

The System Supplement

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“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

State of the System Address

Meredith Cites Progress, Challenges for University System

Despite a tough economic and budget climate, the people that fund and run the University System of Georgia must remain focused on creating the best higher education system in the country and raising the educational attainment rate of Georgia's citizens. That's the message **Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith** delivered to the Board of Regents in his annual “State of the System” address in January.

“The University System of Georgia must play a leadership role in the push to create a more educated Georgia,” Meredith said. “It is what is expected of this Board. ...We must rise to continue to meet that challenge and those high expectations.”

In terms of System accomplishments, Meredith noted record student enrollment in fall 2003 of 247,020 students, a record high SAT score of 1036 for first time, full time freshmen, a record, System-wide student retention rate of 81 percent and a record \$861 million in external funding in Fiscal Year 2003.

Meredith cited the quality of the Board of Regents, the 34 institutional presidents, and the System's faculty, staff and students as the University System's primary strengths in terms of continued progress toward national caliber academic quality and excellence.

But increased numbers during tight budgets have created the biggest single challenge for the System, Meredith said. “The timing of this surge in demand couldn't be worse in terms of the state's ability to provide the necessary resources,” Meredith said. “This is truly the essence of our management dilemma as we move forward — the steadily widening gap between the increasing numbers of students on our campuses and the declining state dollars to serve them with continued high and expected levels of academic quality.”

From Nov. 2001 through August 2003, the University System's budget has been cut a total of \$253 million. “Over the same time period that we have added two-and-one-half *Georgia Techs*, cumulative budget cuts are the equivalent of state appropriations for 21 of our institutions,” Meredith said. “Only through the sheer genius and resolve of many people have we been able to move forward under these circumstances.”

Key to managing in tight times have been a number of management decisions focused on making the University System more efficient and effective, Meredith said. These include:

- ◆ establishing a set of budget principles headed by protecting the classroom first;
- ◆ maintaining a close partnership with the Governor and General Assembly;

- ◆ developing programs to regionalize some services and to “scrape the barnacles” from operations;
- ◆ implementing a program to identify and recognize “best practices” in the System;
- ◆ leaving many faculty positions unfilled and using administrators to teach; and
- ◆ undertaking a statewide assessment of the System to coordinate state needs, student demands and existing resources.

Meredith said his biggest concern was a trend of declining public investment in public higher education. “The University System's share of the state budget is the lowest it's been since 1967 and it's time to begin to reverse that trend,” Meredith said.

Despite the budget situation, the University System has a number of programs currently underway to address the state's educational and economic needs, Meredith noted, including:

- ◆ educating 600 new health care professionals through the regent's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) Health Care Professionals Initiative;
- ◆ implementing six pilot projects on System campuses related to the board's efforts to recruit and retain more African-American males in college;
- ◆ securing a \$34.6 million National Science Foundation grant to improve math and science education in K-12 schools; and
- ◆ training more than 400 potential K-12 school leaders through Georgia's Leadership Institute for School Improvement.

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— Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith

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Chancellor Appoints Graduation Task Force to Increase Grad Rates

Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith announced in January the formation of a Graduation Task Force to find ways to enhance how quickly students complete their degree requirements and thereby graduate more rapidly.

With the appointment of the new task force, Meredith aims to develop strategies and recommendations that will enable System institutions to surpass the national average for graduating students in six years.

“This new task force will help us achieve our goal of ‘Creating a More Educated Georgia,’” the chancellor said. “As we continue to encourage more Georgians to pursue higher education, it is incumbent upon us as policy makers to enable our students to graduate in a timely fashion. By doing so, we can limit the debt they incur and help them begin to earn a solid living and contribute to Georgia’s economy.”

The nationally accepted graduation measurement is the six-year timeframe, in part due to the increasing matriculation of non-traditional students (returning adult learners) and the need for many traditional students (aged 18-24) to balance school and work to pay for tuition and living expenses.

While the University System of Georgia has seen an increase in both retention and graduation rates in recent years, the USG’s six-year graduation rates fall below the national average. Since the implementation of tougher admissions standards — phased in over a five-year period from 1996-2002 — first-time, full-time freshman retention rates in the USG leapt from 73.6 percent in 1995 to 80.7 percent in fall 2003.

