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## Newsroom

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# Georgia Southern University Hosting HIV/AIDS Education and Training Conference

JULY 24, 2012

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Georgia Southern University will host health care professionals from around the Southeast at the Rural Based HIV Education and Training Conference on Friday, Sept. 14 at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, Ga.

The conference will provide training and education to health care professionals on the topics of mental health and substance abuse issues as they relate to HIV/AIDS, intervention strategies and ethical issues. The conference will also stress the need for rural-based HIV/AIDS research, health education and training in the Southeast United States.

Georgia Southern's Rural Health Research Institute, College of Education and the Division of Continuing Education have partnered with Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center to host the conference. Clinical social workers, school counselors, psychologists, university-level nursing departments in the state of Georgia and licensed practical workers are highly encouraged to attend.

The Southeast is reported to have the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the United States with Georgia ranking sixth in the nation. In 2010, 40,328 Georgians were living with the virus with 66% living in the Atlanta metropolitan area alone. The predominance of the virus in the region stems from a variety of sources, including limited health access, lack of available preventative services and health care professionals with little or no experience with diagnosis and treatment of the virus.

"The conference will provide additional knowledge and skill sets for health care professionals," said Georgia Southern faculty member Fayth Parks, Ph.D., "and it will also provide the opportunity to network with one another."

The program will include three workshops featuring Georgia Southern faculty members Jacob Warren, Ph.D. and Fayth Parks, Ph.D., along with Aaron Armelie, Ph.D. of Tulane University School of Medicine. The conference begins at 8 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast and will conclude at 5 p.m. following evaluations.

Registration fees are \$95 by August 31 and \$110 on or after September 1. For more information please contact Marie Williams at (912) 478-2260 or visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/>.

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