

ABSTRACT

The College of Coastal Georgia (CCGA) plans to continue strengthening its partnership with the Glynn County School System by preparing and supporting P-12 STEM teachers in the region. The CCGA STEM Education Improvement Plan is a project that is part of a broader culture and infrastructure of support and collaboration between the College and the local school system. These collaborative efforts to improve and support quality instruction start at the elementary school level and include programs like the Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP), funded by the Georgia Department of Education with the goal of Increasing Mathematics and Science content knowledge of K-5 teachers in high-poverty/low-achievement schools. Now, thanks to the STEM initiative, the College will extend its preparation and support to middle school teachers in the County.

Through a Guest Speaker strategy, the College plans to place CCGA faculty into 6th-8th grade mathematics and science classrooms. The faculty will prepare lessons on concepts previously identified by the middle school teachers and administrators as areas for improvement. This will benefit the middle school students by furthering their understanding of the material and allowing them to get a feel for college (and its attainability); this will also benefit the middle school teachers by providing them with new methods of instruction and deeper understanding of the content.

Through partnerships and collaboration, CCGA and the Glynn County School System are taking an integrated approach to learning and teaching, and in the process, bridging the gap between P-12 and higher education. Even though this project focuses on Goal 3 of the STEM Initiative (Prepare and support P-12 STEM teachers in Georgia's classrooms), we anticipate that this project will help us lay the foundation to strengthen STEM college readiness for P-12 students (Goal 1), and will potentially improve performance and retention in STEM core courses and majors (Goal 2) in the long-term.

Driven by the needs of the teachers and supported by administrators, faculty, and staff from CCGA and the school system, this project aligns with our efforts to approach STEM education as an integrated and seamless growth process that starts at the elementary school level and culminates in satisfying the workforce needs of the state.

For more information, or to participate in this project, please contact:

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