

# Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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# SOAR Team Wins Regional Awards

APRIL 7, 2015



Georgia Southern University's SOAR (Orientation) Team recently traveled to Murray, Kentucky, to attend the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop (SROW) where they won two awards. SROW is a regional conference through the Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education attended by undergraduate orientation leaders, graduate students and orientation professionals.

More than 1,800 people from 80 institutions across the Southeast gathered at Murray State University to learn about other orientation programs, student leadership, teamwork, diversity and acceptance, student and family transition and showcase school pride. For the last few months, Georgia Southern's SOAR Team prepared to represent Georgia Southern at SROW and their hard work paid off.

The SOAR Team won the community service project for a mid-sized institution, donating 1,290 lunch bags to the Backpack Buddies Program. This organization is focused on providing weekend meals to students whose families do not have the financial capability to provide proper meals.

SOAR Leaders Taylor Mutimer, Adam Clay, Breanna Jones, DiArron Morrison and Kelsey Vaughn won third place out of 147 sessions in the education session competition. They presented an educational session called "Turn Up or Transfer: Why it's important to P.A.R.T.Y." They discussed stigmas about college life, and how to approach questions and concerns posed by new students during their orientation.

The SOAR Team also competed in a case study, banner, t-shirt, song and spirit competition. The Georgia Southern SOAR Team proudly represented their institution and built connections with other orientation leaders.

SOAR is Southern's Orientation, Advisement and Registration program for new students and the 2015 SOAR Team is made up of 22 undergraduate student leaders who help orient new students and their families to Georgia Southern during the summer SOAR sessions. SOAR Leaders serve as role models for new students by helping them register for classes, preparing them for college level academics and informing parents about Georgia Southern services.