

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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Community organizers connect ideas to action plans for social change

FEBRUARY 12, 2018

*MLK, Jr. Institute for
Community
and
Social Change*



Georgia Southern University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and TRIO – Student Support Services (SSS) collaborated with the MLK Jr. Observance Day Association Inc., to host the inaugural MLK Institute for Community and Social Change on Feb. 8-10 at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah.

The MLK Institute is an opportunity for participants to transform an idea they have to serve the needs of their community into a customized action plan that will serve to bring about lasting social change. Participants included concerned citizens, members of neighborhood associations, civic organizations, Greek organizations, college student organizations, community organizers, representatives of faith organizations and others with a desire to make a difference in the Savannah community.

Armstrong Campus staff members involved in the collaborative community program included Corine Ackerson-Jones, director of TRIO-SSS, who serves as chair of the Institute Committee. In addition, the program included workshops and group sessions facilitated by Andrea Willingham, retention specialist for TRIO-SSS, Thomas Bullock, Ed.D., academic success coach for TRIO-SSS, and Lucero Aradillas, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"Georgia Southern is an institution that serves a diverse population of more than 27,000 students across three campuses in Savannah, Statesboro and Hinesville," said Vice President for Armstrong and Liberty Campus Operations Christopher Curtis, Ph.D. "It remains committed to supporting initiatives that inform our students of pressing social issues and motivates them toward civic engagement and community stewardship."

For more information, visit www.mlkingsavannah.com.

The MLK Observance Day Association, a 501©3 organization, annually leads the Savannah celebration for the national holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The association also awards college scholarships to students from the Savannah area and contributes small grants to local non-profit groups.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 142 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Savannah, Statesboro, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia

Statesboro Campus to celebrate Georgia's Arbor Day Friday

FEBRUARY 12, 2018



Georgia Southern's Center for Sustainability (CfS) and Division of Facilities Services will host a celebration in honor of Georgia's Arbor Day on the University's Statesboro Campus on Friday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m.

Students, CfS staff and campus volunteers will spend the morning planting 500 pine seedlings in the Herty Pines Nature Preserve. Volunteers will meet at the Herty Preserve kiosk on Southern Drive across from the iconic shrubs welcoming visitors to the storied Sweetheart Circle. The campus community is invited to attend.

Georgia celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday of February each year. While the national celebration takes place in April, the subtropical climate in Georgia is far more hospitable to plant-life earlier in the year.

This will be the sixth year Georgia Southern and the CfS have celebrated Arbor Day on the Statesboro Campus by planting trees to increase green space.

Georgia Southern alumnus promoted to three-star lieutenant general in U.S. Army

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Last Friday, Georgia Southern alumnus Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith ('85) was promoted to a three-star lieutenant general in the U.S. Army. This promotion makes Smith the highest-ranking University alumnus in the military.

Smith, who currently serves as deputy to the inspector general for the Office of the Secretary of the Army, is actively involved with Georgia Southern. He serves as mentor to the Army ROTC Eagle Battalion, keynote speaker for commissioning ceremonies, member of the Alumni Association's First 500 and supporter of the University's College of Business. He received the College of Business Alumni of the Year award in 2017 and the Georgia Southern Alumnus of the Year award in 2011.

Previously, Smith was the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Other commands include leading a chemical battalion and a chemical brigade. He is a recipient of numerous awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.