities around the university community, his most significant contributions have occurred in his service to the University Senate. He has served on the University Senate from 2015-2018. He served as Chair of Curriculum Affairs Policy Committee (CAPC) from 2015-2016 and as a Member of Subcommittee on Core Curriculum (SOCC) 2016-2018. Dr. Wills served as a member of the Graduate Council from 2018-2019.

#### **Sustained Service to the Community**

Dr. Wills has cultivated a strong partnership with the Baldwin County School System. He has conducted five professional development sessions with the new teachers in Baldwin County over the past three years. He has also partnered with Lakeview Academy in the implementation of an on-site Literacy Strategies course. Through this reciprocal partnership the Lakeview students receive weekly individualized literacy instruction that they need in order to be successful throughout their schooling and beyond; and our teacher candidates are provided experience implementing the literacy strategies they have been taught with actual students with disabilities. This has been an ongoing partnership for three years.

#### **Sustained Service to the Profession**

Dr. Wills has served on the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children Executive Committee for nine consecutive years. He has served as president, vice president, and immediate past president. He has also served as chair of the mini-grant committee for the past four years and chair of the student chapter faculty sponsor committee for the past two years. Dr. Wills has also served as a Georgia College faculty sponsor for the GC Student CEC Chapter for the past six years, and was heavily involved in hosting the CEC Student Conference at Georgia College during 2016-2018 school years.

Many pages of accolades could be written and Dr. Wills' vitae provides a listing of each of his service endeavors; however, his commitment level cannot be explained by merely the line items on his vitae. He is an exemplary faculty member in every way, but his passion is service oriented. He is the one you want on "your" committee. He never avoids hard work and he is always willing to give his time, knowledge, and experiences to promote the Department of Teacher Education, the JHL College of Education, the University, and his local and professional community.

Sincerely,



Holley M. Roberts, Ed.D.  
Interim Associate Dean

It is my honor to recommend Dr. Stephen Wills for an Excellence in Service Award at Georgia College. Dr. Wills is an integral member of the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children and has been an active member on the Executive Board since 2010.

In 2010 Dr. Wills served as the Georgia Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Coordinator where he traveled to Washington, DC and met with Georgia Senators and Representatives to discuss reauthorization of IDEA, advocated for stimulus money for teachers and full funding of educational initiatives, and educated the Congressmen on CEC's position on student restraint and seclusion.

Dr. Wills became Vice-President for Georgia CEC in 2011 and, as such, was the 2012 conference chairperson. He negotiated a contract with the Macon Centreplex for meeting space, arranged the schedule of events and compiled the conference program. Two highlights of the conference were securing Bruce Ramirez, Executive Director of National CEC as one keynote speaker and Debbie Gay, the Georgia Director of Special Education services, as another keynote speaker. The conference was well attended, received positive reviews, and was a financial success. The profit from the conference enabled Georgia CEC to fund ten \$500. teacher grants.

The next year (2012) Dr. Wills moved into the President Elect position. In this position he was heavily involved in the 2013 conference with much of the conference planning utilizing templates established from the previous year. Dr. Wills also served as a member of the 2012 national representative Assembly for the state of Georgia. As a representative he was the voice for Georgia on policy decisions.

Dr. Wills became President of Georgia CEC in 2013. In this role he was involved in planning, organizing agendas and overseeing volunteer efforts around the state. Dr. Wills emphasized the growth of local chapters and began an initiative of offering seed money to start or renew chapters. As a result, Houston County renewed their local chapter with an active agenda and around 20 active members. In addition Georgia CEC partnered with Georgia Department of Education as a sponsor of the IDEAS conference. Approximately 600 special educators attended the conference which used CEC's resources for registration.

In 2014 Dr. Wills became Past President of Georgia CEC. As such, he was the Chair of the Nominations committee and helped recruit and retain officers for the Executive Board. In addition he served as Chair of the Mini-grant committee, which involves assessing grant applications for new and experienced teachers with innovative ideas in teaching.

From 2015 to the present Dr. Wills has remained an active member of the Georgia CEC Executive Board. He continues to chair the mini-grant committee and serves as the Georgia College faculty sponsor. As the faculty sponsor he has guided students in hosting the state CEC student conference at Georgia College in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The student conference has included speakers from different agencies around the state and has included students from other universities.