However, the six-year graduation rate for all USG institutions in the aggregate only increased from 48.7 percent in Fall 1995 to 50.3 percent in Fall 2003. On an institution-specific basis, the six-year graduation rate within the USG is 43.5 percent, well below the national institution-specific rate of 54 percent. This suggests that further improvements are needed, Meredith said.

The chancellor will present the group’s findings and recommendations to the Board of Regents for their consideration and action prior to implementation of any new efforts. 🏠

The Graduation Task Force will be comprised of 20 representatives from the USG as well as a representative from the State Board of Education. Members include the following:

- ◆ Dr. Ron Henry, provost at Georgia State University (task force chair);
- ◆ Dianne Barlow, registrar at Middle Georgia College;
- ◆ Wanda Barrs, chair of the State Board of Education;
- ◆ Dr. Linda Bleicken, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Georgia Southern University;
- ◆ Dr. Kathleen Burk, assistant vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs at the Board of Regents;
- ◆ Dr. Frank Butler, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Board of Regents;
- ◆ Mr. Andy Clark, director of institutional research at Macon State College;
- ◆ Dr. Bill Dodd, associate vice president for academic affairs at Augusta State University;
- ◆ Dr. Delmer Dunn, vice president for instruction at the University of Georgia;
- ◆ Dr. Cathie Mayes Hudson, associate vice chancellor for strategic research and analysis at the Board of Regents;
- ◆ Dr. Nancy King, vice president for student affairs at Kennesaw State University;
- ◆ Dr. Dorothy Lord, president at Coastal Georgia Community College;
- ◆ Dr. Melanie McClellan, vice president for student services and dean of students at the State University of West Georgia;
- ◆ Dr. Robert McMath, vice provost for undergraduate studies and academic affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology;
- ◆ Dr. Virginia Michelich, vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Perimeter College;
- ◆ Arlethia Perry-Johnson, associate vice chancellor for media and publications at the Board of Regents;
- ◆ Dr. Jim Purcell, director of planning and analysis at Georgia College and State University;
- ◆ Dr. Janis Reid, vice president for academic affairs at Atlanta Metropolitan College;
- ◆ Dr. Martha Saunders, vice president for academic affairs at Columbus State University;
- ◆ Dr. Pete Silver, vice president for academic affairs at Savannah State University; and
- ◆ Dr. Larry Weill, president of Gordon College. 🏠

State’s New Online Encyclopedia Launched

The New Georgia Encyclopedia (NGE) — a groundbreaking online resource put together by the Georgia Humanities Council in partnership with the Office of the Governor, the University of Georgia Press, and the University System’s GALILEO staff — made its official debut on Feb. 12. **David Yancey**, an eighth grader from Dunwoody whose class tested the NGE, is shown here helping **Gov. Sonny Perdue** to announce the launch of the first state encyclopedia conceived and designed exclusively for the Internet. Visitors to www.georgiaencyclopedia.org will find articles, images and audio and movie clips on virtually every aspect of Georgia, from peaches to major writers and musicians to Sapelo Island and the Appalachian Trail.

John Inscoc, a professor of history at the *University of Georgia*, is the editor, and **Kelly Caudle** (pictured between Yancey and the Governor) of the UGA Press, is managing editor. Faculty and librarians from numerous University System institutions across the state have contributed many of the articles, gathered data or served as fact-checkers. Of the 34 current section editors, 25 are currently at or recently retired from USG colleges and universities. GALILEO is providing technical support for the software application and hosting NGE. 🏠



Regents Launch Public-Health Initiative to Meet Increased Demand

With a goal of positioning the University System of Georgia as a national leader in public-health education, the Board of Regents in January approved the creation of three new academic programs and a new school of public health. The move aims to expand the production of high-quality public-health professionals.

The Board of Regents adopted a Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research and Service, which outlines how the System will address the “evolving and expanding” public health needs of the state — including leveraging private support for the new initiative.

In addition to program creation and expansion, the strategic plan also encompasses the creation of a new Administrative Committee for Public Health, which “will serve as the strategic planning advisory body for public health programs across the System and foster interdisciplinary cooperation, assistance and growth.”

