



Georgia Chapter of APPA  
Leadership in Educational Facilities

# GAPPA News

## February 2019

“Fostering innovation through collaboration”

**Jekyll Island 2019!** conference is coming soon. Come and bring your experience and achievements to share with others.

The 2019 Trade Show will have 106 exhibitors and numerous other sponsored business partners who are bringing solutions, services and equipment that will help you get the most for your campus dollars.

There will be stipends provided for up to \$800 per individual, with a maximum of two stipends awarded per institution, to support travel and/or lodging for members. Registration deadline is May 1st, 2019.

Find the Institutional Registration form at: [www.gappa.org](http://www.gappa.org)

To apply for stipend: go to [www.gappa.org](http://www.gappa.org) and fill out the stipend form when the conference program is posted



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# 2019 GAPPA President's Letter

GAPPA Members:

The 36th annual GAPPA conference is fast approaching! We want to encourage you to join us at Jekyll Island for what is sure to be a great show. Our conference dates are May 25 through May 29, 2019; with the Exhibitor Trade Show Hall open on May 26th & 27th in the Jekyll Island Convention Center, adjacent to the beach.

Our theme this year is “fostering innovation through collaboration.” It takes a team of individuals, working together, to be able to design, build, and keep our facilities operating efficiently and safely. Humans are social animals and in our professional world it is becoming more and more evident that effective collaboration is key to the successes of any team. Through collaboration, our construction and operations leaders can stay current in their fields and be able to better foster new innovation.

GAPPA has expanded to 106 exhibit booths this year and nearly 50 sponsors that will be there to help you with ideas, new technology, faster and efficient methods of solving old problems, and more. We recognize that institution budgets for travel expenses and lodging can sometimes be strained so we have again approved and set aside funding for stipends this year to help support your travel expenses for the 2019 GAPPA Annual Meeting and Trade Show. The stipends provide reimbursement for up to \$800 per individual, with a maximum of two stipends allowable per institution, to support travel and/or lodging for members. We encourage you to apply early for a stipend as there are a limited number available.

Please plan on joining us this year and think about other members of your organizations that would benefit from the educational learning and collaboration opportunities available at this conference. There will be a broad spectrum of educational sessions, keynote speakers, opportunities for peer networking, and chances to learn the latest industry innovations from the various business partners. And, bring your family, because there will be free time for fun in the sun and plenty of activities for all on Jekyll Island.

We look forward to seeing you all this year on the island!

Todd Bermann

GAPPA President 2019 & 2020

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# Jekyll Island Welcomes You

Dear Friends,

Jekyll Island is once again open for business and exploration after Hurricane Irma. In partnership with state and local resources, we've worked around the clock to restore this island to its pristine beauty.

Residents are settling back into their homes and visitors are returning to explore the beaches and enjoy fall activities. We are very fortunate to be able to reopen so quickly, and our hearts are with those who are still feeling the effects of the storm.

Many of you have asked how you can help. There are many non-profits you can support, or you can simply visit Jekyll Island. Stay in the hotels, eat in the restaurants, visit a local shop, and enjoy our many activities. Visitors like you help make this island and its future possible, and will be vital during this time of recovery.

As we put the finishing touches on this special place, we invite you to come back. With your help, we can continue to make Jekyll one of the most special places in the South.

The Jekyll Island Authority



***Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor:***  
***Casey Charepoo***  
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# Georgia Tech Facilities Management Nationally Recognized for Excellence



In August, Georgia Tech's Facilities Management, one of the largest units on campus, was recognized for achieving the APPA Award for Excellence. This award is considered one of the greatest industry accomplishments in the higher education facilities industry and celebrates comprehensive achievements in efficiency, leadership, customer focus, and innovative practices.

"This award is the culmination of years of hard work and continuous improvement; it could not have been won without the dedication of each and every employee on our team," said Vice President of Facilities Management

Chuck Rhode. "I am very proud of our staff."

The Facilities Management team is made up of 535 staff members across 13 departments.

