

# College of Education News

January 9, 2018

College of Education, Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/coe-news>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

College of Education, Georgia Southern University, "College of Education News" (2018). *Education, College of - News*. 6.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/coe-news/6>

This newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Education, College of- Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Education, College of - News by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# Eagle Educator starts campaign to help newly graduated teachers

January 9, 2018



*Brandi Jackson is pictured (on right) packing classroom starter kits for her classmates with the help of friend and fellow December 2017 graduate Leighanne Chester.*

Each semester, students graduating from an undergraduate teacher preparation program at Georgia Southern participate in a pinning ceremony. The ceremony is a symbolic milestone acknowledging that the educator will always be an Eagle Educator.

In fall 2017, when early childhood education majors walked across the stage of the College of Education's auditorium, in addition to their Eagle Teacher pin, they also received something special—something they weren't expecting. All 33 students that graduated from the B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education program received a classroom starter kit—complete with some initial school supplies for their classrooms.

Kits included pencils, pens, crayons, markers, tape, paper clips, glue, hand sanitizer and sticky notes. Each gift bag was personally stuffed by one of their peers who also walked the stage to be pinned that December—Brandi Jackson. A fall 2017 graduate of the early childhood education program, Jackson has a heart for helping others.

"During field placements, I realized that a lot of teachers are in need of additional supplies," Jackson said. "I just felt like I needed to help my fellow soon-to-be first year teachers in preparing for their first classrooms."

Jackson said that when looking at school supplies she realized necessary items can be costly when considering the volume needed for a classroom.

"Even paper is expensive," she said, "and in an elementary classroom, you go through a lot of paper!"

Jackson first had the idea of the classroom starter kits in spring 2017. She took to social media to request the help of her friends, family and COE faculty members to raise money for supplies. That semester was the first time she gave out the kits.

"It wasn't a large amount of supplies," Jackson said, "but I wanted them to have something to help them get their classrooms going."

In fall, Jackson took to social media again, but this time she requested the help of John Ramfjord, associate director of annual giving and alumni engagement for the College of Education.

Together, Jackson and Ramfjord hosted a crowdfunding initiative targeting alumni of the early childhood education program. This time, she was able to provide larger and more substantial kits.

"I am proud of what we did," said Jackson, "and I am looking forward to seeing it continue to grow."

Even though Jackson has graduated and already landed a teaching position at Fulton County Schools, she still plans to be an active advocate for the project she helped to start.

“By moving to an online giving platform, Brandi can be an advocate no matter where she is,” explained Ramfjord.

Their vision is to see this project grow to include all undergraduate programs in the College of Education.

“This provides our alumni an opportunity to get involved in which they haven’t had an opportunity before,” Ramfjord added.

Jackson said in the future she hopes to travel back to campus and see graduates’ faces as they receive classroom starter kits.

“I am just excited to see the project grow and take off,” she said. “After my first semester here, I made several friends and never wanted to leave. I love Georgia Southern. I tell everyone to go here.”

### **How to get involved**

This project is a great way for Georgia Southern College of Education alumni to give back at a level that is affordable. With over 20,000 living COE alums, a \$5, \$10 or \$20 donation will go a long way towards assisting first year teachers in their classrooms.

Please click on the following link if you are interested in contributing to the College of Education first-year teacher kits. In the processing instructions section, please include “COE Classroom Starter Kits” to allocate your donation to this project.

[Click Here to Contribute.](#)

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [+](#)

Posted in [Alumni Highlights](#), [Student Highlights](#)

Tags: [Brandi Jackson](#), [John Ramfjord](#)



*Brandi Jackson at Fall 2017 Commencement Ceremony.*

# Middle level teacher candidates present at national summit as grant winners

January 9, 2018



*Middle grades education majors Margaret Jones (left) and Devynn Dunn (center) are pictured receiving a certificate for the CMLA Chapter Grant from Fran Salyers (right), chair of the AMLE Foundation Fund Committee.*

Two Georgia Southern University undergraduate students joined middle level educators and pre-service teachers from across the country in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the annual conference of the Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE), on Nov. 6-8. Prior to the conference, a Collegiate Middle Level Association (CMLA) Summit was held to provide an opportunity for teacher candidates from various chapters of the CMLA to network, learn and share.

Margaret Jones and Devynn Dunn, middle grades teacher candidates and CMLA co-presidents at Georgia Southern, attended both the summit and conference thanks to the CMLA Chapter Grant. This award from the AMLE Foundation provided funding for teacher candidates to attend the CMLA Summit and AMLE Conference and to present to their peers during the Summit. Jones and Dunn presented on the topic of co-teaching during the Summit and participated in a roundtable to publicize the Chapter Grant and other CMLA opportunities.

The CMLA is a professional education organization for college students preparing to become middle level teachers. An affiliate of the AMLE, CMLA encourages students to begin their careers with active participation in

the national professional organization and interact with professionals in their field.

Jones and Dunn wrote the proposal for the CMLA Chapter Grant with support from the College of Education's Associate Dean for Undergraduate Teacher Education and Accreditation Deborah Thomas, Ph.D., and CMLA Faculty Advisor Amanda Wall, Ph.D.

The CMLA Summit and AMLE conference made lasting impacts on Dunn, a Dec. 2017 graduate, and current middle grades education major Jones.

"Getting the chance to attend the AMLE Conference in Philadelphia was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Jones said. "Not only were we fortunate enough to be selected as the 2017 CMLA chapter grant recipients and present at the CMLA Summit, but we had the chance to hear from other professionals who are doing amazing things in the world of education. Having the chance to collaborate with other college students that are also going into middle level education was so reassuring and encouraging."

"The AMLE conference in Philadelphia was extremely informative on different ways to connect with my students as well as different ways I can incorporate different strategies into my classroom," Dunn added. "I am so thankful for the opportunity to go and network with other teacher candidates from different colleges and universities. I enjoyed learning and growing as a teacher during this conference."

For more information about the middle grades education programs at Georgia Southern University, visit <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/mged/>

Share: [!\[\]\(8af806fb1314382d09bc5ec5b767526c\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(e640e0608cc7d5ca49cf1ad6b9b82bbd\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(92b03d1f12d69c4f54507e4fc2d5d7f3\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(6677381d1ca16a89651ff93f23d60b0b\_img.jpg\)](#)

Posted in [Student Highlights](#)

Tags: [Amanda Wall](#), [Deborah Thomas](#), [Devynn Dunn](#), [Margaret Jones](#)