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Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern expands veteran student success program with U.S. Department of Education grant

August 26, 2021

Georgia Southern University’s long-term commitment to veteran student success has a boost thanks to a U.S. Department of Education grant.

The grant, totaling almost $459,000, is to establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS) on all three of Georgia Southern University’s campuses, located in Savannah, Statesboro and Hinesville. The CEVSS goal is to increase enrollment and retention of the University’s veteran students. The awarded amount will be paid out over three years.

“Our mission is to establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success at our institution,” said retired Col. George L. Fredrick, Ed.D., director of Military & Veteran Services. “Our goal is to identify and analyze any barriers or obstacles we find that impede the progress of our veteran students at Eagle Nation. We look forward to continuing our support of the nearly 4,000 military-connected students at Georgia Southern University.”

Fredrick and his team will coordinate a Veteran Student Task Force (VSTF) with representatives from Georgia Southern departments responsible for admissions, registration, financial aid, veterans benefits, academic advising, student health, personal or mental health counseling, career advising, and accessory services to provide the best services for veteran and military-connected students.

In addition, Military & Veteran Services hired two grant coordinators; one for the Armstrong Campus and one for the Statesboro Campus whose primary responsibility is to coordinate the goals of the grant. Additionally, Military & Veteran Services hired one part-time person to assist with analyzing service members’ Joint Service Transcripts and to assist with coding veterans and active duty service members. The VSTF will also monitor the rates of veteran student enrollment, retention and completion, and develop a plan to sustain the Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success after the grant period.

“Our approach will be to analyze current policies, to identify and mitigate obstacles that impede veteran student success, with the goal being to increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates of veteran students,” said Fredrick.

Specific goals include designing a seamless step-by-step process for prospective veteran students to navigate admissions and enrollment process; further engage Georgia Southern veteran alumni in outreach and support activities; enhance veteran support services to improve student academic outcomes, continuously assess, plan and implement at-risk student interventions; and conduct Green Zone training, designed to increase military cultural awareness for faculty and staff.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approximately 140 different degree programs serving almost 27,000 students through 10 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.
Market on Main to showcase Georgia Southern student entrepreneurs

August 26, 2021

Nearly 50 student entrepreneurs from Georgia Southern University will showcase their products, goods or services on Friday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m. in downtown Statesboro during the first-ever Market on Main.

The event, hosted by the Square One student organization, is an opportunity for student entrepreneurs, business owners and creators to promote their business or projects they’re working on, said Benjamin Youngstrom, a business management student and president of Square One at Georgia Southern.

After a student entrepreneur reached out to Square One looking for opportunities in the area to start selling their work, Youngstrom and Emma Tirlot, vice president of Square One who is studying international trade, wondered how many other student entrepreneurs were interested in the same thing.

“We decided to instead of just having a small market, we wanted to create what is really a demonstration and a celebration of student entrepreneurs, student business owners and student traders as the people who really do develop the businesses that drive us forward,” he said.

Youngstrom and Tirlot set out to plan this market and have recruited student vendors, secured sponsors, coordinated food trucks and music and worked to advertise the event, among other things.

“I have learned a lot about marketing, which is going to definitely be very useful in my career,” said Tirlot. “Learning about event planning as a whole and being able to manage all the students and make sure they’re going to be successful is really important. I want to have a career in mentorship and consulting, and so being able to help those students out is really, really good practice for me.”

The market, which is family- and pet-friendly, will be set up along East Main Street in downtown Statesboro featuring a variety of student-run businesses including bakers, artists, jewelry designers and personal trainers. Additionally, local bands will play music, and food and drinks will be available for purchase. Cash and cards are accepted.

Square One’s goal is to promote the businesses and creative endeavors of local students. Youngstrom believes that entrepreneurship is one of the most important paths that students can take.

“The word entrepreneur is vogue — everyone wants to be an entrepreneur, but nobody knows what that means,” Youngstrom said. “Nobody knows what it takes or really puts in that work. So we want to bring out people who have that motivation and that drive who are already building their business or have an idea for a business. We want to equip them with everything they need to truly go out and become an entrepreneur, to take those skills, passion, ideas, and build a great business.”

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