“We are committed to being a strong and proactive economic-development partner for the state,” said **Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith**, “and that includes effectively assessing and addressing workforce needs and demands. This initiative will expand the availability of formal academic training in the public-health sector, and will help us significantly expand the production of graduates in this high-demand discipline.”

The three new Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) programs that will emphasize teaching, research and service are:

- ◆ An M.P.H. to be offered by the **University of Georgia’s** Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute, which will be offered as an interdisciplinary collaboration between the established Department of Environmental Health Science and the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior, in cooperation with other public-health related groups, including Food and Nutrition, Exercise Science, and the interdisciplinary program in Toxicology and Gerontology;
- ◆ An M.P.H. to be offered by **Georgia State University’s** multi-disciplinary, research-based Institute of Public Health, which will draw upon the facul-

ty of all six GSU colleges and will emphasize basic prevention sciences as well as applied public-health efforts; and

- ◆ An M.P.H. with a major in health informatics to be offered by the **Medical College of Georgia**, which will focus on producing graduates to manage healthcare organizations and information systems in such settings as hospitals, health maintenance organizations, clinics, public health departments, and other health-care related organizations.

The chancellor praised the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia for their extensive collaboration in creating complementary academic programs.

The Board of Regents also authorized the re-designation of the Department of Public Health at **Georgia Southern University** as a School of Public Health, and the establishment of the school as the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health.

GSOU alumnus **Dr. Karl E. Peace** has committed a gift of \$2.5 million to endow student scholarships, faculty support and scholarship in the new school, which is being named in honor of Peace’s wife, **Dr. Jiann-Ping Hsu**. Peace also provided an additional gift of \$750,000, which led the institution to name the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics within the new school.

In addition to approving the establishment of the new school and the three new academic programs, the board also authorized the three existing M.P.H. programs in the University System to focus on a mission of teaching and service. These offerings include programs at **Armstrong Atlantic State University**, **Fort Valley State University** and **Georgia Southern University**.

“Our goal is to span the state with high-quality programs that will provide the planning, evaluation and critical thinking skills needed by the middle and upper-level managers and professionals in Georgia’s public-health sector,” said **Dr. Daniel S. Papp**, senior vice chancellor for Academics and Fiscal Affairs. “If we continue to strategically address the documented need in this burgeoning field, the University System’s goal

of attaining national prominence in public health education definitely can be realized and optimized.”

The need to expand the production of public-health professionals is well documented. According to University System academic affairs officials, the growth in health-care professions in Georgia is expected to exceed 36 percent by the year 2012. This demand is accentuated by the presence in Atlanta of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which employs some 8,600 professionals — many in public health fields.

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Within state government, more than 20 percent — or \$3.2 billion — of Georgia’s state budget was dedicated to health and human services funding during Fiscal Year 2004.

At the national level, a 2000 study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found approximately 450,000 persons employed in the public-health workforce nationally, yet less than a quarter of those professionals had received formal academic preparation for their positions. Between the years 2000 and 2010, health-care occupations are expected to grow by 29 percent nationally, compared to a growth of 18 percent in non-health fields.

The University System’s new Administrative Committee for Public Health (ACPH) will review all proposed expansions of public-health programs in the System before such proposals are submitted to University System Office officials, the chancellor and the Board of Regents. ■

USG Briefs

■ **Michael F. Adams**, president of the *University of Georgia*, was elected in November to chair the Council of Presidents for the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. NASULGC is the nation's oldest higher education association. Adams' election gives UGA a seat at the table where major decisions affecting higher education on a national level are made. Adams previously has served as chair of the board of the American Council on Education (ACE) and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). He also recently served as chair of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

■ **Carlton E. Brown**, president of *Savannah State University*, was elected to a two-year term as chairman of the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) in January. Brown had been serving as SEDA's vice chairman and chairman-elect since January 2002.

