



# Provost Notes

September 2024

## Upcoming Faculty Opportunities at GCSU

### [Academic Affairs Small Grants Program](#)

- Provides seed funding up to \$5,000.

### [Office of the Provost/GC Journeys Community-Based Engaged Learning Grant](#)

- Provides seed funding between \$500 and \$1,000.

### [Collaborative Research Grant Program](#)

- Prioritizes collaborations across departments and colleges.
- Funding up to \$4,000.

**Deadline for all the above opportunities: September 15, 2024**

### [Women's Leadership Faculty Fellows Program](#)

- Faculty program to develop and hone leadership skills in higher education.
- Deadline [to apply](#) September 27, 2024.

### [The Provost's Visiting Scholars Program](#)

- Intended to enrich the learning experience of all within the context of an academic department/school.
- Deadline to apply September 30, 2024.

### [Professional Leave](#)

- Purpose is to refresh and reinvigorate eligible faculty members.
- Requires two applications: [Professional Leave Application](#) and, if approved, [Faculty Leave of Absence](#) (for HR purposes).
- Deadline to apply October 15, 2024.

### [Affordable Learning Georgia](#)

- USG initiative that funds the development of open educational resources (OERs) and research on OER impact.
- Deadline to submit an intent to apply through the OGSP is October 1, 2024.
- Application review/feedback by the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) October 14, 2024.
- For more information, visit <https://libguides.gcsu.edu/oer>

**The Outside Activity Approval Request Form has been recently revised. Please click [here](#) to access the form.**

## *Congratulations!*

### **Principal Investigator Hasitha**

**Mahabaduge, PhD**, Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy - College of Arts and Sciences, **Co-Principal Investigator Nicholas Creel, PhD, JD**, Department of Accounting and Business Law – College of Business and Technology, **Co-Principal Investigator Sayo Fakayode, PhD**, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy - College of Arts and Sciences: *Collaborative Research: EPIIC: Fostering Unity and Teamwork for Rural Excellence (FUTURE)*, National Science Foundation, **\$399,904**

## **Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions and Personal Wellbeing Fall 2024 Faculty Workshops**

**Teamwork- Collaborative Excellence: Enhancing Teamwork through Liberal Arts Perspectives:** September 18 at 1 p.m.  
**Critical Thinking – Navigating the Liberal Arts Landscape:** October 3 at 1 p.m.  
**Liberal Arts at the Intersection: A Roadmap for Creative Problem-Solving:** October 16 at 2 p.m.  
**Communication - Charting Your Course:** October 31 at 11 a.m.  
**Roadmap Wrap-up:** November 11 at 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Library 376 | [Register here](#)

## **Constitution Week**

This year's *Constitution Week* will take place from September 17-19, 2024. For events at Georgia College & State University, please visit the [Constitution Week webpage](#).

## 2024-2025 Academic Affairs Unit Goals

This issue of the *Provost Notes* includes goals from units in the Office of Academic Affairs. This year's goals align directly with one or more pillars from GCSU's *Imagine 2030* Strategic Plan.

### College of Arts and Sciences

- Stabilization and Growth in Low-Award Programs: To put the low-enrolled, low-award programs on better footing, thus enabling growth. This will be done through sustained actions and ideas to highlight these majors to students. This may involve better naming and understanding of programs, as well as efforts to publicize these programs on campus and to the general public by highlighting all of the different activities in which they are involved. (*Innovate, Distinguish*)
- The Arts Division Focus: To highlight the four programs within the Arts & Communication division of the College, they will be offering opportunities for students and the general public to get to know more about them. One example will be a month-long Art-ober celebration in October that will take place on main campus, as well as at Andalusia. The overall intent is to spotlight programs such as Music, Art, and Theatre & Dance programs for growth, and Communication for expansion. (*Innovate; Empower*)
- Program Modernization: Across all three divisions in COAS, examine programs in an effort to modernize them and make them more appealing. This could involve adding new programs to older ones, like the Aquatic Sciences Center in Biology, and Professional Writing being added to English. This could involve adding new technologies to the STEM area or experiencing curricular collaboration, like Digital Humanities, in traditional areas. This could also mean leaning into AI and finding where it can assist our traditional programs. (*Innovate, Distinguish, Engage*)
- Graduate Enrollment: Focus on our graduate programming and boost numbers in existing graduate programs. (*Innovate*)
- Advancement: Look for ways to expand advancement opportunities for alumni and friends of the College. (*Distinguish, Engage*)

### J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology

In addition to *Imagine 2030*, the following goals also align with the College of Business & Technology's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan – *Lighting a Path for Our Future: Business and Technology Education for the Public Good*.