"The institutions that receive the Award for Excellence are true leaders in educational facilities management," said Dan Bollman, vice president of Professional Affairs for APPA. "The Facilities department at Tech is embracing innovation and 'creating the next' in a variety of areas. The operations and maintenance teams are applying the real-time collection and analysis of data to improve the built environment, while ecological advances and environmental sustainability drive a number of notable innovative campus projects: These include the first planned Living Building Challenge-certified facility in the southeastern United States, the Campus Work Green initiative ranking the sustainability practices of campus departments, and joint projects between the landscape department and academics to determine the impact of the campus arboretum."

The Award for Excellence highlights the essential role of facilities operations in the overall institutional mission. Georgia Tech's Facilities Management unit oversees the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and renovation of all of the built, naturalized, and landscaped environments of Tech's campus, which spans more than 400 acres in Midtown Atlanta. This oversight includes responsibilities such as ensuring the safe and reliable distribution of utilities, operation and cleaning of buildings, laboratory and occupational safety, and waste and recycling management.

Award submissions are assessed in the areas of leadership; strategic and operational planning; customer focus; information and analysis; development and management of human resources; process management; and performance results. In addition to a comprehensive application package, the review process includes industry committee input, as well as a site visit and stakeholder interviews. The Award for Excellence designation is valid for a period of five years.

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## New Georgia Tech App Helps Non-Native English Speakers with Business Communication Skills

Georgia Tech's Language Institute, in conjunction with the Center for 21st Century Universities (C21U), has launched a new app aimed at helping non-native English speakers improve professional communication for successful business interactions.

The app, Speak English Professionally, is now available for download through both the Apple App Store and Google Play. The app is available for free and users are provided with a wide variety of self-paced and individualized learning modules on speaking English in a business setting. Videos and quizzes are designed to assist users with social and interviewing skills based on scenarios they may encounter in business settings primarily conducted in English.

"Today's learners often use apps to supplement traditional courses in order to continue their education while leading busy, on-the-go lives," said Matt Lisle, the director of educational technology for C21U. "By providing this type of instruction for free and through an app, Georgia Tech continues to lead in accessible, world-class educational instruction designed for current and future learners."

The Language Institute and C21U partnered with e-learning production company Onlea to produce the app. The course materials are based on Georgia Tech's preexisting Coursera specialization courses that are focused on speaking English professionally.

Since 1958, the Language Institute has offered high-quality English language training for students preparing for academic work in the United States and other individuals who hope to improve their language skills for social reasons. As a unit of Georgia Tech Professional Education, the Language Institute also serves professionals looking for career improvement through better language skills. While many lessons still take place in a physical classroom, resources like language learning MOOCs and apps allow the Language Institute to effectively reach a greater number of learners.

"We work hard to provide the best language learning experience in all our programs, and we hope this is reflected in each of our video lessons and online activities," said Suzi Lee, an instructor and instructional designer for the Language Institute. "This app was developed to provide easy-to-follow speaking strategies and pronunciation practice opportunities so that learners can have access to meaningful language support and improve their overall professional communication."

To try the app out for yourself, you can visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and download Speak English Professionally for free. The app requires iOS 9.0 or later and is compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

You can learn more about the Georgia Tech Language Institute's work and learning opportunities by visiting the GTLI website. Find out about C21U's role in educational innovation at Georgia Tech by visiting the C21U website.

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# VSU Students Create Web App to Connect Military Community to Local Businesses



VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University's Amanda Mitchell, Zackery Weeks, and Brandon Corbett have created a web application for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce that connects Moody Air Force Base to South Georgia businesses.

The application is similar to a social media platform and allows military families to discover discounts, coupons, and events posted by area businesses. It also offers a listing of businesses that are Certified Moody Friendly, meaning they are in good standing with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau; offer some sort of military discount; and are willing to hire military spouses or dependents.

Mitchell, Weeks, and Corbett designed the application as part of a competition held in the Department of

Computer Science's Senior Seminar capstone course and in partnership with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce.

"Since we have heard time and time again that there is a need to pull together the Moody community and the Valdosta-Lowndes community, we wanted to create an application that would be beneficial to the airmen and their families at Moody and show them what our award-winning community has to offer," said Jeanette Stensgaard, membership director for the chamber.

Throughout the Spring 2018 semester, Mitchell, Weeks, and Corbett competed against six other groups in the Senior Seminar course to build the best application. The top four teams presented their projects in May to a focus group of current and retired airmen, military spouses, business owners, website developers, and code-fluent professionals.

