



**Educator Preparation Stakeholders' Council (EPSC)**

**Spring Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**4:00 pm**

Zoom meeting link:

<https://gcsu.zoom.us/j/93264923635>

Meeting ID 932 6492 3635

Attendance: Joe Peters, Nicole DeClouette, Javier Francisco, Rachel Bray, Laurel Tucker, Charm Pace, Winston Tripp, Claire Garrett, Keisha Foston, Devante Sanders, Kevin Hunt, Gloria Wicker, Rickey Edmond, Pam Longino, Chris Greer

Regrets: Mike Newton, Joanne Previts, Nancy Mizelle, Angela Criscoe, Leah Bodnarcuk, Andrea Christoff, Noris Price, Runee Sallad, Tina Holmes-Davis, Catrena Lisse, Leila Montgomery, Cully Hollinshead,

Guest: Angie Woodham

**Welcome and Introductions ..... Nicole DeClouette**

- Welcome to the Spring 2023 EPSC meeting!
- We appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to join us as we work toward sharing responsibility for teacher candidate preparation and P-12 student achievement. We greatly value the partnerships we have with our stakeholders.

**Georgia College Undergraduate Admissions Update .....Javier Francisco**

- University:
  - 7,000 applications were submitted for fall 2023; 4500 admitted; 1200 deposits
  - May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for committing to GC.
  - Hoping for a freshmen class of 1600+. We have enough housing for 1700.
  - Increases are likely due to being test optional (for some students) and the targeted marketing of GC (starting with 10<sup>th</sup> grade students).
- COE
  - 2023: 421 applications submitted (for COE) for fall 2023 start (289 admitted; 89 have registered for classes)
  - 2022: 291 applications submitted (for COE) this time last year (161 admitted; 23 registered)
  - Expecting a very strong class for COE
  - Increase in transfer students too: 28 (compared to 20 from last year)

**Employer Education Initiative.....Angie Woodham**

- EEI:
  - 40 total applications came out of the EEI. 4 are currently enrolled.
  - Running 30-minute info sessions
  - Hosting webinars. One scheduled for Toombs County: Dr. Alby will be discussing AI in classroom. They are registering people now.
- Adult degree completion – working on website now. Tailored to adult learners, especially for the para to teacher program

**COE Updates .....Dean Peters**

- Program Recognitions from OnlineMastersDegrees.org
  - MAT Secondary - Best Online Master's Degrees in Secondary Education (#1)
  - M.Ed. Special Education - Best Online Master's Degrees in Special Education (#4)
- Enrollment Strategies & Curricular Modifications
  - Paraprofessional to Special Education Teacher Nexus Program
  - MAT Elementary Education (name change from Early Childhood Education)
- GACTE Research/Grant looking at teacher pipeline, recruitment, and retention in Georgia
- Searches:
  - John H. Lounsbury College of Education Dean: 1 candidate on campus already; 2 more to follow
  - Deal Center Executive Director: 2 candidates on campus this week
  - Call Me MiSTER Director: application period closed with 9 applicants, so the committee is beginning to review.

**Associate Dean Updates..... Nicole DeClouette**

- GC THRIVE Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program for students with intellectual disabilities
  - Funded by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, GA legislators have appropriated \$500K per year to support the 9 IPSE programs in GA because most of these programs are not financially supported by the universities.
  - THRIVE: we started two students at the beginning of the semester
  - Each taking two GC classes:
    - One is taking Contemporary Health Issues & Media Literacy
    - One is taking Writing Life Stories & Art & Literacy
  - Hired one academic coordinator and four peer mentors to support these students academically and socially.
  - Will be starting on-campus internships after spring break as the focus of the program is on providing them with experiences that will lead to employment once they graduate from the program.
  - We are very excited about the program.
    - We are accepting applications now for Fall 2023. We plan to continue with the two students and add three additional students, so we'll have 5 total.
    - GCSU Giving Challenge: April 4-6, 2023 to raise money for the program so be on the lookout for more information.
- Provost Visiting Scholar (Rachel Bray)
  - Dr. Brenda Juarez Harris was on campus last week as the Provost's Visiting Scholar. She met with students and faculty members, gave guest lectures (e.g., on white racial identity development), observed courses, led film discussion on social justice issues, and more. The week was very productive (e.g., there are some promising research collaborations that came out of discussions last week).
- Retention Strategy: TREK – First Year Academic Seminar
  - University Retention Task Force was created when our first to second year retention fell into the high 70s. We had been closer to 85% retention.
    - The university conducted a survey to ask students about their first year academic seminar. Traditionally, FYAS were taught by advisors.
    - Students surveyed said that they wanted to learn more about their major, get to know their professors prior to starting their junior year, so we re-branded most of the FYAS, called TREK (to go along with our GC Journeys) and faculty taught these sections
    - Some of the recent data collected shows that 100% of students in the faculty-led TREK sections felt more connected to their majors and faculty in their majors, whereas 0% of students in the advisor-led sections felt more connected to their major.

- So, TREK is doing exactly what we wanted it to do. We hope that it makes a difference in student retention. This year retention was back up to 82%.
  - GC Research Day: March 29<sup>th</sup>
    - GC is hosting research day for UG and graduate students.
      - Poster sessions, presentations, panels, etc.
        - Research Presentation Competition
        - Speech and Debate Scrimmage
        - Digital Humanities Session
        - Latin American Studies Talk
        - And much more
      - The university's future Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is going to be on mental health so for lunch they are doing an interactive wellness picnic: serve burrito bowls and have 8 interactive stations for students to visit based on the 8 parts of the wellness wheel.