- Identify funds to sustain the Bobcat Trading Room. (*Innovate*)
- Proposal to track and require HIPs participation. (*Distinguish*)
- Further invest in graduate enrollment tactics and identify ROI on recent approaches; Explore potential for an applied MS in Computer Science with emphasis on AI. (*Innovate*)
- Further efforts to assess tech competency and identify curriculum adjustments; Explore potential undergraduate minor in entrepreneurship. (*Innovate, Engage*)
- Propose a Center for Technology & Empowerment. (*Innovate, Engage*)
- Propose a thought leadership strategy for focusing research in the designated areas of our societal impact plan. (*Engage, Advance*)

### John H. Lounsbury College of Education

- Develop, where needed, and review Policies and Procedures of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education and of all of our Graduate Programs. (*Advance*)
- Collaborate with the School of Continuing and Professional Studies to develop and implement an adult degree completion program for Special Education Paraprofessionals. (*Innovate*)
- Develop and implement professional development workshops for faculty, staff, and students for the Maker Space and Sensory Room. (*Engage*)
- Support graduate, including doctoral, candidates and all undergraduate teacher candidates to attend and/or present at a state, regional, or national conference. (*Distinguish*)
- Connect students who experience food insecurity with needed resources, such as the JHL CoE Food Pantry. (*Empower*)

## College of Health Sciences

- Progressively expand the inclusion, teaching, and training of innovative applied laboratory experiences within the exercise science curriculum through acquisition and use of cutting-edge technology-equipment used by exercise scientists, physical therapists, professional athletes, and other movement specialists- continued (*Innovate*)
- Recruit more students from the region who will stay in rural Milledgeville areas as future healthcare providers- continued (*Engage, Empower*)
- Add graduate degrees needed in our region to improve health outcomes in Middle Georgia (*Innovate, Engage, Empower*)
- Cultivate donors for naming opportunities for simulation and translational center, schools, colleges (*Engage*)
- Operationalize the mobile clinic and fundraise to sustain the Center for Health and Social Issues' community health agenda (*Engage, Innovate*)
- Sustain the Simulation and Translational Research Center until a new location is realized (*Innovate*)

## John E. Sallstrom Honors College

- Offer approximately 40 courses this year, including courses that enhance understanding of multiple perspectives both domestically and internationally (in contrast to 20-25 courses per year when the college was first established). Associated with Pillar 5 (*Advance*), Goal 3, Outcome b.
- Enhance Honors advising with sessions in Honors GC1Ys (to replace group advising sessions in the evenings). Associated with Pillar 2 (*Distinguish*), Goal 1, Outcome a.
- Establish an Honors Innovation and Entrepreneurship Learning Community in collaboration with the new Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to support student learning both within and beyond the Honors College. Associated with Pillar 1, Goal 1, Outcome c.
- Make the National Collegiate Honors Conference an annual opportunity for Honors students. The Honors College has been taking students to state and regional conferences each year. We are adding NCHC as a regular activity (rather than an occasional one). Pillar 2, Goal 3, Outcome a.
- Develop a schedule for targeted Front Page posts for the Honors College and the Office of National Scholarships to celebrate the accomplishments of GCSU students, thereby enhancing the university's reputation. Associated with Pillar 2, Goal 2, Outcome a.