Mitchell, Weeks, and Corbett were named the winning team for the overall functionalities of their application and the quality of their final presentation.

"The winning application was chosen because it met most of the requirements from the client (i.e. thechamber)," said Dr. Zhiguang Xu, VSU professor of computer science who led the Senior Seminar course. "It was robust and comes with straightforward and user-friendly interfaces, and it was built by a group of students who demonstrated a very high level of teamwork and professionalism."

Mitchell, a computer information systems major from Valdosta who expects to graduate in Summer 2018, said she enjoyed being able to work with a real client for the project.

"It makes the whole project feel like it's a job, not just an assignment," she said. "It was a challenge and took a lot of research and long nights to get it just right, but I definitely liked putting up a good fight."

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# VSU Students Create Web App to Connect Military Community to Local Businesses

Challenges for the team included using a computer programming language that was completely foreign to the team at the start of the competition as well as learning to balance the time-intensive project with jobs and other schoolwork.

“Prioritization was the hardest part for me,” said Weeks, a computer information systems major from Adel who expects to graduate in Summer 2018. “Trying to prioritize everything that needed to be completed for the program and also balancing this class with all of my other classes was a bit stressful. But the three of us are really good friends. We have worked together building other programs before, and we make a really good team.”

Corbett, a computer information systems major from Valdosta who expects to graduate in Summer 2018, said ensuring the web application was tailored to the chamber’s specific requests helped his team to win.

“It was a stiff competition, but I just think we had a slightly better looking design with maybe one or two more features that the client requested,” he said. “I’m happy we won after all the time we spent creating this project from the ground up.”

Stensgaard said the chamber was impressed by the students’ “entrepreneurial spirits and fresh ideas.”

“These students did not just develop the app,” she said. “They really took ownership of it and created a project of which they could be proud.”

Camellia Jefferson, career readiness consultant at Moody Air Force Base and employment manager for Moody’s Airman and Family Readiness Center, was a member of the focus group and said the new web application will make a difference for the Moody community, especially for military spouses seeking employment.

“Connecting military families to businesses in the local community will increase their chances of gaining employment,” she said. “This will help to ease the burden of military spouses who struggle with the challenges of constantly moving and trying to establish a career, whether long- or short-term, during their stay in a particular geographical location.”

Xu said the goal of the capstone project was to “allow students to work on a sophisticated software application utilizing cutting-edge technologies; work in a group setup where collaboration among group members is the key to success; and, most importantly, work for a real client on a real-world application that serves the community as a whole.”

“All of our graduating students will tremendously benefit from such an effective experience after they graduate from VSU, especially in the first several years of their career as a software developer,” he said.

The work of Xu’s class and the partnership with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce reflects VSU’s commitment to facilitating experiential learning opportunities for students and enhancing community and regional impact by serving as a resource to South Georgia and beyond.

John Stephen

Communications Specialist

The winning team’s application, housed on its own website and run by the chamber, will go live this summer. The Gainesville Campus is not the only one with construction projects underway. The Dahlonega Campus is dealing with one road-related pro-

***Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor:  
Casey Charepoo***

# Georgia State Among Top 100 Kiplinger's Best Value List



ATLANTA—Georgia State University is ranked among the top 100 public colleges and universities in the U.S. in Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine's 2018 Best College Values rankings.

In the rankings, which weigh affordability alongside academic quality, Georgia State was listed 90th among the top 100 public colleges and universities.

The rankings are based on an analysis of graduation rates, total cost per year, average need-based student financial aid and undergraduate average debt. Kiplinger's evaluated nearly 1,200 institutions.

"With our combination of great diversity, high student success rates and reasonable costs, Georgia State is redefining what it means to be an elite institution," said Timothy M. Renick, vice president of enrollment services and student success at Georgia State. "These latest rankings underline the incredible value Georgia State offers."

Georgia State is nationally recognized for student success initiatives that have increased graduation rates, reduced the time to earning a degree and eliminated achievement gaps based on race, ethnicity or income.

The institution has used predictive analytics to help tens of thousands of students stay on track academically and created one of the nation's largest grant programs to keep students enrolled, expanding educational opportunity and achievement.

For more about student success initiatives, visit <http://success.gsu.edu>.

To look at the rankings, visit <http://kiplinger.com/links/colleges>.