■ The Center for Behavioral Neurosciences, a consortium of more than 90 neuroscientists involving eight metro Atlanta colleges and universities, including *Georgia State University*, has been awarded a \$17.3 million grant renewal by the National Science Foundation. The new five-year funding commitment, which Congress must authorize in the 2005 federal budget, brings total NSF support for the center to \$37.2 million through November 2009. Over the same period, the Georgia Research Alliance has committed several million dollars in infrastructure support for the center, a leading player in the Southeast's biotech industry. 🏠

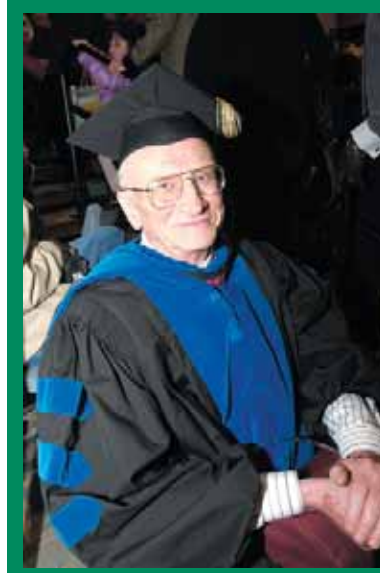
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Former Chancellor Honored for Outstanding Service to AASU

University System of Georgia Chancellor Emeritus **H. Dean Propst** received an honorary degree in December from *Armstrong Atlantic State University* in recognition of the 10 years of outstanding service he gave the Savannah institution between 1969 and 1979. Propst, who served as the USG's eighth chancellor from 1985 to 1993, was vice president and dean of faculty at AASU when he was appointed as vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Board of Regents in 1979. AASU President **Thomas Z. Jones** credited Propst with providing the university with "valuable leadership during a period of great institutional change," with particular regard to AASU's designation as a Regional Health Professions Education Center. Elsewhere in the System, *Columbus State University* awarded an honorary degree to **James H. Blanchard**, chairman and CEO of Synovus Financial Corporation, during its January commencement. 🏠

SSU Earns Second Straight National Science Teaching Award

For the second consecutive year, a *Savannah State University* professor has been honored with the National Science Teachers Association's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Kenneth S. Sajwan, professor and coordinator of SSU's Environmental Science Program, will accept the 2004 award during the association's national convention, scheduled to be held April 1-4 in Atlanta.

Dr. Chellu S. Chetty, professor of biology and director of the SSU Biomedical Research Program, received the same award in 2003.

Sajwan has earned several honors and awards of distinction for teaching and learning, including the 2003 Ernest L. Boyer International Award, the 2002 and 1999 University System of Georgia Regents' Teaching Excellence Award, the 2001 Millennium Award for Teaching and Research Excellence and the 1999 Award for Innovative Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

Sajwan has edited three books, two laboratory manuals and published

more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, serials, conference proceedings and symposia. He is an effective grant writer, having written more than \$3 million in funded grants since 1998.



Sajwan

Prior to joining the SSU faculty in 1992, he served as an assistant professor at the *University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory*.

Sajwan, a native of India, holds two doctoral degrees, one in post-harvest technology from the Indian Institute of Technology and another in agronomy and environmental quality from Colorado State University.

Currently, he also holds faculty appointments at UGA's Institute of Ecology, the University of South Carolina-Aiken and Alabama A&M University. 🏠

USG Dominates 2003 State Stewardship Awards Program

University System of Georgia officials recently collected five of six awards given to state employees by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for outstanding leadership and achievement in historic preservation stewardship of state-owned property.

Dr. Timothy J. Crimmins, a professor of history at *Georgia State University*, received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for his work as chairman of the Georgia Capitol Commission, which overseeing the restoration of the Georgia State Capitol Building.

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Faculty Focus

Midterm Tutoring Blitz Devised by Faculty to Become a Tradition at Clayton State

By Lauren A. Baker
Writer/Editor
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In this running series highlighting University System of Georgia faculty, each article focuses on a different aspect of the work of college educators, spotlighting teaching, research and public service.

Midway through every semester, dazed students wander the campus of **Clayton College & State University**, fighting the inner torment brought on by midterm exams. But this past fall, thanks to a two-day “Tutoring Blitz” conducted by CCSU faculty, many students felt a little better prepared for this academic hurdle.

Dr. Rick Reynolds, director of Clayton State’s Center for Academic Assistance (CAA), organized the Tutoring Blitz with the cooperation of biology professor **Greg Hampikian**. Hampikian and the student organization Campus Christian Ministries provided the inspiration for the Blitz, having sponsored “Study with Your Professors” in past semesters.

Approximately 90 students were tutored by 17 faculty members (including one retiree), three staff members, two administrators and one dean. Many “peer tutors” also helped their fellow students combat the mid-term monster.

