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# More than 3,300 students receive degrees from Georgia Southern during Spring 2016 Commencement

**MAY 7, 2016**

On May 6 and 7, Georgia Southern University recently held its annual spring commencement ceremonies for graduate and undergraduate students at Hanner Fieldhouse and Allen E. Paulson Stadium. Interim University President Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., R.N., conferred more than 3,300 doctoral, master's, specialist and bachelor's degrees from the University's eight colleges during two separate ceremonies.

Commencement speakers for this year's ceremonies were Stephen Harmon, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Learning Technologies Division in the College of Education and Human Development at Georgia State University, and Carol H. Burrell, president and CEO of Northeast Georgia Health System.



"You need to become lifelong learners, adaptive experts and innovative problem solvers," said Harmon during the graduate student ceremony on Friday, May 6. "You are at the finish of a long race. You're joining an elite group."

Burrell advised undergraduates during today's ceremony to keep in mind that their degree may not be their ultimate path.

"Just as your degree does not entitle you nor does it limit you, said Burrell. "The truth is there will be many opportunities for growth."

"Prepare yourself right now proactively to not go down that road of comparison," continued Burrell during her address. "Make your own definition of success. Don't fall into the trap of defining your success by what others have accomplished. You can't let others control your attitude. The only person you should be comparing yourself to is you."



Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving approximately 20,500 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. [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).