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Parker College of Business students receive U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award

September 2, 2020

Students in the Parker College of Business at Georgia Southern University have received the U.S. President's Volunteer Service award for volunteer hours they logged through the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement (OLCE) between February 2019 and February 2020.

The U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award was presented to Iyanna Dandrea, Jasmine Alexander, Jayla Dubose, Drayton Gilchrist, Kenneth Glover and Mary A. Salter. Students who participated in unpaid acts of volunteer service which benefited others are eligible to receive the award.

"It is an honor to see my contributions to the Statesboro community be acknowledged, especially on a national platform," said Gilchrist. "This proves that I'm on the right track, and I will use it as motivation to continue to grow and to encourage others who want to do the same."

Gilchrist's volunteer work included cleaning Georgia Southern's campus on Sundays, assisting at the local food bank and handing out flyers with important information such as voter registration, mental health and financial literacy. Community service has always played a large role in his life, he said.

"Seeing my mother out in our community serving food to children and growing vegetables to distribute to those who truly needed them instilled community service in me," he said. "Another inspiration came from my brothers in the Men Of Vision and Excellence. Seeing their engagement with the local community proved that it would be a perfect fit for me."

Additionally, OLCE presented a University-level 50 Hour award to students Hannah Greenblat, Antonia Jackson, Autumn Williams and Tiffany Wills who logged at least 50 hours of community service.

Greenblat was recognized for her role as a peer mentor with the University's Academic Success Center and peer leader supervisor with the First-Year Experience program. She also is the founder and president of the student organization Women in Business.

"I wanted to be a resource to new Georgia Southern students," stated Hannah. "When I was a freshman, I felt that I had to find resources on my own and wanted a way to give back."

As a peer leader, Hannah was able to grow personally and professionally, she noted. Volunteering has allowed her to build leadership skills that will help her in her future career — from learning ways to effectively communicate with professional staff and other peers to planning and organizational skills to presentation skills.

The awards were presented during the inaugural Eagle Excellence Awards ceremony.



Drayton Gilchrist, a senior double major in Supply Chain Management and Marketing



Hannah Greenblat, senior Management major, Marketing minor

Georgia Trend Honors Parker's Founder and CEO Greg Parker as a Legacy Leader

September 2, 2020

from *Georgia Trend*

This month *Georgia Trend* celebrates 35 years as the statewide magazine dedicated to business, politics and economic development. To mark this milestone, we wanted to recognize people from around the state who have contributed for many years to making Georgia No.1 for business – as well as a great place to live, work and raise a family.

We asked you, our readers, for suggestions of unsung leaders, people we don't feature regularly in the pages of our magazine who are having an outsized impact on their communities. And you delivered. From political leaders to developers on the cutting edge to a woman working to solve teen pregnancy issues, we offer profiles of 15 legacy leaders: Georgians who have devoted their lives to improving the lives of residents and visitors alike.

It's our way of saying thank you to our readers and our leaders for three-and-a-half extraordinary decades. As we continue to report on statewide successes and solutions, we look forward to spotlighting the leaders of tomorrow – people who may even have been mentored or inspired by the individuals featured in these pages.

Legacy leader profiles were written by Anna Bentley, Betty Darby, Patty Rasmussen, K.K. Snyder and Haisten Willis. – *Karen Kirkpatrick*

Savannah

Greg Parker is first to say he didn't know what he was doing back in 1976 when he started his gas station convenience store empire – Parker's – in Midway, GA. He was helping out his dad, trying to figure out how to make the business profitable. And he did, the old-fashioned way – working every day for three years, including Christmas – with a healthy dose of new-fangled metrics.

"I knew early on that your scorecard is your report card," he says. "I hijacked all the things I was learning in an E.K. Williams management course and figured out how to put everything I needed to operate a store on one page."

Eventually, one store turned into more than 64 throughout Georgia and South Carolina. The brand is synonymous with clean, friendly, profitable and philanthropic.

"With success comes a responsibility to give back, and we've been doing it for years," Parker says. "Education and healthcare are our two big philanthropic buckets and where we'll keep our focus."

Parker donated a record \$5-million gift to Georgia Southern University in 2018; made a \$1-million endowment to the emergency



and trauma center at Savannah's Memorial University Hospital; and has donated more than \$200,000 annually since 2011 to 430 area schools through the company's fueling the community rewards program.

Parker credits his "remarkable team" for his success. "My hope is that the brand will continue long after I'm gone to create opportunity for the people who got me here," he says. – *PR*

To view the Legacy Leaders list in its entirety, visit <https://www.georgiatrend.com/2020/08/31/legacy-leaders/>.

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