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Willingway Foundation and Georgia Southern University partner to create addiction recovery center

JANUARY 2, 2008

The Willingway Foundation and Georgia Southern University are teaming up to better the future of current and potential college students who are battling the diseases of alcoholism and drug addiction.

The Willingway Foundation, the non-profit affiliate of Willingway Hospital, has donated an initial gift of \$25,000 per year for three years as start-up funding to develop The Center for Addiction Recovery on the Georgia Southern University campus. The new center, housed within The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH), will primarily serve as the hub for a collegiate recovery community. This will provide students recovering from alcohol, drug, and related addictions the opportunity to take advantage of the full collegiate experience while minimizing the risk of relapse. Additionally, the center will work to develop student and faculty research and educational resources as well as community-wide outreach partnerships.

Willingway Hospital and Georgia Southern share similar histories. Both rooted in the same small Southern city, each has grown up to achieve nationally recognized excellence in their respective fields. Many Willingway employees were educated at Georgia Southern University, but, more importantly, the University plays a significant role in the long-term recovery of many of Willingway's alumni.

"Many of the patients treated at Willingway Hospital choose to remain in Statesboro, and many of those people end up pursuing higher education," said Robert W. Mooney, M.D., medical director of the hospital and a board member of the Willingway Foundation. "With this gift, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health can take steps to develop a cutting-edge program that will support those in addiction recovery in the Georgia Southern community."

Jimmy Mooney, C. E. O. of Willingway Hospital and a board member of Willingway Foundation has been pleasantly surprised at the support the Center for Addiction Recovery has received so far. "I've been amazed at the enthusiasm the faculty and administration at Georgia Southern have shown for this center," he said. "To me, this demonstrates their commitment to provide a safe, nurturing environment for recovering students. It's a great honor to be able to partner with Georgia Southern in a way that will have such a positive impact on both the students and the Statesboro Bulloch County community."

The Center for Addiction Recovery in the JPHCOPH will emulate a successful federally funded program currently in place at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Texas Tech has developed a program model that other colleges and universities can implement and design to fit their particular campus culture.

The Texas Tech curriculum, which can be implemented through academic programs, student services or student health services, will encourage the new center at Georgia Southern to serve as a hub for recovery in the Statesboro area and to partner with many different areas of learning on campus.

‘The Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery at Texas Tech serves 70 students each semester,’ said Charles Hardy, dean of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. ‘Students in the center are more likely to graduate, they carry a higher GPA, and have an overall seven percent relapse rate. This is definitely a good program model to implement at Georgia Southern.’

– See more at: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=936#sthash.iLV0SnNx.dpuf>

Cornel West to speak at Georgia Southern Jan. 22

JANUARY 2, 2008

Cornel West, one of America’s best-known scholars and public intellectuals, will speak at Georgia Southern University Tuesday, Jan. 22, as part of the University’s 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Program. His presentation will take place at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, corner of Chandler Road and Plant Drive. Admission is free of charge.

West, who is the Class of 1943 University Professor in the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University, has been a champion for racial justice since childhood. His writing, speaking, and teaching weave together the traditions of the black Baptist Church, progressive politics, and jazz. The New York Times has praised his ‘ferocious moral vision.’

West burst onto the national scene in 1993 with his bestselling book, ‘Race Matters,’ a searing analysis of racism in American democracy. ‘Race Matters’ has become a contemporary classic, selling nearly a half-million copies to date. In addition, West has written 16 other books and edited 13 texts.

His most recent book, ‘Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight against Imperialism,’ was published in 2004. The recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees and a National Book Award, West is a longtime member of the Democratic Socialists of America, for which he now serves as one of several honorary chairs.

West was an influential force in developing the storyline for the popular Matrix movie trilogy and has served as its official spokesperson. He played a recurring role in the final two films.

West’s appearance at Georgia Southern is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the Multicultural Student Center. For more information, call 912-681-5409.

State Department grant brings 18 international teachers to Georgia Southern

JANUARY 2, 2008

Through a grant from the U.S. Department of State's International Leadership in Education Program (ILEP), the College of Education at Georgia Southern University will host 18 international secondary English teachers throughout the spring 2008 semester. The visitors will come from Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The ILEP Fellows are expected to arrive on campus Friday, Jan. 11, and will participate in an orientation session the following day. There will be several orientation sessions throughout the first two weeks including a welcome and overview of the program, an advisement session where the ILEP fellows will meet their academic advisors, tours of campus and Statesboro, presentations by library and health services faculty, and a teambuilding retreat.

'During their time in Statesboro, the ILEP Fellows will participate weekly in school-based internships, and they will be attending classes at Georgia Southern,' said Cordelia Zinskie, professor and head of the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading. Zinskie and colleagues Jennie Rakestraw, associate dean of the College of Education, and Judi Repman, professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, serve as co-coordinators of the ILEP.

Initiated in 2005, the ILEP brings outstanding secondary teachers from the Near East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia to the United States to further develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. ILEP is a program of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

'Last year was our first funded ILEP grant, and we are delighted that this year's grant was also funded,' said Cindi Chance, dean of the College of Education. 'Georgia Southern has strong international ties, and each group of ILEP Fellows we host strengthens those connections.'

In Statesboro the ILEP Fellows will be paired with 'friendship families' who have offered to provide regular opportunities to learn about daily life in America. They will also participate in civic and cultural events, educational conferences, and travel to area attractions.