## Student Engagement and Academic Excellence

- GC Journeys, working with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, will expand assessment to better capture the impact of the program. These will include determining the completion rate of the 2024 graduates completed the GC Journeys pathway, expand assessment to include essential learning outcomes and reexamine reporting structure for courses to be included as a High Impact Practice. (*Innovate*)
- MURACE develops streamlined processes to guide faculty mentors and students applying for travel funds. MURACE also plans to expand the programming and participation in Research Day to become more inclusive of all the High Impact Practices. (*Innovate*)
- GCSU Leadership Programs will publish the *Leadership Forecast*, in support of our integrated Research & Public Service Priorities. (*Engage*)
- The Rural Studies Institute will seek to develop a Rural Studies Scholars Cohort Program and to include more student-focused programming. (*Distinguish*)
- The Learning Center will identify ways to manage increase student demand and deliver programming and bootcamps to meet the academic needs of the students. (*Empower*)
- The Writing Center will collaborate with academic departments and colleges to ensure appropriate offerings for different areas. (*Empower*)

## The Graduate School

### PILLAR I: INNOVATE

Goal 1: Increase graduate enrollment by 3%.

- Monitor enrollment yield longitudinally to identify trends and track performance in attracting and enrolling graduate students.
- Streamline the new graduate admissions CRM, Slate, and graduate admission process.
- Enhance digital marketing, social media, GCSU websites, and print media to reach a wider audience.
- Increase graduate program offerings in the Double Bobcats Pathway program.
- Offer a graduate fee waiver three times a year.

Goal 2: Build an organizational structure to recruit, admit, and support graduate and non-traditional students.

- Hire CRM Manager
- Create and maintain an electronic graduate assistantship handbook for effective communication and execution of graduate assistant procedures.
- Promote graduate assistantships to recruit highly qualified graduate students.

Goal 2: Expand innovative and flexible curricular and co-curricular opportunities to increase student engagement.

- Leverage digital technologies to encourage and enhance online graduate student participation in Research Day, ensuring accessibility to all.
- Broaden participation in Research Day to include graduate programs that don't traditionally engage in research but have students working on or have completed capstone projects.

### PILLAR IV: ENGAGE

Goal 1: Develop, promote, and support opportunities for engagement among students, faculty, and staff.

- Initiate, foster, and elevate existing graduate student related in-person and online events that support engagement among graduate students, faculty, administration, and staff.
- Increase financial support for graduate student travel for the presentation of their scholarly work at professional conferences.
- Increase financial support for graduate student awards and recognition programs.

## International Education Center

- Continue progress being made in promoting Georgia College & State University's academic quality, distinctive aspects, unique setting, and strong value proposition to market the university internationally and further heighten brand awareness (*Distinguish, Advance*).
- Better master and integrate electronic resources to increase F-1 enrollments (*Innovate, Distinguish, Advance*).
- Develop relationships with international partners (*Advance, Engage*).
- Building upon emerging initiatives, re-energize the use of relationships (old and new) and technology to create sustainable international pipelines to GCSU (*Innovate, Distinguish, Engage, Advance*).
- Identify ways to better leverage Study Abroad as a GCSU recruiting tool and explore possibilities for tailored Study Abroad opportunities for first-year students (*Innovate, Distinguish, Advance*).
- Related to the above, promote and expand GCSU's rapidly-emerging leadership status in Study Abroad international internships (*Innovate, Distinguish, Engage, Advance*).
- Continue the expansion, variety, and depth and breadth of locations and disciplines available to Study Abroad students (*Innovate, Advance*).
- Expand progress being made in heightening awareness of exchange opportunities available to GCSU students (*Innovate, Distinguish, Advance*).
- Explore ways to develop international opportunities for faculty professional development, teaching, and research (*Innovate, Distinguish, Engage, Advance*).

## School of Continuing and Professional Studies

- Implement an adult degree completion program in collaboration with the College of Education. Provide adult learners with services to ensure student success. (*Innovate, Advance*)
- Expand the Leadership & Management Academy to two more Georgia cities. (*Innovate, Engage*)
- Increase the number of alumni engagement and employer partnerships by 20% each by offering professional development webinars/lectures, travel programs, and networking activities. (*Engage*)
- Hire an Executive Director for Historic Museums and a Director of Communities in Schools to elevate these departments through their respective missions. (*Innovate*)
- Expand the footprint of Continuing & Professional Education by growing the Learning in Retirement group to OLLI-like status; increase specialty camps by 1 new camp; create one new non-credit certificate program with one college. (*Engage, Advance, Innovate*)
- Afterschool Achievement programs (HAP, LVA, OHMS) increase collaboration with one new department at GCSU. Expand opportunities of support from diverse outlets to recruit staff and students. (*Advance*)
- Academic Outreach will promote and grow participation in the GCSU Thirst for Knowledge program and increase GC Journeys C-bEL component by 5 students. (*Engage, Distinguish*)
- Communities in Schools Milledgeville/Baldwin County will implement evidence-based literacy programming; increase grant funding to expand services to Putnam and Hancock Counties. (*Engage, Innovate*)
- Historic Museums will increase visitation through the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Flannery O'Connor. Develop plan for reaccreditation with the American Alliance of Museums. (*Innovate, Distinguish*)
- Production Services – Enhance practical skills and leadership experience of students involved in production services by implementing hands-on training. (*Innovate*)

