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Partnership with SCCPSS to provide paid residency opportunities for select Georgia Southern teacher candidates

January 16, 2020

Exceptional teacher candidates studying in Georgia Southern University's College of Education (COE) will soon have the opportunity to apply for a paid residency program with Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) starting as early as Fall 2020.

With nearly 3,000 teachers in the Chatham County's public school system, SCCPSS hires 400 new teachers per year on average. The opportunity to bring in highly qualified teacher candidates during their final year of an initial educator preparation program will help to fill positions needed by the county while also building relationships with the teacher candidates for possible retention in the school district.

"Two teacher candidates will be hired as resident teachers to fill two vacant teacher positions," said Deborah Thomas, Ph.D., associate dean for curriculum, instruction and initial educator preparation. "Each will be paid \$19,000 for the year and receive all the benefits of a regular teacher. A classroom educator who has demonstrated exemplary performance in teaching and in mentoring other teachers will step out of the classroom to be a full-time mentor to the two teacher residents. The mentor teacher will support the teacher residents in learning district and school policies and procedures, co-teach with them in their classrooms, observe them teaching and provide feedback, as well as provide ongoing mentoring and support throughout the year."

The teacher residents and mentors will also receive support from a Georgia Southern faculty member. As resident teachers in the school, the program participants will participate in the SCCPSS new teacher induction program, providing them an additional layer of guidance. While completing their residency, teacher candidates will finish all program courses and requirements for Georgia teacher certification.

"It's a win-win for all involved," Thomas said. "The teacher residents will receive a salary and benefits for work they would have to do anyway with no compensation. The mentor teachers are able to move into a teacher-leader role and have a direct impact on the professional development of new teachers. SCCPSS and the COE are able to strengthen their partnership and collaboration to develop a pipeline of exceptional teachers for the district."

Successful teacher candidates and SCCPSS classroom teachers who apply for the program will be selected by a team jointly representing SCCPSS and COE.

"SCCPSS is excited to be working alongside Georgia Southern University on the Paid Residency Initiative," said Heather Bilton, Ed.D., director of human resources at SCCPSS. "We have been watching residency programs around the country and have been impressed at the quality of the teacher candidates and the support given to new teachers. We know our partnership will have a positive impact on students and the teaching profession."

The goal is to begin a paid residency pilot program in the fall with a small number of Georgia Southern teacher candidates. Opportunities will eventually be available for birth-to-kindergarten, elementary and middle, and secondary education teacher candidates.

"Often our students say that they get their best practice and experience in the field," Thomas noted. "This will only enhance the hands-on clinical practice of students who have shown exceptional academic and classroom practice prior to their final year of study."

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 26,000 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 to offer new online Master of Public Health in Fall 2020](#)

January 16, 2020



Beginning in Fall 2020 Georgia Southern University will offer its first fully online Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a concentration in applied public health.

“For those who do not have the ability to enroll in one of our on-campus MPH concentrations, the online applied public health option would be ideal for anyone passionate about improving health and making a difference in their community,” stated Interim Dean Stuart Tedders, Ph.D.

Students will complete a broad-based program of study with a focus on public health education, information and advocacy, and with the flexibility to tailor their elective options. Students will apply their skills and knowledge to become front-line public health practitioners or public health leaders.

Academic advisors and technical support will be provided to all students enrolled in the online master’s program. Additionally, the online program includes a field experience located within reach of the student’s location. Applications are now open for Fall 2020 enrollment. For more information, visit Georgiasouthern.edu/jphcoph.

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Georgia Southern launches lending program for STEM, social studies classrooms in southeast Georgia

January 16, 2020

On average, teachers across the U.S. spend approximately \$479 on classroom supplies each year, according to a 2018 study by the National Center of Education Statistics. The Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education (i2STEMe) at Georgia Southern University is helping reduce this burden for teachers in southeast Georgia with the School Outreach Program, a lending membership program that provides STEM and social studies materials for K-12 classrooms.

i2STEMe, housed in the College of Education, serves as an outreach center for the university, regional educators and the broader community. The School Outreach Program provides STEM and social studies supplies, including consumable and non-consumable materials, equipment, and teaching aids to member teachers, schools and districts. Members can request items and materials that will be delivered to and picked up from their school location. Annual membership for the program can be purchased by entire school districts, schools or individual teachers.

“For many teachers, this is an opportunity to access equipment they do not traditionally have in elementary, middle, and high school science and social studies classrooms,” said i2STEMe coordinator Kania Greer, Ed.D. “We lend equipment such as lasers, microscopes, fossil sets, spectrometers, electrostatic generator, Native American artifacts, games and more. In addition, providing classroom consumables ensures that districts with fewer resources can provide hands-on, engaging activities for their students.”

With a simple request, teachers are able to focus on lesson plans and instruction delivery as well as test activities and materials before investing funds for school materials.

“Because we know teachers know how to best work with their population, we do not provide a set curriculum,” said Greer. “Instead, we have developed guides with suggested activities and ideas that teachers can build from. We work individually with teachers to determine their lesson or instructional goals and provide recommendations for material and activities that could assist them in best achieving their efforts.”

For current Georgia Southern teacher candidates working in classrooms during their field practice, the supplies and materials can be requested at no charge.

“We want to ensure that our students have the resources they need to be successful in their field experiences,” Greer said. “Providing these materials can help ease the fear student teachers may have of providing engaging activities for their students while also showing them innovative ways to teach the fundamental lessons.”

The Bryan County School System is a district member of the i2STEMe School Outreach Program and Vivian Huntoon, a fifth grade teacher at McAllister Elementary School, explained that the program materials aligned with state standards and have enhanced classroom instruction.

“The i2STEMe School Outreach Program offered through Georgia Southern has been the best resource that I have access to,” Huntoon said. “Being able to access materials for an entire class that are otherwise too pricey or too difficult to procure is extremely beneficial. In particular, students really enjoyed the sound kits, fossils and rocks, and microslide scopes. It is the ability for students to explore using these materials either individually or in groups that make instruction so valuable and engaging.”

“Another benefit of the program is having the students become aware of and respectful of others’ property,” she added. “When materials come in, students are taught how to care for and handle things that don’t belong to them. I look forward to continuing this partnership with Georgia Southern University.”

To inquire about membership information, please contact the i2STEMe administration at stem@georgiasouthern.edu or call 912-478-8650. A full list of lending inventory for the program members can be found by visiting <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/stem/institute-outreach/stem-school-outreach/>.

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[Georgia Southern’s online MBA recognized as best in Georgia](#)

January 16, 2020

Georgia Southern University has the No. 1 online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in Georgia for 2020 according to MBACompass.com with almost 20% of its graduates holding executive-level positions.

The MBA in the Parker College of Business is a fully-online graduate program that offers working professionals the opportunity to advance their careers with the skills needed to hold executive-level positions in a variety of industries.

“There are lots of MBA rankings with each ranking telling a different story,” said Lowell Mooney, Ph.D., director of graduate programs for the College. “Some rankings, such as this one by MBA Compass, focus on placement and employers, while others focus on characteristics like post-MBA salaries, program quality, faculty research, program costs and time to complete. Personally, I measure the quality of a program by how often it shows up in different rankings. Our online program has been ranked in several years, this being the latest, and for different reasons. That speaks volumes.”

Through the program, students receive a general management degree that complements most undergraduate degrees while enhancing their skill set. The program, part of the Georgia WebMBA[®], is centered around team-based learning and focuses on applying knowledge and skills in business. At 30 credit hours, the program is completed in five consecutive semesters. To learn more about the Georgia Southern Online MBA, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/businessgraduate.