As the current President of Georgia Council for Exceptional Children Dr. Wills is seen as a valuable, trusted, diligent member of our Executive Board. I highly recommend Dr. Stephen Wills for an Excellence in Service Award due to his dedication to the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Allen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Leslie Allen, President of  
Georgia Council for Exceptional Children**

## **Excellence in Service to the University Narrative**

When I began my career in higher education I was overeager to change the world. I took on every project available and never refused an opportunity to be of service. As you can predict, it did not take too long for me to realize that I alone cannot solve every need that crossed my path. I found that that devoting a little of myself to a wide range of service meant committing a great deal of myself to nothing substantial. After realizing the futility of over-commitment, I managed to focus my service to my areas of strength while leaving areas of need outside of my strengths to others. While I still struggle to pass along an exciting idea to a colleague with more time and specific expertise, I have developed a sustained, focused, and successful service agenda to specific departmental, college, university, professional and community needs.

### **Service to the Department of Teacher Education and the Special Education Programs**

I feel that perhaps my greatest impact as a faculty member has been my eight years of service as the program coordinator of our BS, MAT, M.Ed. and Ed.S. special education programs. Perhaps the most tedious aspect of these duties involve meeting the ever changing accreditation demands of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) that certifies teachers and completing their PAAR report to show that our teacher candidates have met certification standards, compiling and explaining program data of key assessments that show our programs meeting our specialized professional association (SPA) standards and gaining formal national recognition from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). While the collection of data can become tedious, the interpretation of the data and leading our faculty through program improvements based upon our data is my passion. In the special education programs, continuous improvement is an ongoing collaborative process and the resulting course and assessment developments have helped us gain and maintain, accreditation from the PSC, formal national recognition through the CEC and most importantly, successful teachers in the field.

### **Service to the John H. Lounsbury College of Education**

My service to the College of Education (COE) includes serving two years of my three year term on the Purpose and Directions Committee. The charge of this committee is to provide a sounding board for administration during decision-making processes that represents the voice of the faculty and staff and serves as a conduit between the faculty and administration for concerns, policy-related questions, and ideas. In addition, this committee compiles the agenda, leads, and records minutes for the COE faculty meetings. I have also served on the COE assessment committee for the past eight years. In the area of assessment, I have developed numerous rubrics and key assessments to show the meeting of state, and national standards. One particularly impactful service was the development of a rubric that evaluates teacher candidates in the field that is being used across the state including our College of Education. In my most recent service to the COE, I have led the two year development of a 100% online MAT program in Special Education that will start in the summer of 2019. Our goal for this program is to create a uniquely better online learning experience that emphasizes field based learning, collaboration among their cohort and collaboration with their mentor leader who will guide them throughout their program. The courses that I developed for the online special

education MAT consist of direct instruction of material through multiple short screencast videos using Kaltura within Georgia View. The longest screencast is around 12 minutes so that students can participate in short spurts and are less likely to multitask through an hour long recorded lecture. I also make sure that my image is included on the screencast so that the students feel a connection with their professor. These screencasts are supplemented through readings as well as other forms of multimedia such as TED Talks, ATLAS videos of classroom teaching and online discussions. One unique aspect of our program is our development of online field supervision utilizing Edthena software. Through Edthena, supervisors can observe teacher candidates virtually and provide feedback online. I also led the development of a new program assessment for the online MAT program involving a lesson study that utilizes our new Edthena software. For the lesson study, groups of teacher candidates share teaching videos. As they view the videos, they assess evidence of student progress and teacher implementation of a target instructional strategy in each other and reflect upon their own practice. We are also eagerly awaiting updates to WebEx that will allow further collaboration among our online students and professors.

### **Service to the University**

My service to the university has been accomplished primarily in the area of governance associated with curriculum and assessment. I served on the University Senate from 2014 to 2017. Perhaps my most impactful role as a senator was chairing the Curriculum Affairs Policy Committee (CAPC) during 2015- 2016. As the chair of this influential senate committee, I drafted and distributed tentative agendas for the monthly meetings, presided over committee meetings, entered committee motions into the online motion data base for the senate to consider, and presented the CAPC report to the University Senate at the scheduled senate meetings. After my term as a senator ended, I remained active in the area of curriculum governance by serving two years on the Subcommittee On the Core Curriculum (SOCC) and currently serving on the Graduate Council.

