

# Newsroom

May 14, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern, Haven Elementary partner for educator program

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Georgia Southern University is working with Haven Elementary School in Savannah on their Community Partnership Grant from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement totaling \$74,976. This project will offer teachers a Gratifying Problem-Solving (GPS) program, which will provide educators unique monthly professional development based on the school's current need for improved mathematics instruction.

The College of Education's Jackie Kim, Ed.D., associate professor of elementary and special education, serves as a director for the project, and the College of Science and Mathematics' Joshua Lambert, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, provides assistance on workshop development and mathematics instruction.

The GPS program uses a bottom-up approach, allowing the participants at Haven Elementary to help shape its development, workshop activities and directive.

"We go to find out what their inquiries and needs are and create a workshop based on the assessment," said Kim. "We want to start with what they are currently doing in the classroom and change their practice to make instruction stronger yet doable."

The project is set to begin this month, with observations conducted by Kim and Lambert to collect data on current practices used in mathematics instruction from grades three through five. Later in the year, nine classroom teachers and four instructional coaches and technologists will participate in the GPS project, conducting monthly meetings that will include both technology integration for their curriculum and classrooms as well as mathematical practices and teaching activities.

The grant will purchase laptops for classrooms and software and other resources for innovative mathematics instruction. Participants in the GPS project will also receive stipends and meals during meetings.

Kim, who has 11 years of teaching in a K-12 classroom and 13 years teaching higher education, says that this project provides the opportunity to utilize all areas of her expertise while giving back to the community.

"I have worked with the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program for the past five years, but I have never worked with Savannah-Chatham Schools," said Kim. "I am excited to have the opportunity to work with Savannah-Chatham Schools because we have the experience and expertise to share to make a difference right here in our community."

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.

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# Georgia Southern remembers Professor Emeritus Robert Strozier

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Professor Emeritus and alumni, Robert Strozier, Ph.D., passed away April 28, in Savannah. Strozier is being remembered as a mentor, poet, acclaimed speaker and extraordinary English professor on the Armstrong Campus.

Strozier graduated from Armstrong Junior College in 1949 with a degree in liberal studies. He returned to Armstrong after getting an Applied Baccalaureate, a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in American literature from other institutions. He taught generations of students for over 40 years and also served as director of public relations.

In 2015, Strozier received the 2015 Eminent Alumni Award, and the annual faculty Robert I. Strozier Lecture Series is named in his honor. Strozier, who was active in civic leadership, was a founding member of the foundation that purchased the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home and turned it into a significant literary center in downtown Savannah.