“It can be very intimidating, working with a professor, for some students,” says Clayton State senior history major **Tara Krisher**. “I think the Tutoring Blitz can ease this intimidation. I noticed many professors getting more hands-on with the applications they taught. I hope that the next one will be an even bigger success.”

Every Blitz tutor gave his or her all to make the endeavor a success. For example, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs **Brad Rice** deviated from his comfort zone — a background in history — to assist a student in critical thinking. College of Information & Mathematical Sciences Dean **Cathie Aust** was uniquely qualified to help answer a student’s questions about mathematics.

“Students were excited to know that instructors were making themselves available to all students, not just stu-



dents who were currently taking their courses,” says **Leslie Meadows**, coordinator of individualized assistance/peer tutoring for the university’s academic assistance center.

“There is no doubt that the faculty at Clayton State care very much about their students,” says Associate Provost **James Mackin**. “The Tutoring Blitz has shown everyone that our faculty will go to almost any lengths to help students succeed, both in and out of the classroom.

“Research has shown that these kind of faculty-student interactions lead to improved retention and graduation rates, and overall student success,” he added.

Mackin called the level of participation in the inaugural Blitz “phenomenal” and “unprecedented in my experience.” Even with only two weeks notice, he noted, faculty, staff and peer tutors did exceptionally well in staging the event.

With another Tutoring Blitz set for late February, Clayton State officials are enthusiastic about making this event a campus tradition. 🏡

Stewardship Awards

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Receiving Governor’s Awards for Historic Preservation Stewardship were:

◆ **John C. Waters**, a professor in the **University of Georgia’s** School of Environmental Design, for his lifetime achievements in the development of the historic preservation movement in Georgia;

◆ **Two Medical College of Georgia** officials, Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance **Michael Ash** and Provost Emeritus/Medical Historian in Residence **Lois T. Ellison**, for their efforts to research, preserve and publish an accurate and thorough history of the institution;

◆ **Columbus State University** President **Frank Brown**, for his leadership in promoting CSU’s

efforts towards the revitalization of downtown Columbus; and

◆ **Two UGA** officials, architect **W. Paul Cassilly** and Director of University Architects Facilities Planning **Danny Sniff**, for their leadership in completing the renovation/restoration of UGA’s Administration Building. 🏡



GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Well Grounded: GPLS Finds a Good Home as a USG Unit

After spending decades under the auspices of other state agencies, the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) — which promotes use of the state's 58 public library systems and assists them in offering services to library patrons — has found a comfortable and supportive home as a unit of the University System of Georgia.

"We have similar missions — to improve the quality of life for all Georgians by providing lifelong opportunities for education, for example," said State Librarian **Lamar Veatch**, who also holds the title of assistant vice chancellor for library development and services.

GPLS operated under the auspices of the Georgia Department of Education from 1943 to 1996, when it was administratively transferred to the Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE). In July 2000, with guidance from state **Rep. DuBose Porter**, administrative oversight of the library service shifted again, this time to the University System.

"GPLS has benefited greatly from the transfer to the USG. It's been a tremendous help in terms of increased stability and visibility," said Veatch, who was appointed state librarian in July 2001. "The University System Office has been very supportive, and we are starting to build some strong connections with the System's academic libraries."

Like the University System Office, GPLS is a relatively small organization (36 employees) that has daily contact with affiliated institutions throughout the state, helping 25 county and 33 multi-

county library systems to enhance the services they offer, administering approximately \$35 million in state and federal funds to them, and coordinating a variety of statewide activities and programs.

But the relationship GPLS has with the individual library systems is not analogous to the Board of Regents' relationship with Georgia's 34 public colleges and universities. Each library system is administered by an independent library board whose members are appointed by local officials.

"These boards hire and fire their own library directors. They don't answer to me," said Veatch.

GPLS provides the 29.6 million visitors to Georgia's public libraries each year with services such as high-speed Internet access, access to Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO), and an automation and lending network known as PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services) that is, in effect, a statewide "borderless" library. Then, too, there is the Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS), which serves blind, visually impaired and physically disabled Georgians.