### **Service to the Profession**

Much of my service to the profession is focused on my involvement and leadership for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). CEC is the recognized world leader in advocacy for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents, their parents and the professionals who work with them. I have served on the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children Executive Committee for ten consecutive years. During his involvement, I have served as state president, president elect, vice president and immediate past president. On the national and international level, I also served on the CEC Representative Assembly, deciding on priorities and policies concerning advocacy for people with disabilities at a global level. I remain active in the CEC and currently chair the Georgia CEC mini-grants committee which provides up to five \$500 grants to classroom teachers who are seeking to implement innovative ideas and projects in their classrooms. I also chair the Student Chapter Committee for faculty sponsors of student chapters and collaborate with other university chapters around the state. On the university level, I also continue to serve as the faculty sponsor for the Georgia College student chapter of the CEC. The Georgia College CEC chapter remains an active Georgia College service organization. Our students are involved in service projects in Baldwin County and surrounding communities. For

example, we have donated wheelchair accessible playground equipment at a community park and we work every year with the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine offering an unforgettable prom night experience for students with disabilities. Our CEC chapter, which currently has 55 members, meets on a monthly basis to discuss topics or hear speakers talking about aspects of disability advocacy or innovative teaching practices. In a new area of service for me, I currently serve as Team Mister mentor for two students in the Georgia College Call Me Mister (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role models) program. This program strives to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background, particularly African American males. Student participants are largely selected from among under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. I consider this life changing initiative for the students and a beneficial and needed boost to the diversity of the teaching force.

### **Service to the Community**

An emphasis on my service to the community is the strong partnership that I cultivated with the Baldwin County School System. Over the past three years, I have conducted five professional development sessions for the Baldwin County new teachers. I have conducted professional development sessions related to classroom behavior, behavior intervention plans and differentiated instruction for the 50 to 75 new teachers each year. Another collaborative project with the Baldwin County School System involves the teaching of my Literacy Strategies course with a strong service learning component. This course is taught in an innovative way at Lakeview Academy that is mutually beneficial to both the teacher candidates and the Lakeview students with disabilities. The teacher candidates are provided with opportunities on a weekly basis to work with students with disabilities implementing the specific literacy strategies taught in the classroom portion of class. The Lakeview students receive individualized literacy instruction that they desperately need in order to successfully in their schooling and in life. Our teacher candidates are allowed to experience implementation of the targeted literacy strategies with real students addressing real problems. Over the past three years, students made documented gains in reading comprehension and fluency while the course evaluations for our section of Literacy Strategies are consistently in the top 5% - 10% of the university.

Accepting the status quo is never an option in higher education or p-12 education. Not only are regulations constantly changing but student and community needs are also changing constantly. Service is the key component to the implementation of change. Service is where impactful actions takes place. While leaders in service may not necessarily be the first to recognize areas in need of change, they are among the first to act. While my department chair still reminds me not to overfill my plate, I feel that my greatest asset to the Georgia College community is my willingness to show up, risk and solve needs.

**Stephen W. Wills Ph.D.**  
**Service Vitae**

**Service to the Department of Teacher education and the Special Education Program**

Program Coordinator, Special Education Programs (2010-Present)

Responsibilities apply to the B.S., M.A.T., M.Ed., and Ed.S. programs.

- Work collaboratively with faculty to design, implement, and interpret program assessments that address CAEP, SACS, Georgia Board of Regents requirements, and CEC standards
- Compiling and describing data in collaboration with program faculty for annual PAAR reports, SMART reports, and CEC Recognition Reports
- Lead continuous improvement of programs in response to assessment data and feedback from stakeholders.
- Program Scheduling and determine courses offerings for the program for each semester, submit course requests to the department chair for approval
- Communicate with other programs to determine needs for EDEX courses; work with other programs to coordinate schedules

**Service to the John H. Lounsbury College of Education**

**Committee Assignments:**

JHL College of Education Assessment Committee, 2010 – Present

The Assessment Committee serves to:

- Establish, maintain, and review a unit wide assessment plan
- Advise and advocate for appropriate unit and program assessments.
- Recommend assessment policy in collaboration with the Director of Assessment and Accreditation and faculty.