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# Georgia State and Georgia Tech Awarded \$2.5 Million Grant To Establish Atlanta Global Studies Center

ATLANTA-Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology have established the Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), a National Resource Center and a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship program funded by a \$2.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The interdisciplinary center will focus on research and instruction geared to student populations that are underrepresented in international and advanced language studies.

“The Atlanta Global Studies Center will provide opportunities for economic and civic partnerships across the greater Atlanta region by leveraging the city’s status as a leading international corporate center and thriving multinational investment hub,” said G.P. ‘Bud’ Peterson, president of Georgia Institute of Technology. “The state of Georgia’s efforts in bilingual and dual-immersion education demonstrate the ever-growing need for a global workforce. We are honored to work with Georgia State on yet another collaboration.”

The AGSC will engage college students throughout Atlanta, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students, community college students and minority, first- generation and low-income students, with a goal to serve areas of national needs in educating these college students for careers in business, education, security and defense, and public and governmental sectors.

“All students must engage in international education to succeed during the 21st century, both in the job market and as well-informed citizens,” said Risa Palm, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Georgia State. “The new center will help to provide more opportunities for students from underrepresented backgrounds in the region to gain this vital knowledge that is critical for their future success, and for our region and nation.”

AGSC will foster specialized instruction in international education and less commonly taught languages, such as Arabic, Korean, Portuguese and Hindi. In addition, the AGSC will manage FLAS fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students. Prospective Fellows must enroll in language programs and will receive a full-tuition waiver and stipend.

“The AGSC is an important step in further innovation of global curriculum, and I am thrilled about the enrichment it will provide to students and community,” said Anthony Lemieux, director of the Georgia State Global Studies Institute and co-director of AGSC.

According to Anna Westerstahl Stenport, chair of the Georgia Tech School of Modern Languages who spearheaded the grant proposal, AGSC priorities will encompass curriculum enhancement, faculty professional development, public events, conferences, language instruction, and kindergarten through 12thgrade and community outreach.

“Our mission is to enhance access to advanced language learning and deepen knowledge of global and intercultural issues for the benefit of Atlanta region students, faculty and the public,” said Stenport, co-director of the AGSC. “This will be facilitated through robust collaborations in research and instruction with Atlanta universities and with international organizations, consulates, refugee organizations and institutions of public service and higher education in the Southeast and nationally.”

The AGSC proposal team from Georgia Tech included professors Stenport, Vicki Galloway, Lizanne DeStefano, and Yves Berthelot, who also is the vice provost for international initiatives. The Georgia State team included professors Lemieux, William Nichols, and associate provost for International Initiatives, Wolfgang Schlör.

The AGSC will be housed in the Global Studies Institute in Georgia State’s College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Modern Languages in the Georgia Tech Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. For more information, contact Anna Stenport at [aws@gatech.edu](mailto:aws@gatech.edu).



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# State legislature earmarks \$5.5 million for UNG standalone campus in Blue Ridge

The University of North Georgia's (UNG) Blue Ridge Campus will move and expand to serve its rising enrollment numbers in Fannin County and the northeast Georgia region.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and Speaker of the House David Ralston, a UNG alumnus who represents Fannin County in the legislature, announced funding for the new campus May 2 at the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Funds for the new plan are part of the \$26 billion state budget Deal signed in ceremonies in Atlanta, Acworth, Blue Ridge, Statesboro, and Tifton.

"We appreciate and are grateful to the support we have received from the state legislature," UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs said. "We are elated at this opportunity and know the educational impact UNG will have on this region will be felt in Fannin County and throughout this region for generations."

The state budget has earmarked \$5.5 million in a 20-year bond for land acquisition, design, construction, and equipment for the Blue Ridge Campus. It will be located less than four miles from the current campus on land east of Industrial Parkway off Ga. 515.

"The fiscal year 2019 budget will maintain Georgia's position as a national leader in conservative fiscal management while further solidifying our commitment to providing all children with greater access to quality education and continuing our efforts to build an infrastructure system that supports our growing population," Deal said in a news release about the budget signings.

The new, larger UNG campus will feature classroom space, technology resources and labs for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields to serve about 500 students, UNG Blue Ridge Campus Director Sandy Ott said. It will also have support facilities for students, faculty, and staff. UNG currently leases a 3,600-square-foot facility at 83 Dunbarton Farm Road that does not offer lab space and has limited space for student use.