State funding allotted to the public libraries — \$31.3 million in FY2003 — is funneled through GPLS, as is approximately \$4.5 million in federal grant funds. Since November 2001, the downturn in the economy has led to a 10-12 percent reduction in state funding for public libraries. The reductions have hit the books and materials budget and the maintenance and operations budget hardest, Veatch said.

With the next round of budget

cuts, he expects many libraries to begin cutting back services — bookmobiles may be making their rounds less frequently, and fewer libraries may stay open nights and weekends.

On a statewide average, many local libraries receive 75 percent of their funding from local sources and 25 percent from the state, Veatch said, but some facilities — particularly those in rural areas — rely on the state for as much as 65 percent of their funding. These libraries stand to suffer the most from shrinking state allocations.

"Twenty years ago, the public libraries received about one third of one percent of the state budget," Veatch said. "Today, we receive only one sixth of one percent."

Aside from adequate funding, preserving the pipeline of future librarians is another concern, noted Veatch. Since Emory and, more recently, Clark Atlanta universities have phased out their library science programs, Georgia has no accredited programs in this field, although a library science program at **Valdosta State University** currently has pre-candidacy status.

"Programs in other states such as Florida, Alabama and South Carolina are aggressively recruiting in Georgia," Veatch said. "This is a graying profession, and we need to pay attention to grooming our future librarians." ■



Veatch



Gainesville College and North Georgia College & State University Celebrate 20 Years of Collaboration

To celebrate a partnership between **Gainesville College** (GC) and **North Georgia College & State University** (NGCSU) that began in 1984, five current and former presidents of the two institutions gathered for a Jan. 27 reception in the GC Continuing Education/Performing Arts Center. In attendance were Gainesville College founding President **Hugh Mills**, former GC President **J. Foster Watkins**, NGCSU President Emeritus **John Owen**, GC President **Martha Nesbitt** and NGCSU President **Nathaniel Hansford**. Each of the administrators recognized the "pioneers" who originally organized the four-year degree programs on Gainesville College's two-year college campus. Currently, about 450 students are enrolled in the collaborative academic courses that have included nursing, business administration, education, public administration, criminal justice and computer information systems classes over the past 20 years. In the photo at left, Mills (left) joins Nesbitt (right) and Owen (center) in cutting the 20th anniversary cake. ■

New Bioscience Partnership to Spur Creation of High-Paying Jobs

University System of Georgia officials recently announced the creation of a new academic/corporate partnership that will boost the production of regulatory affairs professionals to support Georgia's increasing emphasis on the biosciences industry.

The University System's **Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP®)** is administering a partnership between the **University of Georgia's** College of Pharmacy and Georgia bioscience companies through the ICAPP® Innovations program. The initiative will include pharmaceutical and bio-tech companies such as Cell Dynamics, Ciba Vision, CR Bard, Cryolife, Serologicals, Solvay Pharmaceuticals and UCB Pharma, which are joining with ICAPP® to cover the program's costs. After earning graduate-level certificates that can lead to Master of Science degrees, pro-

gram graduates will fill vital bioscience regulatory positions.

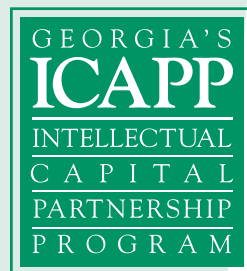
"In Georgia, we help existing companies grow by asking what they need, listening to their responses and reacting accordingly," stated **Gov. Sonny Perdue**. "ICAPP® continues to help our state meet the high-tech workforce needs of current and potential employers by enabling us to act quickly to meet the demand for well-prepared college graduates. We are extremely pleased with this breakthrough program that is coveted by other states, because it helps to make Georgia a national leader."

Initially, the new ICAPP® initiative will spur the creation of 50 jobs in the regulatory affairs industry, which includes the areas of quality control and quality assurance. These highly educated employees will play a vital role in the manufacturing and testing of

pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biologics and biotechnology. With an average annual salary exceeding \$56,000, these workers are projected to contribute nearly \$1 million to the state in the form of payroll taxes over a five-year period.

"The University System of Georgia is proud to help realize Gov. Perdue's vision of Georgia becoming a key player in the biosciences sector," noted **Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith**. "ICAPP® has an excellent track record of innovative partnering to meet the needs of business and industry. This new bioscience ini-

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GE Energy Foundation Grant Provides Training for School Leaders

Georgia's Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) reports that the GE Foundation has committed \$150,000 to support the institute's training for principals, superintendents and teachers.

