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“We are so excited to partner with Bulloch County Schools to finally realize this initiative to begin training future public health practitioners,” said Tedders.

Bulloch County Schools Superintendent Charles Wilson is also excited to partner with Georgia Southern to offer this pathway.

“This is another example of how we can all work together in this community to expand our offerings for our students that are relevant and purposeful,” Wilson said. “We appreciate Georgia Southern University’s efforts, particularly those of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.”

## Georgia Southern Starting New Software Engineering Degree

February 1, 2023



Georgia Southern University is launching a new Bachelor of Science in software engineering this fall, making it the only such degree offered by a public university in Georgia outside of Atlanta.

This new program is a response to a growing national demand also identified by Georgia companies. Distinctive from computer science or IT degree, the software engineering program is designed to prepare graduates to immediately enter workforce jobs that have an average entry level salary of approximately \$74,000.

The program prepares students by building a solid foundation in the professional practices as well as the applied technical and soft skills needed for success in the field. Courses include study in discrete mathematics, probability, statistics, computer science, and their applications to complex computer systems. The program applies scientific and mathematical principles to the design, analysis, verification, validation, implementation and maintenance of computer software systems using a variety of computer languages

“Software engineers are in great demand right now and the job market for this specific field shows no signs of slowing down,” said Andrew Allen, Ph.D., interim chair and associate professor of the computer science department in Georgia Southern’s Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing (CEC). “Our program is designed to provide a seamless transition for students from the classroom to their professional career.”

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the new program at their January board meeting.

In its proposal for the new degree, Georgia Southern officials noted that Georgia is home to more than 18,000 technology companies including NCR and First Data as well as offices for industry leaders like Microsoft, Google, Amazon and IBM. With nearly 250,000 employed by these companies to innovate and support in digital health, cybersecurity, supply chain management, hospitality, and media and film industry logistics, Georgia is expected to exceed the national growth rate of 2% and should have the 7th highest number of new tech jobs in the country.

“This new degree will complement other college programs in the field of computing and also incorporate applied, hands-on experiences including coop and/or internship, undergraduate research, and supported by in-program tutors, peer mentors and faculty engagement,” said Mohammad Davoud, Ph.D., dean of CEC. “This will be very profession-driven and provide students with the skills needed right now in the workforce.”

## New Data Shows Real Value of On-Campus Student Engagement

February 1, 2023



Students celebrate the first week of classes for the Fall 2022 semester at the Welcome to the Nest Block Party, part of programming for The Eagle Experience.

Planning and attending student events on a college campus may sound like it's all fun and games. But new data from Georgia Southern University shows there are real benefits for the students and for the university when students engage in on-campus activities.

A recent analysis by Georgia Southern's Institutional Research office of first-year students who attended at least one event during the 2021-22 school year showed that students who attended at least one event returned this year at a rate of 79.4%. That figure is more than seven percentage points higher than the University's overall freshman retention rate of 72%.

"National data has consistently shown that the more engaged a student is with the university, the greater their chance of succeeding in college. It's very satisfying to now have data to show the value of student programming and events at Georgia Southern," said Shay Little, Ph.D., the University's vice president for student affairs.

Student affairs has been collecting student participation data since the university launched "the Eagle Experience" in fall 2020. The following year, the program, a collaborative cross-university effort to ensure new students' successful transition to the Georgia Southern college experience, won a 2021-22 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Excellence Bronze Award.

Now, data show that students are re-engaging after two COVID-influenced years that impacted many of Georgia Southern's operations and activities.

Total attendees measured at Georgia Southern events on all three campuses rose from 55,124 in fall of 2021 to 79,408 in fall of 2022. That's a 44% increase in students who checked in during at least one of more than 1,000 events.

Fall 2022, the numbers show:

1,162 total events

79,408 total attendees

370 Armstrong Campus events that attracted 13,116 attendees

662 Statesboro Campus Tagged Events that attracted 62,335 attendees

82 different departments or registered student organizations hosted events

“It’s clear that we are reaching our Eagle Experience goals of engaging and retaining our students,” Little said. “We intend to foster a transformative student experience where students have fun, find a place to belong, and have opportunities to learn while enhancing their academic experience. These results are very encouraging.”

## Employee Wellness Program Recognizes American Heart Month During February

February 1, 2023

February is American Heart Month, a time to highlight the importance of cardiovascular health and raise awareness for heart disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide. The Georgia Southern Employee Wellness Program would like to encourage all faculty and staff to join us in supporting heart health during the month of February!

### **National Wear Red Day Feb. 3**

On Friday, we encourage all faculty and staff to wear **RED** to show support for heart disease awareness. Group photos will be taken at the respective campuses at 11 a.m. in the following locations:

**Statesboro: Sweetheart Circle**

**Armstrong: In front of Student Union**

**Liberty: Outside the Front Office (in front of the GS sign)**

Earn 100 USG well-being credits for participating in the photo and showing your support for heart health!

### **Free Blood Pressure Screenings**

East Georgia Regional Medical Center and students in the School of Nursing will provide free blood pressure screenings and education for all faculty and staff on the Statesboro Campus on Feb. 7, Russell Union Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Feb. 22 in the Facilities Landscape Services Building Room 1029 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Note: Blood pressure screenings will be offered to all campuses in the next few months. Please be on the lookout for upcoming dates.