"The new campus will open so many doors including expanded course offerings, workforce development, and Professional and Continuing Education opportunities to serve the region," Ott said.

More importantly, the additional classroom space will allow UNG to serve its growing population.

When the Blue Ridge Campus opened in August 2015, it welcomed 18 students. In the fall 2017, it enrolled about 151 students, marking a 738 percent increase.

"We've had significant growth," Ott said. "And we are anticipating more growth in fall 2018."

The Blue Ridge Campus offers a variety of educational pathways that include dual-enrollment courses for high school students, a full-time program for first-time freshmen with courses enabling them to complete degrees in regional high-demand disciplines, courses for adult learners getting started in college or returning college to complete a degree, and continuing and professional education programs for career growth or personal enrichment.

Its establishment came in response to a need for access to higher education identified through UNG's Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) Task Force, a group of more than 100 business, education, government and community leaders from northeast Georgia.

With more than 18,000 students and campuses in Blue Ridge, Cumming, Dahlonega, Gainesville, and Oconee, UNG is one of the state's largest public universities. UNG has been recognized nationally for its academic excellence and economic value, including being named one of the nation's "best value colleges" by Forbes magazine in April 2018. UNG is one of only six Senior Military College in the United States and is designated as the Military College of Georgia.



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# Center for Sustainability grows more than produce, flowers in Campus Community Garden

Mums, sunflowers, kale, squash, carrots and cucumbers are just a few things that can be found growing in the Campus Community Garden on Georgia Southern's Statesboro Campus. But if you ask Garden Manager and student Eric Holley, the Garden has much more to offer.

Responsibility, food independence and education can also be found thriving in the Garden, which is situated across from the Williams Center by the Hollis Building.

"The best part about working in a garden is the simple fact that you know where your food comes from, and you get much more control over your food source," Holley said. "You can grow your favorite foods and feel comfortable with the fact that you're reducing your carbon footprint. It's a win-win."

Students have a unique opportunity to get their hands dirty and grow their own food by reserving a plot in the Garden and attending bi-weekly workshops on topics like soil science, natural fertilizers and harvesting, according to Cami Sockow, coordinator for the Center for Sustainability (CfS).

"This is a way for students to connect with their food, which is something I think we've lost in the past few years," said Sockow. "People don't really think about where our food comes from, so that's something we're trying to change and why we have this opportunity for students."

"We provide everything to students that is needed to be successful in growing their own food including tools, seeds, harvesting trays and more," said Sockow.

Since the Garden's inception in 2015, Sockow estimated more than 150 students have worked in the Garden to grow their own food, learn about gardening and learn sustainable food practices. Students can reserve a plot with friends or can sign up individually to be paired with other students. Classes can also participate in this activity.

"This is a great way to meet like-minded people and friends," Sockow noted. "We had a group of six people last year who didn't know each other and ended up growing food together and bonding through the experience. You get to know people who like the same things you do."

Holley encourages his fellow students to get involved in the Campus Community Garden because having control over your own food sources is important for the planet's future.

"Other students should become part of the Campus Community Garden because, simply, it's important," he said. "It's important to learn gardening because it lets you control your food source. Why pay three dollars for a pound of apples when you can grow an apple tree in your backyard?"

More importantly, Holley noted, students can gain food independence and reduce waste by growing their own food.

"We are producing copious amounts of food commercially, yes, but at what cost?" he said. "In 2010 for example, we wasted 133 billion pounds of food. So not only are we growing commercial crops such as peanuts, corn and soybeans in detrimentally unsustainable ways, but a lot of the food is going to waste. By becoming food independent, you can help cut down this waste."

Contact Information:  
Center for Sustainability

The Garden is funded by student sustainability fees. For more information, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/sustainability](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/sustainability).



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# Campus renovation project focuses on enhancing student learning

Construction is well underway on several campus buildings as part of Clayton State University's Academic Core renovation project. Upon completion, the \$14.96 million state-funded project will feature structural renovation and building enhancements to improve the academic and athletic experience on campus for students, faculty, and staff.

