

Newsroom

March 7, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern to host actress Jodie Sweetin to speak on substance abuse recovery on March 11

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Jodie Sweetin

Georgia Southern University's School of Nursing will host entrepreneur, actress, producer and author Jodie Sweetin to share her inspirational and sobering message of resilience and triumph over substance abuse on March 11. Sweetin's presentation, "The Road to Recovery," is free and open to the public and will take place on the University's Armstrong Campus in the Fine Arts Building Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Sweetin is known for her role as Stephanie Tanner on ABC's long-running sitcom "Full House," which still airs in syndication. She recently returned to her role as "Stephanie" in the successful Netflix reboot "Fuller House," which has won numerous awards. In addition, she has starred in several Hallmark movies and POP TV's unscripted comedy, "Hollywood Darlings," for which she also served as co-executive producer.

Her 2009 memoir, *UnSweetined*, documents her life growing up in the spotlight and the years after, and is a deeply personal account of her identity crisis, the double-life she led as a child actress, and the strength and courage she found to overcome addiction. In sharing her story, she hopes she has been

able to help others confront their issues head-on and move forward.

"Our hope is that Jodie will bring a heightened awareness of the multifaceted aspect of drug and alcohol abuse and recovery, and how it not only affects the individual, but affects the individual's loved ones as well," said Waters College of Health Professions Dean Barry Joyner, Ph.D. "Through the Advanced Practice Nurse-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (APN-PMHNP) track, our dedicated School of Nursing faculty are leading the way in bridging the gap for patients in rural and underserved communities to access quality mental healthcare."

Sweetin will visit Georgia Southern in collaboration with the University's School of Nursing, which established the APN-PMHNP track in 2015 to uniquely serve the psychiatric and mental health needs of rural and underserved communities. Georgia Southern is the only university in the state to focus on telemedicine training. The seven-course online track partners with clinical environments that provide team-based care, includes on campus simulation learning experiences, and previously included short summer intensive sessions with national content experts.

The event is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award to the University's School of Nursing for advanced nursing education totaling \$1,588,794 with zero percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.

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.

Tags: [Georgia Southern University School of Nursing](#)

Georgia Southern's online elementary education master's among top-ranked in nation

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Georgia Southern University's elementary education program, formerly called the early childhood education program, was recently named one of the best online master's, according to OnlineMasters.com. Of the top 50 programs identified in the nation, the University's M.Ed. in Elementary Education, housed in the Department of Elementary and Special Education of the College of Education, was ranked No. 28 and received the "Best for Professionals" recognition.

"We are proud of this ranking and proud of our program," said M.Ed. Elementary Education Online Option Program Director Katie Brkich, Ph.D. "Faculty work hard to facilitate meaningful interactions and learning experiences in a fully-online program

with a range of master's students, from those fresh out of an undergraduate program to working professionals who are veterans in the field."

OnlineMasters.com highlighted the program's in-depth curriculum and field experiences to help current educators improve both their quality of teaching as well as the academic success of students in their classrooms. Education programs at Georgia Southern also include a focus on teaching diverse students and considering social justice issues in the classroom.

"I believe our program was ranked 'Best for Professionals' because our faculty are constantly considering the lives and experiences of our students in designing coursework, due dates and field expectations," Brkich said. "We want full-time teachers to be able to succeed and gain valuable knowledge in the program."

OnlineMasters.com considered three specific areas when ranking national online programs. Academic quality accounted for 40 percent of an institution's grade, including graduation, retention and enrollment rates. Another 40 percent featured student success measures, including polling and assessment of current students and alumni and the quality of instructors. The final 20 percent concentrated on the affordability of an institution.

Methodology for the ranking incorporated the most recent data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and statistical data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Research was also conducted through interviews and surveys of current students, alumni and human resource professionals.

For more information about the M.Ed. in Elementary Education program, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/mat>.

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