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Meet the Call Me MiSTER cohort

August 30, 2022



Pictured (l-r): *Ozellious Roberts, II, Isaiah Jobe-Winn, Program Director Calvin Walton, Ph.D., Jordan Moreno, and James Jenkins.*

The College of Education would like to introduce the first cohort of students in the Call Me MiSTER program at Georgia Southern University.

James Jenkins

Hometown: Alpharetta, Georgia

Major: Secondary Education, Concentration in Biology

Why Georgia Southern? I actually had Georgia Southern, Georgia State, and Kennesaw State Universities as my top three choices. After visiting the Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus and interviewing with several professors for Call Me MiSTER, I was sold.

Why teaching? I choose to become a teacher because I want to inspire children to achieve great things and be a good influence on their lives.

Isaiah Jobe-Winn

Hometown: Savannah, Georgia

Major: Secondary Education

Why Georgia Southern? I chose Georgia Southern for the opportunity to be a part of the new Call Me MiSTER program and because of the school's amazing reputation for educating and preparing educators to flourish in the field.

Why teaching? I want to teach because I am passionate about teaching and learning, especially in large, urban environments. I have been blessed with so many wonderful educators that have had significant impacts on me, and I want to be able to do the same for my future students.

Jordan Moreno

Hometown: Queens, New York

Major: Elementary Education

Why Georgia Southern? I chose Georgia Southern because of how affordable and convenient the university is. Georgia Southern was always a top pick because it's close to home, and I have always heard amazing reviews.

Why teaching? I want to be a teacher because I want to "change the game" in education. I want to make learning fun again and connect to my students' real lives. I want to foster their innocence, creativity and passion. Oftentimes, students hate going to school. I want all of my students to be excited to go to school because it will always be beneficial to them. I want my students to know that they can do whatever they want to do, and I will support them regardless. There are really a multitude of reasons why I want to teach, but I want to be a guide, mentor and supporter for all of my students.

Ozellious Roberts, II

Hometown: Warner Robins, GA

Major: Middle Grades Education, Concentrations in Social Studies and English Language Arts

Why Georgia Southern? I chose Georgia Southern University because of the wonderful education program they have. Prior to coming, I heard about the different areas of study they have in the College of Education. I was undecided if I wanted to teach elementary or middle school, so I saw they had a middle grades program, which ranges from grades 4-8. Also, when I

was given a tour of the campus and going through so far, the environment felt so welcoming, and I've met a lot of great people.

Why teaching? I want to be a teacher because I grew up around an environment that showcased bad representation of my community. I grew up wanting to seek change and helping kids in impoverished areas get the support they need. I think being a teacher extends beyond the classroom and students need someone to look up to because not a lot of students have that role model at home. I want to be a teacher to change lives and build connections with students for the greater good.

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Tags: [Call Me MISTER](#), [Calvin Walton](#), [Isaiah Jobe-Winn](#), [James Jenkins](#), [Jordan Moreno](#), [Ozellious Roberts](#)

Williams-Johnson selected as Governor's Teaching Fellow

August 30, 2022



Georgia Southern University Professor of Educational Research Meca Williams-Johnson, Ph.D., has been selected to serve as a member of the Governor's Teaching Fellows (GTF) 2022-2023 cohort.

"I am enthusiastic about the program opportunity," said Williams-Johnson. "It will allow me time to ask more questions, dig deeper and measure progress in something I've been involved in for a long time at Georgia Southern."

Williams-Johnson is a 16-year professor in Georgia Southern's College of Education (COE), and has served as a member of the

University Honors Council and mentor to honors students for more than 14 years.

"Since 2008, I've worked with the University's Honors Program, and now Honors College, in facilitating research projects with our preservice teachers," she noted. "I am happy to see it grow

and develop with the inclusion of our undergraduate research courses for our special education undergraduate majors. It is with renewed hope and energy that we will continue to chart more ways to infuse research course work into the undergraduate student experiences in COE.”

The GTF Program was established by former Georgia Gov. Zell Miller to provide the state’s higher education faculty with expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills. Each eligible university may submit two nominees for the fellowship. Participants are selected based on their teaching experience, ability to make a positive impact on their campus and interest in continuing instructional and professional development.

Goals of the program include: presentation of successful strategies in teaching within higher education; experience with new information and strategies; create opportunities to collaborate with other fellows to generate new ideas and receive feedback; receive information by expert teachers, researchers or administrators who expand upon key issues facing faculty today; and receiving dedicated time to integrate key points of the program into teacher material and planning resources.

“I believe this opportunity will give me new tools to reimagine and achieve what I dreamed I could do in my classroom and online while working with preservice and inservice teachers and beginning researchers,” she said. “The courses I teach provide ample opportunities for students to explore the mechanics of developing sound research projects and co-producing research as a means to apply the content and link theoretical concepts to practice. I am focusing more attention to expanding our undergraduate research presence across the university and increasing our number of student and faculty partnerships within the college.”

The GTF academic year program allows participants to attend three-day symposia held six times over the academic year while also engaging in instructional improvement projects held on their home campuses. The symposia include a combination of structured instructional and faculty development activities as well as self-directed activities designed to meet individual needs.

“My motivation to pursue this opportunity was to increase dedicated time for professional development,” said Williams-Johnson. “I believe this Governor Teaching Fellowship will connect me with the right individuals to reenergize my efforts in teaching.”

Williams-Johnson is also the faculty advisor for the University’s Statesboro Campus Chapter of NAACP. Her research interests include emotions in teaching and learning, self-determination theory, self-efficacy beliefs, critical race theory, intersectionality and qualitative research methods.

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Tags: [Meca Williams-Johnson](#)

COE to host Educator Wellness Day

August 30, 2022

On Saturday, September 24 at noon, current mentors working with Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) students are invited to participate in a day of appreciation.

“All across the state we have dedicated professionals who work with our students preparing to become teachers, educational leaders, counselors, and school psychologists,” said Alisa Leckie, Ph.D., assistant dean for partnerships and outreach. “This year, as the Georgia Southern football team celebrates homecoming and teacher appreciation for their Sept. 24 home game, we decided to add in a special day of wellness, relaxation and fun for those individuals who are supporting our students.”

Current mentors will receive an email invitation to RSVP for a two-hour event full of massage techniques, chair yoga, puppy play time, art projects, refreshments and more—all completely free!

“There is no ‘thank you’ large enough for these individuals as they dedicate their expertise time and time again to help grow and advance our students,” said Leckie. “We hope that this will just be a reminder of how much we appreciate our mentors.”

The Educator Wellness event will take place at the College of Education on the Statesboro Campus from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 prior to the football game at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Leckie at aleckie@georgiasouthern.edu

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