"This is the first major construction project on campus since the construction of the Lakeview Discovery and Sciences Center. It is a very critical project since it is mainly supporting the replacement, upgrade and renovation of the aged infrastructure impacting the student areas," said Harun Biswas, assistant vice-president of Facilities Management.

"Various renovations will provide energy savings, better climate control, improve ADA access, improve student study and collaboration spaces to support the University's Strategic Plan 2022 to invest in infrastructure improvements."

The Academic Core project consists of several major improvements including the renovation of the Athletics & Health Center to feature new locker rooms, classrooms, training facilities, study hall space, concession stand, and lobby. The theatre inside of the Arts and Sciences building is also being renovated along with the addition of a new lobby entrance. The elevator is also being replaced in the Arts and Sciences building.

Magnolia Hall and Lecture Hall are both getting the addition of new study spaces for students. Lecture Hall will also be outfitted with new restrooms and upgrades to the lighting, mechanical systems, and ceiling tile.

The Library is also undergoing some HVAC control retrofitting and replacement, and the James M. Baker University Center will have access roofs and ladders installed.

Lastly, the development of a chiller plant and distribution system will provide better heating and cooling to Spivey Hall, the Music Education building, Athletics and Health Center, and the Harry S. Downs Center.

In addition to Clayton State University, the Academic Core renovation project team includes the Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission is providing construction administration and commissioning services. The project's general contractor is Albion, and professional design services are being provided by Flynn FINDERUP Architects.

Construction on campus is expected to be complete by January 2019.

"We are privileged to have been selected as the general contractor to partner with Clayton State University for this monumental project. Multiple departments are undergoing complete renovations, thus strengthening the university as a whole," said Brian Newsome, executive vice-president of Albion. "We believe that Clayton State will continue their rise as a top public university in Georgia and the south as a result of this project."

The Academic Core renovation project was made possible by funding appropriated by the Georgia's legislature over the last three years, including an allocation of \$5.3 million approved in the spring legislative session.

"We appreciate the support of the Board of Regents and its staff, the Chancellor, the Governor and the legislature for addressing this critical need to invest in existing facilities and update them to meet student needs," said Corlis Cummings, vice-president of Budget and Operations. "These investments in current facilities/spaces allows us to better serve our students and our faculty by providing



Article from:

Clayton State News

[www.clayton.edu/facilities/](http://www.clayton.edu/facilities/)

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# Students Learn from Andrew Young

Andrew J. Young called the Georgia Tech students to attention.

“Now is the time to ask questions,” the civil rights leader said. “Whatever is on your mind about what is going on in the world today. Don’t be scared.”

Young had just received the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage, which honors those who demonstrate leadership to improve the human condition despite personal risks and challenges. After learning he was receiving the award, Young requested that the day’s activities included an opportunity to interact with Georgia Tech students. College students, he said, are “not afraid of anybody different.”



About 50 students attended the town hall Thursday afternoon to ask him questions about his life and gain insight from his knowledge and advice about some of the most pressing issues we face today.

Erik Van Winkle, a mechanical engineering major from Atlanta, asked how to bridge the divide in today’s society.

“You don’t want to,” Young said. “That’s the genius of democracy. Our variety of opinions.”

He asked students to imagine they’re all standing on four different corners and there’s an accident in the middle. Each person will see something different because of their perspective. If we can learn from other perspectives, it allows for more nuanced understanding. And if we can open our minds enough to gain all four points of view, he said we will have a richer view of reality.

Another student asked how Young would have used social media had it been available. Young was a key strategist and negotiator during the civil rights campaigns that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Young explained that living a public life taught him he should never answer hypothetical questions because his answers could be reinterpreted.

But social media, he said, is a challenging development. He joked: “I can’t get Siri to answer me.”

“I’m old. I’m 86,” Young said. “I still got some time left I think ... I’m trying to figure out how to use social media. I’d like to talk with a group of people like this every day of my life.”

When Young was elected to Congress in 1972 he was the first African-American representative from the Deep South since Reconstruction. President Carter appointed him as ambassador to the United Nations in 1977, making him the first African-American to hold that position. Young later returned to Atlanta, becoming mayor and leading the effort to bring the Olympics to the city.

Chelsea Burks, a business administration major from Ellenwood, Ga., asked what words of affirmation Young would give himself.

His advice: “Don’t get mad. Get smart.”

