

# COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The College Access Challenge Grant program seeks to increase postsecondary degree attainment of P-12 students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. It also works to increase degree attainment of Georgia's low-income adults with some college credit but no degree.

The College Access Challenge Grant program emphasizes performance, partnerships, and the overall value to higher education as part of its metrics for success.

## KEY POINTS

- U.S. Department of Education grants of over \$12 million have been awarded since 2008 and matched by state funds of \$6 million.
- Implementation of Georgia's College Access Plan is led by the University System of Georgia (USG) on behalf of the Governor's Office and the Alliance of Education Agency Heads.
- Project is led within USG by the **Office of Educational Access & Success (OEAS)**, along with a cross-agency leadership team.
- Target groups of interest for USG include first-time freshmen, transfer students, adults returning to college, and the military.

## OVERVIEW

**The Problem:** Too few Georgians possess the credentials needed for good jobs and a competitive economy.

- 81% of Georgia's jobs require some kind of training/education after high school.
- Yet only 36% of Georgia's adults hold a two- or four-year degree.
- In particular, low-income individuals are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.
- Low-income adults who have "stopped out" are in danger of not completing degrees.

**The Solution:** The College Access Challenge Grant works to fill in gaps and enhance state resources.

- Provides information, hands-on support, and resources to underrepresented K-12 students to prepare them for college and careers.
- Provides college-access tools and training for students, families, educators, and communities.
- Implements adult- and military-friendly degree programs and services on college campuses.
- Provides clear information for transfer and dual enrollment students about which courses and programs will transfer within Georgia's public higher education system.

Middle School	High School	1 <sup>st</sup> Time Freshmen	Transfers	Adults Back to College	Military
Individual Graduation Plan					
Counselor Training and Tools					
	Apply to College FAFSA Events				
	Early College Book Grants				
	Move on Ready Book Grants				
	Near Peer Program				
		Credit for assessed learning acquired outside of college			
		College Completion Metrics			
		Georgia Transfer and Articulation Portal (GATRACS)			
		Adult Learning Consortium (adult-friendly services)			
		Online collaborative degree programs			
					Military Outreach
K-12 Public Awareness Campaign			DiscoverYourGOAL.net (Georgia Opportunities for Adult Learners)		
Statewide Longitudinal Student Database					



## ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Launch of statewide **public awareness campaigns** for K-12 students and for adults,
- **Georgia Apply to College** events at high schools with large percentages of underrepresented students,
- **Financial Aid events**,
- Grants to dual enrollment students in **Early College and Move On When Ready programs** to fund postsecondary education costs not covered through Georgia's ACCEL (dual enrollment) programs,
- Enhancements to **GCollege411**, the state's free, web-based portal to help students plan for, apply, and pay for college,
- **Near Peer Service Learning courses** through which current college students mentor high school seniors through college admission, financial aid, and enrollment,
- Community, business, and school partners working to **create a college-going culture** and promote understanding among families and students of the benefits and opportunities of postsecondary education,
- A comprehensive system of **professional development and collaboration opportunities** for school counselors, financial aid administrators, and college admissions counselors,
- **Collaborative, online degree programs** that are matched with workforce needs and strategic industries,
- **Adult- and military-friendly programs, services, and outreach** at multiple campuses, and
- Construction of **a one stop GATRACS portal** where students can find information on how to transfer and map courses and credits within and between the University System of Georgia, Technical College System of Georgia, and dual enrollment.

## KEY INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

Since project inception in 2003, key indicators which result from collaborative activities have risen significantly. As of March 31, 2012:

- GCollege411 accounts have soared by **914% to over 3.6 million Georgians**.
- FAFSAs filed have increased in the same time period by **645% from 31,726 to 236,531**.
- College applications through GCollege411 online have risen **508% to 778,035 applications**.
- **Public higher education enrollment** has climbed dramatically over the last five years. USG enrollment increased **25% to 318,027** and TCSG enrollment increased **28% to 195,366**. (Fall 05-Fall 2011).

## Resources developed through CACG activities can be accessed at the following websites:

Individual Graduation Plan:	<a href="http://www.gsfc.org/main/ga411info/gacollege411_presentations.cfm">http://www.gsfc.org/main/ga411info/gacollege411_presentations.cfm</a>
Volunteer Resources:	<a href="http://www.gsfc.org/main/publishing/volunteer_resource/index.cfm">http://www.gsfc.org/main/publishing/volunteer_resource/index.cfm</a>
Georgia Apply to College Week:	<a href="http://www.usg.edu/apply-to-college/high_schools.phtml">http://www.usg.edu/apply-to-college/high_schools.phtml</a>
Counselor course promotion:	<a href="http://www.vimeo.com/7597084">http://www.vimeo.com/7597084</a>
GCollege411:	<a href="https://secure.gacollege411.org/default.aspxContact%20Details">https://secure.gacollege411.org/default.aspxContact Details</a>
Georgia Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL):	<a href="http://www.discoveryourgoal.net">http://www.discoveryourgoal.net</a>
Adult PSA (full video):	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2Vmw-xpzj4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2Vmw-xpzj4</a>
Adult PSAs (30-second video):	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON93ZnWygdm">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON93ZnWygdm</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XASmiR45d6M">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XASmiR45d6M</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xTisFrELpY">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xTisFrELpY</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_B4Wc5viQU0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_B4Wc5viQU0</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNCihpguciM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNCihpguciM</a>

## LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

To realize these goals, the College Access Challenge Plan is a collaborative effort led by the **University System of Georgia** on behalf of the **Governor's Office** and **Alliance of Education Agency Heads**. Collaborating agencies and departments for the Plan include:

- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Student Finance Commission
- Governor's Office of Student Achievement
- Technical College System of Georgia
- Governor's Office of Workforce Development
- Southern Regional Education Board
- Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
- Communities in Schools, Georgia

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Patricia Paterson serves as the Principal Investigator for the College Access Challenge Grant Program and leads a cross-agency leadership team to reach grant goals and objectives. For more information, please contact Dr. Paterson at [patricia.paterson@usg.edu](mailto:patricia.paterson@usg.edu).