

Newsroom

June 12, 2018

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2018). *Newsroom*. 1510.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/1510>

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Georgia Southern awarded National Science Foundation grant; will lead collaboration with state universities to improve STEM education

JUNE 12, 2018



Georgia Southern University was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant totaling more than \$50,000 to lead a collaborative project that will address science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education concerns at Georgia's comprehensive universities. The project will be presented at a symposium in spring 2019.

While enrollment trends for STEM majors in Georgia colleges have increased, many institutions continue to struggle to retain and graduate students from these programs.

The spring 2019 symposium will bring together stakeholders from collaborating institutions, Kennesaw State University, University of West Georgia and Valdosta State University, to discuss a plan to implement changes and to improve undergraduate STEM education across the state.

"Our four institutions are comparable in our ability to provide resources and supplemental instruction," said Kania Greer, Ed.D., principal investigator for the Georgia Southern grant and coordinator of the College of Education's (COE) Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education. "Together we want to build our capacity to improve undergraduate education and learn from each other on strategies that work best for student success."

The symposium will focus on three areas for improved undergraduate STEM education. Attendees will examine the transition to postsecondary education and student engagement in gateway courses to determine issues for the course topics or institutional practices that hinder students' continuance into upper-division STEM coursework.

Balancing faculty teaching and researching, and the importance of undergraduate research as a vital component to student success and practical application of STEM education, will also be discussed.

"Research provides clear applications of basic scientific principles students often struggle with in the classroom and reinforces knowledge presented in the classroom," said Greer.

Administrators and representatives from STEM disciplines, as well as education and teacher preparation, will attend the symposium to establish collaboration and best practices, initiate change and study the impact of change on recruitment, retention and graduation rates.

"We are looking to build on the University System of Georgia's (USG) STEM Initiative," said Greer. "And we want to take learning and self-evaluation deeper while considering elements of change such as undergraduate research, faculty development, the role of K-12 participation, peer learning and tutoring and learning communities."

Launched in 2007, the USG STEM Initiative is a project designed to improve student access and success in the STEM fields and enhance existing instructional capabilities of STEM faculty in Georgia's postsecondary institutions. During

the conference, the USG will provide guidance on the initiative.

Greer added that experts from the COE can offer a pedagogical perspective on best teaching methodologies and curriculum development including differentiated learning for diverse student populations.

“The COE has the unique ability to provide content instruction and help bridge the gap between teaching and learning and STEM content,” she said.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, 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 Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern students win Student Production EMMY Awards

JUNE 12, 2018



Holden Galatas, Shelby Head and Bradon Holder accept a Student Production EMMY for Best Sports – Live Events at the 2018 Regional Southeast EMMY Awards.

The Regional Southeast EMMY chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has recognized Georgia Southern University students with Student Production EMMY Awards.

The Multimedia Development Center (MDC) student production team received an EMMY for Sports – Live Events, Fairfield vs. Georgia Southern Baseball. Holden Galatas, anchor for this event, also received an individual award in the Talent category.

“I’m so excited to have received this honor,” said Galatas. “I never really thought this would be occurring in this stage of my career. This has been a team effort since we started.”

Shelby Head, Bradon Holder, Jayden Moss, Robert Jackson, Sterling Mattison and Robert Ross won a Student Production EMMY for Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Affairs for the production of the “Strings at Southern Chamber Music Festival.”

“Working at the MDC has provided me with an unsurpassed professional experience in the broadcast and video production field,” said Holder. “I have been presented with numerous opportunities to grow and augment my major of electrical engineering with this educational experience. I can’t thank Georgia Southern enough for this opportunity.”

The Southeast Student EMMY awards encourage the pursuit of excellence in video production and focuses public attention on outstanding achievements produced by high school and college students.

“We are very proud of our students for winning these awards,” said Art Berger, director of the MDC. “This year we’ve had many outstanding students who have worked very hard to achieve a true professional level with our live productions, and it has paid off for them. As a staff member at Georgia Southern University it is rewarding for me and all of our team to serve as mentors and to provide this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, watching our students grow, graduate and obtain outstanding media industry jobs.”

The MDC, a division of University Advancement and External Affairs, provides students with media training and hands-on experience that they can then translate into real-world opportunities. Students run cameras, direct, produce and manage over 100 live events each year on ESPN3 and other national televised broadcasts.

The Regional Southeast EMMY Chapter is one of 19 chapters throughout the United States identifying and celebrating television excellence at the local and regional level of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. This chapter represents television professionals from all disciplines of the industry and from each of its markets in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and North Carolina.

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