College of Education Purpose and Directions Committee, 2016 - Present

The Purpose and Directions Committee Serves to:

- serves as a conduit between the faculty/staff and administration for concerns policy-related questions, and ideas.
- compiles the agenda, leads, and records minutes for the COE faculty meetings

College of Education School and Community Partnership Committee, 2013-2015

**Other Service to the College of Education**

Led the development of a 100% online MAT program in Special Education, 2017-Present

The online program was designed to emphasize field based learning, collaboration among their cohort and collaboration with their mentor leader

- Redesigned EDEX 6000, Survey of Special Education I to 100% online

- Redesigned EDEX 6111, Exceptional Individuals in the Regular Classroom to 100% online
- Redesigned EDEX 6120, Survey of Special Education I to 100% online
- Redesigned EDEX 6117, Behavior management to 100% online
- Redesigned EDEX 6610, Internship I, EDEX 6611, Internship II, EDEX 6612, Internship III and EDEX 6613, Internship IV to 100% online

### **Service to the University**

Georgia College Graduate Council, 2018 - Present

Georgia College Subcommittee on the Core Curriculum, 2015 - 2018

Georgia College University Faculty Senate, 2012 – 2015

Chair: Georgia College Curriculum and Assessment Policy Committee, 2014- 2015

- Drafted and distributed tentative agendas for the monthly meetings,
- Presided over committee meetings,
- Entered committee motions into the online motion data base for the senate to consider
- Presented the CAPC report to the University Senate at the scheduled senate meetings.

Georgia College Student Affairs Policy Committee, 2012 – 2014

### **Service to the Profession**

Call me Mister Team Mister mentor for two African American male teacher candidates - Present

Georgia Council for Exceptional Children Executive Committee: 2010 – Present

- Sets priorities for advocacy and professional development to help students with disabilities, parents and special educators

Chair: Georgia Council for Exceptional Children Student Chapters Committee, 2016- Present

- Lead the committee of faculty sponsors of Georgia CEC Student Chapters and promote collaboration and planning of the state student conference.

Chair: The Georgia Council for Exceptional Children Mini-Grants Committee, 2014-Present

- Provides up to five \$500 grants to classroom teachers who are seeking to implement innovative ideas and projects in their classrooms.

Faculty Sponsor of the Georgia College Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children, 2013-Present

- Involved in service projects and fundraising to benefit students with disabilities and special educators

Immediate Past President: Georgia Council for Exceptional Children, 2014

- Chair of the Nominations Committee

**President: Georgia Council for Exceptional Children, 2013**

- initiated new policies that strengthened existing chapters and came up with the incentive to give "seed" money toward the creation of new chapters.

**Co-chair: Conference Committee for the Georgia CEC State Conference, 2013**

**CEC Representative Assembly Member at International CEC Conferences, 2013 – 2014**

- decided on priorities and policies concerning advocacy for people with disabilities at the global level

**President Elect: Georgia Council for Exceptional Children, 2012**

**Chair: Conference Committee for the Georgia CEC State Conference, 2012**

**Vice President: Georgia Council for Exceptional Children, 2011**

**Georgia CEC Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Coordinator, 2010-2011**

- CAN coordinator of the Georgia CEC, took part in advocacy training and met with the two senators and one representative from Georgia on Capitol Hill to lobby the CEC's position on issues related to special education

## **Service to the Community**

### **Invited Professional Development in Schools**

**Classroom Management: It's more Than Discipline, Baldwin County Board of Education New Teacher Induction Session, 85 attendees, October, 2017 and invited back October, 2018.**

**Functional Behavioral Analysis and Behavior Intervention Plans, Baldwin County Board of Education New Teacher Induction Session, February, 2016**

**Developing a Growth Mindset in Students, Baldwin County Board of Education New Teacher Induction Session, January, 2016**

