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### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2017). *Newsroom*. 549.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/549>

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# Message from the President

**JANUARY 11, 2017**

**Jan. 11, 2017**

To the University Community:

Today, the Board of Regents approved a plan to consolidate Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University. The combined institution will be named Georgia Southern University.

See the USG press release [here](#).

I hope you share in the excitement and optimism this opportunity presents for current and future students of both institutions. The consolidation combines the best of both universities and reinforces the student-centered commitment of each school throughout their long histories. With more than 27,000 students, Georgia Southern will be the fourth largest public university in Georgia.

The consolidation process will take approximately 18 months and will be a joint effort led by representatives from both Georgia Southern and Armstrong.

As we move forward, I – with the help and leadership of Armstrong State University President Linda Bleicken – will lead an implementation team that will work closely with leadership at the University System of Georgia.

We will hold Town Hall sessions on Thursday, Jan. 19 at each institution so our entire community – on and off-campus – will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the consolidation. We welcome your input. If you are unable to make it to the Town Hall, the sessions will be streamed live on the new consolidation website: [consolidation.georgiasouthern.edu](http://consolidation.georgiasouthern.edu). I encourage you to visit this site often for updates.

It is important to me that you feel included in this process as we move forward. Each of you are an integral part of this process and a part of the Georgia Southern University family.

Thank you.

Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D.

President, Georgia Southern University

**Jan. 6, 2017**

To the University Community:

The beginning of a new year always brings a sense of hope and possibility and 2017 is no different.

The Board of Regents and the University System of Georgia continues to assess how its institutions can effectively and efficiently serve the state and provide access to education to its citizens.

Chancellor Steve Wrigley will recommend to the Board of Regents that Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University be consolidated at the next Board of Regents meeting, which will be held January 11.

The recommended consolidation will combine the best of both institutions, which are just an hour apart and ultimately serve many of the same students coming from southeast Georgia who are seeking higher education.

I will provide more information following the board meeting.

Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D.

President, Georgia Southern University

Visit the University System of Georgia newsroom [here](#).

## Admission Receptions: bringing Georgia Southern to you

**JANUARY 11, 2017**



Every year thousands of prospective Eagles flock to Georgia Southern for Open House. Admissions Open Houses offer prospective students and their families the chance to learn about academics, student life, programs and requirements for the University. But for many students, finding the time and resources to travel to Statesboro can prove troublesome.

To allow more students to experience the value of an Open House without coming to campus, the Office of Admissions

provides four Receptions each academic year throughout the region. Receptions are held in Jacksonville and Augusta in the fall and in Atlanta in the fall and spring. For more than a decade these Receptions have brought the Georgia Southern experience to families and future students throughout the region.

"The Receptions are some of my favorite events we host because it is taking Open House on the road," said Associate Director for Freshmen Admissions Christy Rikard ('07). "We literally load Georgia Southern onto a bus and bring it to students in their hometown!"

The Admissions staff works tirelessly to prepare for a successful Reception. Planning begins at the start of the spring semester with choosing dates, locations, catering and vendors for events. Postcards and emails are sent and phone calls made to promote the Receptions. Billboards are put up, social media ads planned and college fair and high school visits are made.

Meanwhile, detailed travel arrangements are made. The assistant director for Visit Programs books charter buses to transfer staff and student volunteers to and from Receptions. Two to three weeks before the event, students in the Office of Admissions prepare student bags for check-in and roll t-shirts to give to those who apply or check their admission status at the event.

Once all of the arrangements are made, the bustle of Reception day begins, and the months of planning come to life. For two hours, guests can visit with booths from University organizations, admissions, academic colleges, housing, financial aid, scholarships and the University Honors Program.

"Event days are my absolute favorite," said Sean Cleary, assistant director for Visit Programs. "You spend many long days planning out every last detail for each Reception and can finally see all of the pieces come together to host a fun and informative event. The real fun comes when all of the students start to check in, and you can start to match up faces with the names that you have seen listed on your Excel spreadsheet for the past few months leading up to the event. I would compare Receptions to being at a big family reunion."

Aside from the helpful professional staff available at the event, current students offer insight into their day-to-day lives as students on campus and are happy to discuss living on campus, balancing work and school, getting involved, and transitioning from high school to college.

"Parents and guardians enjoy many of the same benefits as students at Receptions, but can also learn more about the Parent and Family Association and speak with the parents of current students and alumni about their experiences with having a child at Georgia Southern," said Cleary.

Of the 821 prospective students who attended the past four Receptions, 244 enrolled at the University, yielding a 77 percent enrollment rate of admitted senior attendees for the following fall

term. Each year these Receptions continue to play a crucial role in attracting the best and brightest and growing the enrollment numbers at Georgia Southern.

"These events are such a great opportunity to show off what Georgia Southern is all about," said Caleb Rogers ('15), admissions counselor. "The way everyone on campus teams up and is so willing to help students and parents out is such an example of our 'Southern hospitality', and really shows the guests that we really are offering the 'large-scale, small-feel' experience we talk about."

To learn more about Admissions Receptions,  
visit <http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/visit/offcampusevents/>.

*Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving 20,674 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu) for more information.*

# COE professor Hodges brings White House leadership to campus

JANUARY 11, 2017



*COE Associate Professor Charles Hodges, Ph.D., is pictured standing in the Indian Treaty Room of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building of the White House in Washington, D.C.*

Georgia Southern's College of Education faculty member Charles Hodges, Ph.D., was invited to the White House on Dec. 14 to participate in the Advancing Educational Technology in Teacher Preparation Innovators' Summit hosted by the Office of Educational Technology (OET) at the U.S. Department of Education.

The Summit provided an opportunity for schools with education and teacher preparation programs to discuss and plan technology implementations at their institutions. The event also highlighted the forward-thinking work of innovators across the field and provided a forum to share ideas, progress and success stories.

Hodges and attendees of the Summit heard remarks from the Senior Policy Advisor for Education at the White House, Mario Cardona, Under Secretary for Education at the U.S. Department of Education, Ted Mitchell, Ph.D., and Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education, Joseph South, Ph.D.

As a result of the Summit, Hodges has committed to future work with a group on the topic of building sustainable program-wide systems of professional learning for higher education instructors to strengthen and continually refresh their capacity to use technological tools to enable transformative learning and teaching.

"I am looking forward to seeing how I can bring information from this experience and the continued work from it into our work in the College of Education, my classes and with teachers in Georgia and beyond," said Hodges.

Hodges, an associate professor in the University's Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, is actively engaged in educational technology research and service at both the national and international levels through organizations such as the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) where he serves as the editor-in-chief of the association's journal TechTrends. He serves on the Committee on Innovation and Technology of American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) and is involved with the National Technology Leadership Coalition.

Hodges is also in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education's OET to implement rapid cycle evaluation into one of his upcoming graduate-level courses, FRIT 7237: Evaluation of Education Needs and Programs.

"I am thankful that I work in a College and University that support my participation in these various professional activities," said Hodges. "Even though we live in a digitally connected society with easy video conferencing, travel to attend face-to-face meetings and the working groups that accompany them is essential to meet and work with people on important practice and policy initiatives.

"It felt good to be able represent our College of Education and Georgia Southern University at the White House," he added.

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