The grant provides \$50,000 per year for three years to support the institute, a private/public partnership founded in 2001 to increase student learning and achievement in public schools by investing in their leaders. The institute's training program is designed to increase the ability of school leaders to drive change in their schools in order to meet rising expectations for student achievement and fulfill the mandates of state and federal educational reform legislation.

GE Energy, formerly GE Power Systems, has committed to helping "move the needle" in student achievement in metro Atlanta. **John Rice**, president and CEO of GE Energy, is the immediate past chairman of the Education Policy Committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. In that role, he launched a regional education initiative that included support of the Georgia Leadership Institute. Rice now serves as the

2004 chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber's Board of Directors.

"The institute has established a reputation for delivering first-class leadership training and the program is becoming a national model," noted Rice. "One goal of the chamber's Education Committee was to garner support from foundations to fund the Leadership Institute to accelerate their training in order to reach more school leaders faster."

Noting that the GE Energy Foundation is one of several corporate foundations providing grant funding to the institute, Rice stated, "We think it is critical for the business community and the state of Georgia to invest in this important work. School superintendents tell us that GLISI is making a difference, and the institute deserves our support. GE is proud to be among the many corporate foundations making such an important investment."

The institute's training programs utilize a unique blend of proven organizational-improvement methods from business and research-based best practices

from education. During the past two years, the institute has trained more than 2,000 school administrators from more than 90 Georgia school districts in leadership of school improvement.

"The work of school and district leaders has changed significantly due to the increased accountability for student achievement," said **Deb Page**, executive director of the institute.

"We work with key stakeholders in education to influence changes in policy to change conditions which limit the effectiveness of leaders and remove barriers to attracting and retaining good leaders."

The institute has a number of partners, including the Board of Regents, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Professional Standards Commission, state government officials, K-12 educational leaders and Georgia business leaders.

Jan Kettlewell, associate vice chancellor for P-16 Initiatives at the Board of Regents serves on the governing body of the institute. 🏠

State of System

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Looking to the future, Meredith said the Board of Regents has a responsibility to help Georgians see the "big picture" in terms of public higher education.

"Education is the fault line separating winners and losers," Meredith said, noting that the University System must make the case that more resources are needed to put "more Georgians on the right side of that fault line."

The Chancellor outlined a number of steps that will be taken to address the state's long-term higher education and economic development needs. These include:

- ◆ a focused effort to plan for enrollment growth over the next decade;
- ◆ the appointment of a task force to bring forward recommendations to improve the percentage of USG students who earn degrees; and

- ◆ the development of a statewide effort to improve Georgia's educational participation rates.

"We are participating in one of the strongest partnerships Georgia has ever seen on behalf of this state and its students," Meredith said in discussing this new statewide program. Meredith noted that Georgia's educational attainment rate was at an unacceptable level compared to other states and the national average and that this new effort would positively change Georgia's position.

Meredith said that the Board and the University System would continue to be good partners in helping state officials manage during tough economic times. But, Meredith said, it is critical to continue to make the case that the state's ability to move forward is tied to Georgia's long-term investment in the quality of the University System. "We are a reputation-driven industry, and that reputation depends upon an investment in academic quality," Meredith said. 🏡

Bioscience Partnership

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tative promises to help Georgia create yet another successful economic development niche."

To facilitate access to the new program, UGA pharmacy professors will employ Internet-based distance learning courses, augmented by traditional classes taught at the USG's Gwinnett University Center. The "bricks-and-clicks" deliveries are aimed at expediting participants' movement through the program.

Major bioscience employers are heralding the new initiative as a positive development. "This project shows foresight by the Board of

Regents of the need to ensure the preparation of critical talent to meet Georgia's workforce demands," said **David Dodd**, president and chief executive officer of Serologicals and chairman of the Georgia Biomedical Partnership. "It reflects a real commitment by Georgia to the bioscience industry."

The initiative also reflects the University System's responsiveness to a recent study conducted by the Georgia Research Alliance, which sought to identify ways to advance the bioscience industry in the state. The ICAPP® initiative in this area will pave the way for more bioscience companies to consider locating in Georgia. 🏡

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