College of Education Tapped by Carnegie Foundation

Georgia Southern University's redesigned doctorate in educational leadership has earned a place in the Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate (CPED), an elite consortium of colleges and schools of education charged with transforming the Ed.D. into "the degree of choice" for the next generation of practitioner leaders at all levels of education, from K-12 to higher education.

"We're preparing a new kind of educational leader that didn't exist before, one that is equipped to make the big decisions of tomorrow based on solid research and educational theory," said Georgia Southern University President Brooks A. Keel. "Being asked to apply to CPED was an honor in itself, and being accepted as a member is a testament of how our College of Education has moved the Ed.D. into the 21st century. It puts us in the enviable position of being ahead of the curve," he added.

With the addition of Georgia Southern University's College of Education into the consortium, there are now 87 schools or colleges of education working in collaboration to redesign the educational leadership doctorate out of some 1200 programs across the country.

A faculty-led effort, the consortium, headquartered at the School of Education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, is an action-oriented initiative to develop a clear distinction between what it says is the "professional practice doctorate in education (Ed.D.) and the education research doctorate (Ph.D.); and to improve the reliability and efficacy of programs leading to the professional doctorate in education."

"We are especially pleased that we have been accepted as a member of this important group whose goals clearly align with the College's commitment to bring research, theory and practice to bear on all our degrees as we prepare educators and educational leaders for the next generation in our state and region," said COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa.

Read more about the CPED membership.

Faculty Awarded Teacher Quality Grants
Professor and Goizueta Distinguished Chair Alejandro Gallard received the American Educational Research Association’s SIG Award for Research in Elementary, Secondary or Postsecondary Education in recognition of his scholarship, professional standing and community outreach dealing with Hispanic issues. Gallard is in the Department of Teaching and Learning.


Associate Professor Charles Hodges has been named the Editor-in-Chief of TechTrends: Linking Research and Practice to Improve Learning, a peer-reviewed publication of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT). Hodges is in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development.

Associate Professor Brenda Marina was selected for the Overall Outstanding State/International Division Leader Award from the Overall State/International Division Awards of the American College Personnel Association. Marina is in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development.

Associate Professor Teri Melton, Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, was elected as Member-at-Large to the Georgia Educational Research Association. Graduate student Tracy Colebrooke (Ed.D. Educational Administration) was elected as graduate student Member-at-Large.

Associate Professor Charles Hodges has published two articles with current and former COE graduate students:


History, social studies and ecological inquiry will be the focus of two Teacher Quality Grants awarded to College of Education faculty this spring. The first grant, “Places to People,” is the continuation of a grant that will bring content instruction and techniques for teaching GPS/Common Core Standards for grade level subjects in history and social studies by incorporating the extensive cultural and natural history resources of the Garden of the Coastal Plain on the Georgia Southern campus. The project uses a workshop, in-class assistance, a field trip and blog to improve content mastery. COE faculty involved in the grant are Associate Professor Christine Draper and Clinical Instructor Heather Scott, both from the Department of Teaching and Learning.

The Atlantic horseshoe crab and migratory Red Knot shorebirds of Sapelo Island, GA, are again the subjects of a grant that will enhance the content knowledge and pedagogy of Georgia public school science teachers at the middle and high school level in the area of ecological inquiry. Science teachers will be introduced to the Common Core Standards, provided opportunities for investigation and inquiry and encouraged to explore the application of new knowledge and skills in the classroom setting. COE faculty participating in this grant are Associate Professor Missy Bennett and Clinical Instructor Heather Scott, both from the Department of Teaching and Learning.

New COE Board Members Named

COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa announced earlier this spring the addition of three new members to COE’s Board of Advisors. The new members are all alumni of COE: Dr. Tom Bigwood, Dr. Eugenia Fulcher and Dr. Jane Page. Bigwood is Superintendent of Candler County Schools and former principal of Southeast Bulloch High. During his time at Georgia Southern, Bigwood was a member of the University’s baseball team. Fulcher is a retired educator from Swainsboro Technical College and now serves as the Georgia Southern Alumni Board of Directors. Page served as chair of COE’s Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Research for 12 years. In 1999 she was recognized as COE’s Alumna of the Year. Today she is a Unitarian Universalist Minister and is active in community affairs. Read more about COE’s new Advisory Board members.

Governor Nathan Deal and COE Alumna to Speak at Georgia Southern Spring 2014 Graduation

COE Alumna and 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year Jemelleh Coes is joining Georgia Governor Nathan Deal as the spring 2014 Georgia Southern University graduation speakers. Coes will speak Friday, May 9, at 1 p.m. at Hanner Fieldhouse during the commencement ceremony for graduate students. Coes is a special education English language arts teacher at Langston Chapel Middle School in Bulloch County where she has taught for six
Correction: A photograph in the last issue of Southern Educator misidentified three Counselor Education M.Ed. students. The students have presented at various professional associations. They've developed a model focusing on unique experiences of families with special mental health or medical needs, and offering professional strategies that can be effective in working with these families. Participants in presentations have the opportunity to work through case studies and evaluate the cultural background, strengths and weaknesses of each family. Various play therapy strategies are presented as resources. Pictured are (l-r) M.Ed. Counselor Education students Breanna Carter, Betsy Zimmerman, Jamie Darling and April Miller.

Around COE

Hanging Out with the Dean: COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa held his first Google+ "Hang Out" with graduate students this month. The hang out is a way for graduate students, especially those with online classes, to form a community and have a chance to meet and talk with the dean. It's a live forum so anyone in the hang out can comment. Look for more opportunities to hang out with the dean throughout the year. Pictured to the right is participant Elizabeth Harris who works at Georgia Perimeter College. Harris is in the M.Ed. Higher Education Administration online program.

COE Visit Day: Parents, siblings and, most importantly, high school seniors, were prowling the halls of COE, taking tours of the Georgia Southern Campus and signing up for Summer SOAR at COE's final High School Visit Day. It's an opportunity for seniors interested in pursuing an education degree to see COE firsthand, sample a class and make the final commitment to Georgia Southern.

ALUMNI: We want to hear from you! Please fill out our Alumni Survey today.
We welcome your feedback. E-mail us at collegeofed@georgiasouthern.edu