News Article By:

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# Board of Regents Approve First Nexus Degrees

With approval today by the Board of Regents, Albany State and Columbus State universities this fall will become the first to offer the University System of Georgia (USG)'s newest college education credential called a nexus degree.

Nexus degrees are college credentials that emphasize hands-on experiential learning, skilled knowledge and connections with industry in high-demand career fields.

Columbus State's new nexus degree will be in film production. Albany State will offer two new nexus degrees, one in blockchain with machine learning and the other in blockchain with data analytics. Other fields under consideration for future USG programs include cybersecurity and financial technology.

"We are committed to meeting the needs of both Georgia's workforce and industry by giving students the skills they need as they grow into different careers and seek to expand their knowledge base," Chancellor Steve Wrigley said. "I applaud Albany State and Columbus State for being the first institutions to offer our newest college credential."

Nexus degrees expand on an educational portfolio that already includes associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. They stem from work being done as part of USG's College 2025 Initiative, which seeks to refine the delivery and accessibility of public higher education to meet 21st-century learning and career needs.

Final recommendations from a committee working on the College 2025 initiative were also released today, and are available online at <https://www.usg.edu/college2025/>.

A nexus degree is a 60-credit-hour degree, consisting of 42 credit hours of general education and 18 credit hours of coursework focusing on the skills and knowledge requirements of high-demand industries. The 18 credit hours create an apprenticeship aspect that must include at least six credit hours of experiential learning and at least 12 credit hours of upper division coursework.

Curriculum for the credential is being designed in collaboration with industry experts to ensure it meets specific requirements for high-demand jobs, including those in the market now and those planned for the future.

While a nexus degree can stand on its own, it also allows USG's 26 institutions to be creative in using the credential to expand on other educational opportunities.

That includes the potential to use a nexus degree toward completion of a new kind of associate degree, one targeted toward a high-need technical field.

It includes new options to create stackable credentials concentrated in highly specialized fields as part of a bachelor's degree.

The new degree is additionally valuable for people who may have a job but want to acquire a new skill, or who have not yet completed a college degree and want to advance.

While Albany State and Columbus State are the first to offer nexus degrees, other USG institutions have entered the planning stages for how a nexus degree can benefit their students and communities. Each individual program created as a nexus degree must receive additional approval by the Board of Regents to ensure the integrity of the degree and the curriculum.

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# University System of Georgia Announces Creation of Georgia FinTech Academy

Chancellor Steve Wrigley and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) today announced the formation of the Georgia FinTech Academy. The academy is a statewide initiative to create a talent pipeline for Georgia's fast-growing financial technology (fintech) business sector.

Fintech, a segment of the financial services industry, uses new technologies to lower the costs and decrease time of financial transactions. In Georgia, more than 40,000 people are employed in fintech, which generates more than \$72 billion in annual revenue. Continued growth and expansion of Georgia's fintech sector is predicated on meeting an escalating demand for talent, including producing 5,000 new hires by 2020 – 95 percent of whom must possess industry-specific functional experience.

Fintech is one of six sectors identified by Gov. Nathan Deal's High Demand Career Initiative.

"When we released the College 2025 report, we meant what we said about preparing graduates with innovative approaches," said Steve Wrigley, chancellor of the University System of Georgia. "The Georgia FinTech Academy is an innovative response to the call from the fintech industry for more and better workers. With the strength of all 26 institutions of the University System of Georgia behind it, I believe fintech will see immediate results from this new program."

The Georgia FinTech Academy will prepare individuals to enter fintech or transition from another career through degree programs, executive and continuing education, and apprenticeships and internships providing the practical experience required by employers.

"FIS is proud and excited to be a founding partner of the Georgia FinTech Academy," said Denise Williams, chief people officer at FIS, a financial software, services and global business solutions company with offices in Atlanta. "The academy represents a true partnership between a visionary university system and the corporate world to accelerate the development of tomorrow's fintech talent. The proposed curriculum and emphasis on apprenticeship, along with the academy's location in the payments hub of Atlanta, are a powerful combination. We applaud the University System of Georgia for its vision and commitment to fintech, and we look forward to working with them and the other founding partners to realize the potential of the academy."

