Our 2016 Student Panel is comprised of six University System of Georgia Student Government Association Presidents.

**Clayton State University**

Toni Simmons

“Oprah Winfrey once said, "It makes no difference how many peaks you reach if there was no pleasure in the climb". College institutions in seeking to create diverse and inclusive campuses may face challenges, but will ultimately be successful when definitions of diversity and inclusion evolves from just race and culture.” –Toni Simmons

**Columbus State University**

Chelsey Rogers

“The importance of diversity and inclusion at college institutions revolves around the importance of fulfilling the true purpose of higher education which is to challenge each other to grow by exposing students and faculty to a range of representation in backgrounds, human characteristics, and world-views in order to foster a community where diversity is celebrated and in turn creates an environment for meaningful discussion and a platform for change. By developing this in our universities we encourage, promote, and cultivate a generation of future leaders that cultivate these principles in our society as a whole.” –Chelsey Rogers
Fort Valley State University
Lawrence Gaston

“Diversity and Inclusion is important to the foundation of college institutions through the cultivation of a strong sense of pride and purpose by all. USG Institutions are called upon to create a strong culture of Diversity and Inclusion and aid in the success of all students.” – Lawrence Gaston

Georgia Gwinnett College
Tammy Lu

“Diversity of culture, people, and ideas allows us to expand our world with new perspectives. It enriches us to learn, enables us to dive into the vast world we live in, and enhance our experiences. More importantly, diversity inspires innovation.” – Tammy Lu
Georgia Southern University

Dylan John

"Our institutions in Georgia are rapidly changing with students of diverse backgrounds, cultures and identities. As we grow and engage these students, it is important for us as institutions and Student Governments to be deliberate about our efforts in conversations that surround diversity and inclusion. A deliberate effort requires a commitment from administrators and student leaders to be sensitive to the needs of students, while ensuring that adequate opportunity, resources and an environment are provided to make our students experience and embrace diversity while feeling included in our colleges and institutions".

–Dylan John

University of North Georgia (Dahlonega)

Orevaoghene "Oreva" Zaudu Aki

“Diversity and inclusion allows everyone at college institutions to have equal access to opportunities. Consistent practice of inclusion builds a diverse community, and creates a safe atmosphere in which students thrive.”

– Oreva Zaudu Aki