

# Newsroom

February 6, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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# Open House highlights Georgia Southern, Savannah State partnership

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Save



To provide unprecedented educational opportunities for the region, Georgia Southern University and Savannah State University (SSU) will host a joint open house on Georgia Southern's Liberty Campus in Hinesville on Feb. 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Military members and their families, and other prospective students, will have the chance to learn more about career-enhancing programs where they live and work. During the event, SSU President Cheryl Davenport Dozier, and Georgia Southern Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl L. Reiber will discuss the universities' strategic partnership and share more about the

importance of making these programs available to prospective students.

"Georgia Southern is dedicated to expanding educational opportunities in Hinesville to meet the growing needs of that community," said Georgia Southern President Shelley Nickel. "Through this partnership, we are providing relevant skills, a first-class education, and real leadership training. Our students' contributions will make a direct impact on southeast Georgia."

This innovative partnership enables students to enroll at Georgia Southern's Liberty Campus as SSU students and complete the bachelor's degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) degree or certificate in Virtual Forensic Science: Evidence Processing, Documentation and Analysis entirely in Hinesville.

Georgia Southern University's Liberty Campus, with its state-of-the-art instructional spaces and collaborative environment, continues to prepare students for the workforce by offering affordable academic programs that include psychology, elementary education, nursing and a certificate in cybersecurity. This unique campus experience in Hinesville focuses on student success, providing face-to-face instruction and evening class options.

The addition of the SSU HSEM program and Virtual Forensic Science certificate provides students who call the Hinesville and surrounding communities home with the flexibility of choosing from extended degree programs offered by regional universities in their community.

"Savannah State will bring its homeland security and emergency management degree program as well as our new virtual forensic science certificate to Hinesville, which is home to many of our military and first responders," said SSU President Cheryl Davenport Dozier. "This partnership with Georgia Southern University will expand workforce development not only in Liberty County, but around the state."

The HSEM program will be the first program to be offered through this partnership in Summer 2019. SSU is the first institution in the state of Georgia to offer a bachelor's degree in HSEM. The program prepares students to assume leadership roles in emergency management, homeland security and/or public policy; participate in employer-directed training for specific roles and career advancement; and pursue graduate study in government, business, public policy, international affairs, law enforcement, policy planning or law.

In Fall 2019, SSU is also adding an 18 credit-hour certificate in Virtual Forensic Science: Evidence Processing, Documentation and Analysis on both Georgia Southern's Liberty Campus and the SSU main campus. Building upon the forensic science degree, this certificate will be open to students in any major as well as those employed in law enforcement, military or an associated area of forensic science, criminal justice or homeland security. The certificate program will provide an immersive learning experience with SSU's exclusive 3D virtual reality crime scene investigation technology. Certificate coursework will cover procedures necessary for the proper use of 3D technology in criminal investigations, such as 3D scanning, processing, analyzing and the use of 3D virtual reality technology in courtroom presentation of crime scene evidence.

Both universities have been recognized for their dedication to serving veterans, service members and their families with the Military Friendly® designation by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. Georgia Southern currently holds the number one place on *Military Times* 2019 Best for Vets: Four-Year Colleges.

For more information, visit <https://savannahdegrees.com/>.

### **About Georgia Southern**

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 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](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

### **About Savannah State University**

Established in 1890, Savannah State University is the oldest public historically black college or university in Georgia and the oldest institution of higher learning in the city of Savannah. The university's 4,100 students select majors from 30 undergraduate and six graduate programs in four colleges — Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Sciences and Technology, Business Administration and Education.

# Georgia Southern student one of five in nation to garner leadership fellowship

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Georgia Southern University senior Jessica Riley Martinez was recently awarded the 2019 Jordan Smith Undergraduate Fellowship and will represent Georgia Southern at the 38th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience (FYE) in February.

Martinez was one of just five winners from across the nation, making this the second year in a row that a Georgia Southern student has been selected for this honor. She will accept her award at this year's FYE Conference in Las Vegas on Feb. 18.

"It's a really big deal to be one of the five undergraduate winners of this fellowship award in the nation, and I still cannot believe that I won," said Martinez. "It shows that Georgia Southern University is helping their students to become successful and to be able to further themselves in any field they work hard in."

A psychology major who is also pursuing a double minor in French and Information Technology, Martinez has worked with the University's FYE for three years.

"Riley Martinez has held every student leadership position we offer in First-Year Experience," said FYE Director Chris Caplinger, Ph.D. "She's had a direct, positive influence on hundreds of students, helping them navigate the first year of college and explore majors. Since last fall, she's also been an active participant on a task force comprised primarily of faculty assessing our First-Year Seminar. I'm excited about the things she will bring back to the task force after serving as a Jordan Smith fellow at the national FYE conference."

The conference is designed to provide educators from every segment of higher education with an environment to share innovative ideas, programs, tools and research critical to the learning, development and success of first-year college students. It will feature keynote and plenary speakers focused on critical issues in higher education, colleague clusters for networking opportunities, and commercial and nonprofit exhibits offering strategies and resources to support college transitions.

As a fellow, Martinez will have the opportunity to advance her leadership skills and knowledge base of undergraduate students in an effort to encourage first-year development in students on campus.

For more information about FYE at Georgia Southern, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/fye](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/fye).

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# Georgia Southern to host free screening of "Bully," Q&A with area experts to follow

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On Tuesday, Feb. 12, Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) will host a free screening of "Bully," a film documenting the effects of bullying on school-aged students and their families. The screening, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 6 p.m. in University Hall, room 156, located on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah.

The documentary, filmed over the course of a single school year, follows five students and their families as the students cope with cruelty from classmates while trying to fit in. Transcending geographic, racial, ethnic and economic borders, the film examines the growing issue of bullying in schools today and how students, parents, teachers and administrators are facing the problem.

According to filmmaker Lee Hirsch, Sundance Film Festival and Emmy-Award winner, over 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation.

The film sparked an ongoing effort called "The Bully Project," which is a global movement to stop bullying and transform children's lives by changing the culture of bullying into one of empathy and action. The movement website, [www.thebullyproject.com](http://www.thebullyproject.com), includes tools and resources on bullying for educators, students, parents and advocates.

Following the screening, the COE will host a Q&A session with local professionals in the fields of social work, juvenile justice, counseling and bully prevention in schools.

This screening is the first in a series of five events that will take place on the Armstrong Campus during the Spring 2019 semester. The series is being offered at no charge to students or the community as a result of a Campus Life Enrichment Committee grant written and received by COE faculty Regina Rahimi, Ed.D., Kathleen Burke-Fabrikant, Ph.D., and David Owens, Ph.D.

The additional screenings will include: "The Cartel" on March 5; "The School in the Cloud" on March 27; and "Elementary Genocide" on April 16.

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