

Newsroom

November 20, 2017

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2017). *Newsroom*. 1367.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/1367>

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Adrian Peterson to address graduates at Fall Commencement

NOVEMBER 20, 2017



Adrian Peterson

Georgia Southern alumnus and athletics great Adrian Peterson will address the graduating class of Fall 2017 during the University's annual commencement ceremony set for 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

Peterson, who hails from Alachua, Florida, is a 2001 graduate of Georgia Southern and was a star athlete during his time here. Peterson led the Eagles Football team to two national titles and three championship games, and was the first sophomore to win the Walter Payton Award, which is given to the top player in the nation at the FCS level. He rushed for 100 or more yards in 48 consecutive games, is the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I all-time leading rusher with 6,559 yards in regular-season contests, and at the time of graduation, he held 30 school and playoff records.

In 2001, Georgia Southern retired Peterson's No. 3 jersey, and in 2012, he was a unanimous choice for induction into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame Class in his first year of eligibility. He was inducted as a member of the inaugural Southern Conference Hall of Fame class in 2009, and in 2017 he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

After leaving Georgia Southern, Peterson played professional football in the National Football League (NFL). He was a sixth-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears in 2002, and was a participant in Super Bowl XLI.

In addition to his outstanding athletic career, Peterson has become a champion for anyone with disabilities by publishing a book in 2012 that reveals his struggle with stuttering. "Don't Dis My Abilities," published by Imprint Publishing, is a story not only of Peterson's struggles, but for anyone who is struggling to overcome challenges associated with disabilities.

Graduate and undergraduate students will be recognized during this ceremony. Due to the extremely large crowd expected, it is suggested that plans be made to arrive on campus by 11:45 a.m. or earlier. Carpooling is encouraged, and shuttles will be available beginning at 11:30 a.m. and will continue for one hour following the end of the ceremony. A parking and shuttle map, along with other commencement details, can be found at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/commencement.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 118 degree programs serving 20,418 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.

Alumna spearheads award-winning technology project for Jenkins County School System

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) alumna and doctoral candidate Julie Chance developed the Innovative Teacher Technology Project (ITTP), which is now a system-wide, award-winning project.

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) recently named Jenkins County School System (JCSS) the 2017 recipient of the Richard B. Lewis Memorial Award for outstanding technology integration and media utilization programs for the development of ITTP during the 2013-2014 school year.

Chance serves as the Director of Federal Programs and Professional Learning for JCSS.

"As the overseer of both of those programs and because we funded ITTP through federal money, it was my responsibility to help develop the program as one of our school improvement strategies," she said.

ITTP is an instructional technology integration initiative that places an emphasis on a structured system to support the efforts of teachers to transition their classrooms into digital learning environments.

"The thing that is different about ITTP from other instructional technology integration programs is that it was built on the foundation of the professional learning – not on equipment distribution," said Chance.

To assist in the creation of a strong learning program for teachers, Chance requested the help of Georgia Southern Instructional Technology [Associate Professor Charles Hodges](#), Ph.D.

"Dr. Hodges began consulting with our system four years ago as we began the development and implementation of ITTP," said Chance. "He has been an invaluable resource for training our teacher leaders to become experts in this field and to continue training all of our instructional staff."

What began as a voluntary program with 25 teachers participating in the original cohort has grown to 100 percent of the system's teachers and staff enriched in the project and instructional development. School employees are now



Julie Chance is pictured (left) accepting the Richard B. Lewis Award from Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) President Eugene Kowch, Ph.D.

meeting to review student data and research based on their content areas, and learning how instructional technology can help their students develop inquiry-based learning and critical thinking skills.

Chance holds a bachelor's of social studies education and a master's and specialist degrees in educational leadership from Georgia Southern. On her way to becoming a Quadruple Eagle, Chance is working to complete an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University this fall. Her dissertation is a program evaluation of ITTP.

"I believe instructional technology is the key to better student engagement and individualized learning," she said. "Doing a program evaluation as my dissertation means that the Jenkins County School System will have an evidence-based evaluation of whether their instructional technology integration program was effective. It will also give the school system recommendations for future practice."

Hodges, along with COE Associate Professor Teri Melton, Ph.D., nominated Jenkins County for the award, and Hodges says what they have been able to accomplish has "been really impressive."

"I have worked with other systems, some with more resources, that have not been able to see the same levels of success with technology integration in their schools," said Hodges. "When I saw the award announcement, it was an easy decision to nominate JCSS."

For more information about the instructional technology programs at Georgia Southern University's COE, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/coe/itec.

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