"We're proud to support the Georgia FinTech Academy as it brings a much-needed educational curriculum to our state," said Scott Meyerhoff, chief operating officer and chief financial officer of InComm. "Hiring for over 100 roles at any given time, we are driving demand for highly qualified fintech talent, and we are pleased that the University System of Georgia has stepped up to the plate to cultivate the talent we need to keep our business thriving for decades to come."

The curriculum was developed in conjunction with fintech employers to address their priority needs. It will span the 26-institution University System of Georgia with virtual access to online courses and degrees through USG's eCampus and cloud-based talent development programs.

In addition to offering courses virtually across the entire state, the Georgia FinTech Academy will have two physical locations, both located in Atlanta at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business. Downtown at 55 Park Place, the academy will have learning spaces, innovation labs and research facilities. The downtown location will also house the academy's executive offices and will serve as the single point of contact for employers seeking to hire fintech-ready talent from any of the 26 institutions in the USG. Georgia State's Buckhead Executive Center will offer graduate programs, executive and continuing education, as well as boot camps.

The academy plans to offer courses for the USG's upcoming nexus degree in fintech. The nexus degree is a college education credential approved by the Board of Regents on Feb. 13 that combines essential knowledge with applied experience. The new degree expands on the USG's existing portfolio of associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. It will include 18 hours of coursework – 12 hours in upper-division level courses and six hours in experiential learning such as internships or in-the-field experiences – in addition to 42 hours of general education coursework.

"The FinTech Academy will add to our already compelling advantages by delivering an effective and reliable source of work-ready fintech talent to fuel our significant growth. No other market in the world offers such an integrated partnership between business, commu-

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Casey Charepoo***

# Construction of new I-STEM Research Building begins

It will promote interdisciplinary collaborations between students, faculty and researchers.

The University of Georgia broke ground on the new Interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (I-STEM) Research Building on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Expected to open in summer 2021, the building will provide space for faculty and graduate students in chemistry and engineering. The facility represents the future of research and education in the STEM fields at UGA.

“Many of the complex problems of the 21st century—from crumbling infrastructure to chronic disease—require solutions that combine the latest advancements in chemistry, engineering and related fields,” said President Jere W. Morehead. “The Interdisciplinary STEM Research Building will be a world-class facility that promotes creative, interdisciplinary approaches to research that will lead to new products and services that improve the quality of life in Georgia and beyond.”

The \$65 million project, which includes four stories of laboratory and support space and a three-story parking deck underneath, will be funded by a combination of university and state funds. More than \$39 million in state funds has been appropriated over the past two years for design and construction of the new facility, and an additional \$5.6 million is anticipated for equipment as construction progresses.

Nearly 30 percent of all college graduates in the state of Georgia pursue degrees in science or engineering, according to the National Science Foundation (NSF). At UGA, the number of students pursuing STEM degrees continues to grow, with about one out of every five graduates receiving a STEM degree last year.

Jobs requiring science or engineering degrees are expected to increase dramatically over the next decade. The I-STEM Research Building, along with a recent \$3 million NSF grant to research and improve STEM education practices, will play a key role in expanding UGA’s prowess in STEM fields.

The 100,000-square-foot building will be home to more than 30 faculty and 100 graduate students from chemistry and engineering, and it will foster the development of joint ideas in areas ranging from cell imaging and microfluidic separation to combustion chemistry and medical robotics.

The location of the Interdisciplinary STEM Research Building in the heart of the South Campus science and engineering corridor at the corner of Cedar Street and East Campus Road will promote even greater collaboration among chemistry and engineering researchers and their colleagues in the life sciences, agriculture, computer science and biomedicine.



By:

Leigh Beeson

UGA Today

***Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor:***

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Scholarships are available to anyone pursuing development of their professional career in Facilities Management. Full time employees in the Facilities field for at least 12 months at a GAPPA member institution can apply for a scholarship for up to \$3,000 per year for attendance at APPA's Institute for Facilities Management, APPA's Leadership Academy, or for a degree-track course at an accredited educational institution, for job related vocational or technical training, for certifications or licenses, or for professional development seminars.

Full details can be found on the GAPPA website at

<http://www.gappa.org/scholarship/index.shtml>

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**<http://gappa.org/>**

**See you in Jekyll Island May 25th, 2019**

***Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor:***

***Casey Charepoo***

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