## Division of Enrollment Management

- Enhance visitation opportunities for prospective students and assist low enrolled academic programs. The Office of Admissions will work to develop campus supplemental visitation meetings for specific majors and academic areas when students attend a campus tour. (*Distinguish*)
- The GCSU Financial Aid Office plans to enhance pathways for local and regional students to attend the university by reducing obstacles to admissions and enrollment. The GCSU Financial Aid Office will collaborate with surrounding county high schools to support their students during the financial aid and scholarship application processes. (*Engage*)
- Encourage students to use CORExplore pathways to build personally meaningful interdisciplinary connections through the general education curriculum. (*Distinguish*)
- Facilitate Student Success and Retention Series workshops to develop, promote, and support opportunities for engagement among students, faculty, and staff. (*Engage*)
- Teach the Council of Student Ambassadors how to effectively share their GC Journey to prospective students and families, highlighting the impact of their stories while maintaining consistency with university branding. (*Distinguish*)

### Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

- Implement a new Watermark product this November for planning and self-assessment. (*Innovate*)
- Implement the first-year of the QEP, Bobcats FIRST, in collaboration with Student Life. (*Engage*)
- Convene a task force to review core assessment in light of the new Core IMPACTS requirements from USG. (*Distinguish*)
- Address new Federal reporting requirements on the Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment. (*Distinguish*)
- Conduct a needs assessment from department chairs for the purposes of progress and planning and CPR will be conducted. (*Empower*)

### Ina Dillard Russell Library

- Serve as on-site supervisors for internships, capstone experiences, and practicums across campus to provide students with unique, hands-on experiences in the archival field. (*Distinguish*)
- Migrate to new library management systems. (*Innovate*)
- Update the University Archives exhibit in the Special Collections Galleries (*Advance*); work with Visit Milledgeville and six additional convention and visitors' bureaus in Middle Georgia to participate in and promote Georgia's Trail of Legacy & Lore as the city's featured attraction by telling inclusive stories that showcase the importance of our area to the region and nation. (*Engage*)
- Provide students, staff, and faculty with books and films in electronic format when feasible, in lieu of GIL Express borrowing, interlibrary loan book/film borrowing, or physical reserves. (*Innovate*)
- Develop online video information literacy training to support students at the point of need. (*Advance*)

### Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects

- Increase the quality and competitiveness of grant submissions by GCSU faculty and staff by collaborating closely with department deans and chairs to strengthen grantsmanship skills across the campus, thereby reinforcing GCSU's reputation as a leading undergraduate research institution. (*Distinguish*)
- Proactively identify and research new funding opportunities, integrate strategic planning to align efforts with institutional goals, cultivate relationships with key contacts, and tailor proposals to match the priorities of potential funders. (*Innovate*)
- Broaden and diversify funding sources by securing grants from a wider array of foundations, government agencies, and corporate partners, while also developing long-term partnerships and exploring various funding opportunities such as sponsorships, contracts, and collaborative agreements. (*Advance*)
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration by connecting departments, faculty, and community organizations, encouraging joint efforts in developing and submitting grant proposals, and building infrastructure to support ongoing collaborative initiatives, such as dedicated project management resources, shared communication platforms, and support networks. (*Engage*)
- Implement a variety of grantsmanship development programs, such as lunch-and-learn sessions, panel discussions, and workshops, while incorporating the upcoming university sector grantsmanship initiative for the fall to promote knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and skill-building across the university community. (*Empower*)
- Partner with other institutions within the University System of Georgia, including Georgia Institute of Technology, to enhance grants expertise, share best practices, and build collaborative opportunities that benefit GCSU's faculty and staff. (*Engage*)