**Graphic Organizers in Education, Gray Elementary School, Jones County Board of Education, September, 2015**

### **Service Learning in Schools: EDEX 3501, Literacy Strategies, 2015 - Present**

- In this service learning course, teacher candidates are provided with opportunities on a weekly basis to work with actual students with disabilities implementing the specific literacy strategies taught in the classroom portion of class. The Lakeview students receive individualized literacy instruction that they desperately need in order to successfully in their schooling and in life



February 26, 2019

Excellence in Service Award Committee  
Georgia College & State University  
231 W Hancock Street  
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Dear Excellence in University Service Award Committee Members,

It is a pleasure to support Dr. Stephen Wills for the Excellence in Service Award. Dr. Wills does an exceptional amount of service for the Special Education Program, the Teacher Education Department, College of Education, the University, public schools, the profession, and the community. In this letter I will address some of his areas of excellence related to his service.

#### **Program Service**

Dr. Wills does an outstanding job as the Program Coordinator for Special Education. For over eight years, he has made sure the curriculum for the Special Education Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, Special Education Master's (MEd.) degree, Special Education Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree, and the Special Education Specialist (Ed.S) degree are up-to-date and aligned with Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Standards, Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Standards, and Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) Standards. Along with this Dr. Wills prepares numerous reports, including the yearly Georgia College SMART Assessment for the each of the four Special Education programs, the yearly GaPSC Program Approval Annual Report for each of the programs, his information for the annual CAEP report, his information for the Georgia Board of Regents Teacher Preparation Report, the Special Education information for the Federal Title II reporting on the quality of Teacher preparation report, and the SPA reporting to maintain national recognition. This exceptional work exemplifies a "consistent record of service over a period of time as distinct from a one-time contribution."

#### **Department Service**

Although the Teacher Education Department does not have any formal committees, Dr. Wills does participate in the departmental meetings. Much of the department-level work is handled by individual programs. The Special Education program meets regularly to work on areas of concern and continuous improvement strategies. One important area that addresses Dr. Wills' vision is his significant contribution in moving the MAT program to 100% online to make it available to teachers that are hired without certification that cannot come to campus. He led the redesign on many of the courses and worked with the Center for Teaching and Learning to be sure they were prepared with Quality Measures standards.

#### **College Service**

Dr. Wills serves on the College of Education (COE) Dean's Advisory Committee which is an important committee to the operation of the COE. This committee advises the Dean on faculty and programmatic issues. The three-person committee also arranges the COE-wide faculty meeting each month. Dr. Wills also serves on the COE Assessment Committee which meets at least monthly throughout the year in order to address issues such as accreditation reporting, edTPA portfolio that is scored by Pearson, Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) results scored by Educational Testing Service, as well as strategies to ensure our students are properly assessed in



order to be successful in their professional career. He also serves as a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee of the Whole in making decisions on tenure and associate professors.

### **University Service**

Currently, Dr. Wills serves on the University Graduate Council. He also has been active with university governance as serving on and chairing of the Curriculum Affairs Policy Committee (CAPC). Dr. Wills also served as a member of the Subcommittee on the Core Curriculum (SoCC). His contributions helped advance new curricula and curriculum-related policies.

### **Public School Service**

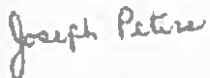
In terms of public school service, Dr. Wills works closely with Baldwin County schools and regularly offers inservice to new teachers. He also partners with the Baldwin Schools on innovative projects such as the ongoing individualized literacy instruction partnership that is part of an on-site course taught at Lakeview Academy. The Lakeview students benefit from small group literacy instruction and our teacher candidates benefit from implementing what they learn in class with real students with disabilities.

### **Community and Professional Service**

With respect to community service, Dr. Wills participates in events that support students with disabilities such as CEC-sponsored events. He is also very active in the Georgia CEC. He has served as President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and on various committees. His work with CEC also includes being a faculty mentor and hosting a CEC conference at Georgia College.

In conclusion I wholeheartedly support Dr. Stephen Wills for the Excellence in Service Award. He continues to do an exemplary job in the area of service and his contributions are valued at all levels. I look forward to hearing of his successfully achieving this award. If I can answer any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the [joseph.peters@gcsu.edu](mailto:joseph.peters@gcsu.edu) email or the 478-445-2519 phone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Peters, Ph.D  
Dean of Education