**Department of Professional Learning and Innovation ..... Nicole DeClouette (for Nancy Mizelle)**

- Dyslexia Endorsement Program:
  - 24 students started the program in January.
  - Free to educators. Funding came from the DoE.
- Ed.D. Program – 5<sup>th</sup> cohort.
  - Ed.D. applications have been reviewed.
  - We will be admitting 5 students for the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort.
  - We are in the process of sending out acceptance letters.
- Lounsbury Lecture Series:
  - Held on February 9<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Carl Glickman (Professor Emeritus) and Dr. Kathy Thompson (Professor at UGA).
  - Title: Public Purpose, Democracy, and Revolutionizing American Schools
  - Students, faculty, and staff in attendance really appreciate how interactive the session was.
  - Dr. Lounsbury's daughter and her husband were also in attendance, and they appreciated the opportunity to be there.

**Department of Teacher Education ..... Nicole DeClouette (for Joanne Previts)**

- Cohort Students Accepted for Fall 2023 – we have 100 conditionally admitted teacher candidates
  - Special Education = 25 teacher candidates
  - Middle Grades = 25 teacher candidates
  - Elementary Education = 50 teacher candidates
  - Very excited to have 4 full cohorts (2 Elementary Education, 1 Special Education, 1 Middle Grades Education)
- Partnerships and Field Placements - (Claire Garrett)
  - Finished junior's second spring placement for special education teacher candidates.
  - Gearing up for fall placements, starting with placing student teachers first.

**Assessment and Accreditation Updates ..... Nicole DeClouette (for Mike Newton)**

- SITE Instrument
  - New instrument that is being piloted this semester by Early Childhood and Middle Grades Education cohort.
  - Full implementation planned for Spring 2024
  - Assessing teacher candidates on the InTASC Standards because when the PSC removed edTPA as being consequential to certification, that left us with some holes in our data collection system.
- Advanced Completer Survey.
  - We are currently working on a satisfaction survey for completers of our Advanced Level programs. More details will be shared in Fall 2023.

- Accreditation.
  - We are addressing our response to the one AFI that we received on Standard 5.3 (Continuous Improvement).
  - The COE revised its Continuous Improvement Form to include specific connections to the CAEP standards with more detailed rationale related to program approval.
- Appreciation
  - From Mike Newton: “We continue to appreciate the partnerships with school districts across the state! We could NOT complete our assessment and accreditation work without their support!!”

**Stakeholder Updates ..... All**

- What initiatives are happening in your school systems? How can GC and the COE be supportive in these initiatives?
- Washington County:
  - Focus investment on teachers and teacher retention. Their goal is to retain 92% of 0-5 year teachers. They send out early contracts and they have 93% staff returning (with 95% of 0-5 year teachers returning).
  - Thinking about the shifting workforce (from baby boomers to millennials).
  - They also developed a district leadership team that meets monthly to discuss teacher concerns.
  - Washington County is very interested in GC’s para to teacher program.
  - Would also like to be involved in Call Me MiSTER program.
- Baldwin County:
  - Looking at growing our own teachers. Adding teaching as a pathway at the HS.
  - Also interested in the para to teacher program.
- Jones County: 2 initiatives:
  - Teacher recruitment because many teachers are retiring. At the same time, trying to increase diversity. They reached out to HBCUs to attend their recruitment fairs. They have teaching as a pathway program at the HS, so the HS pathway teacher wants to reach out to middle school students to encourage them to think about teaching as a career.
  - While there are strong gifted programs at elementary schools, there is a need to develop middle school gifted programs. Now, each middle school has a gifted coordinator. There are not many middle school teachers who hold gifted certification. They are hoping that with this initiative, they will see growth in student data.

**Discussion ..... Nicole DeClouette**

- What strategies are your school systems using to retain teachers?
  - Jones County: Faculty perks (free entry to all sporting events, blue jean Fridays, Holiday gifts, teacher treats for all holidays, and surprise breakfasts).
- What ways can teacher prep programs prepare graduates who will be successful as teachers?
  - Leah B.: My advice is to remind future teachers that "Rome was not built in a day" and that they should heavily rely on the veteran teachers for advice and help. Some young teachers are coming into the field so full of gusto and ready to change the world that they forget to simply love the kids and take it day by day. They are putting too much pressure on themselves to "leave their mark" and from what I have experienced- they do not ask for help. New teachers simply need to know that longevity and doing a great job in his/her classroom will be exactly what the students and their parents remember. I CAN NOT stress this enough..... They truly need to take the first few years of teaching to understand the job and ask questions. I do believe that the GCSU cohort model is the BEST way to train future teachers!
  - Dr. Edmond: Resiliency is important. Balance is important. If they are not well, they cannot take care of students. Self-care and self-wellness are so important. If they can get that message and strategies in their teacher prep programs and then get it in their school systems, it’s a win-win for everyone. This is paramount.

- Are there professional development needs for COE or for school systems in which we can partner to be mutually beneficial?
  - Dr. Edmond would like to send their best teachers as guests speakers for cohort students prior to going into field experiences. Nicole will share this idea with Dr. Previts to share with MLs.

**Closing..... Nicole DeClouette**

**EPSC Charge: Through the purposeful exchange of ideas, the John H. Lounsbury COE EPSC will:**

1. Share responsibility for continuous improvement of Educator Preparation Program (EPP) candidate preparation and P-12 student achievement
2. Clarify and define expectations for EPP candidate entry, preparation, exit, and induction
3. Maintain coherence across clinical experiences and academic components of educator preparation and share accountability for candidate outcomes
4. Share assessment results of P-12 students and EPP candidates and evaluate effectiveness, generate improvements, and identify innovations based on data; and
5. Seek opportunities to expand candidates' knowledge, skills, and dispositions related to technology and diversity.