Academic Success

The Early Childhood Education program in the College of Education (COE) won the 2018 Board of Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award for Departments and Programs. The committee was impressed with the infusion of high-impact teaching and learning practices in the curriculum, including service-learning projects, collaborative assignments, global learning opportunities, and use of technological innovations.


COE’s Ed.D. in School Improvement program was ranked No. 1 by Grad School Hub for best value for an online Ed.D. teaching degree programs. The ranking considered accreditation and affordability.
Harry Nelson, business operations specialist in the College of Arts and Humanities (COAH), is graduating from Valdosta State University with a Doctorate in Public Administration.

Kim Holder, lecturer in the RCOB, recently presented her paper, “Free to Choose: Student Choice as Motivation for Critical Thinking,” at the Association for Private Enterprise Education Conference.

Maryanne Weatherill, limited term assistant professor in the COE, was selected as the Outstanding Doctoral Student by the University of Georgia’s Department of Educational Psychology.

Dr. Matt Varga, associate professor of counselor education and college student affairs in the COE, was quoted in an article by Healthline about the prevalent use of Adderall and the overall effects of the drug. The entire piece was a reflection on a new Netflix Documentary, “Take Your Pills.”

Bridgette Stewart, senior lecturer in the COE, was recently named a 2018 Circle of Leadership inductee with the National Wellness Institute (NWI).

Camille Reid, academic adviser in the COE, was selected as one of five mentees for the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) region 4 mentoring program class of 2018-19.

Laura McKee, an instructor in COAH’s Department of English, will attend a three-week residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, where she will be one of only 25 artists in attendance.
Operational Success

The University of West Georgia was named a Tree Campus USA honoree for the seventh year in a row. To obtain the distinction from the Arbor Day Foundation, UWG met the five core standards for an effective campus forestry management.

Partnership Success

Best Online Colleges recently ranked UWG as 10th-best for online colleges in Georgia.

The COE was ranked eighth for Best Online Bachelor’s in Special Education by BestColleges.com.

Dr. Catherine Jenks, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness and assessment, was voted chair-elect of the University System of Georgia’s Regents Administrative Committee on Effectiveness and Accreditation (RACEA) at the committee’s April 2018 business meeting. She will serve a three-year term as chair-elect, chair, and immediate past chair.

The COE Pre-K program had their National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) renewed for another five years.

Bethany Lanier, assistant professor of counselor education and college student affairs in the COE, because of her work with the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy has become a trainer in the region. Lanier will be equipped to train educators and students about child trafficking and exploitation prevention.

Dr. Katherine Green, assistant professor and area coordinator and Dr. Sandra Hess, assistant professor of early childhood and special education in the COE, received $137,907 from the Department of Health and Human Services/YMCA to continue the iCARE program. iCARE stands for "Instruction of Children at Risk and with Exceptionalities," and the program provides professional development for Head Start teachers, Family Education programming, and child screening in the Fulton county area.
Dr. Leslie Dixon, who received her Ed.D. in School Improvement from UWG’s College of Education, has been named the new Director of School Improvement for Rome City Schools. In her role, she will provide leadership in the development, implementation, and evaluation of school improvement.

Dr. Lama Farran, associate professor and program coordinator of communication sciences and disorders in the COE, will be a featured speaker at the Annual Governor’s Summit on Early Language and Literacy. Dr. Farran will be discussing the factors that influence a child’s development and addressing how to affect the whole child.

Anne Merrem, assistant professor in the COE, led the inaugural adapted P.E. experience, where more than 50 students from Central High School visited the Coliseum for a field trip. They had the opportunity to experience different physical education activities, led by COE students and faculty.

Student Success

Noah Lipham, a COAH student, has been awarded a Gilman Scholarship to support his participation in the foreign languages and literatures immersion program in Oldenburg, Germany, this summer. The Gilman is a national scholarship competition supported by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Melissa Mecadon-Mann and Jeanette Hazel Vaughn, College of Education (COE) students, were chosen to be American School Counselors Association (ASCA) Annual Conference Ambassadors, in Los Angeles, California.

Neely Byers, current COE student and media specialist for North Whitfield Middle School, received the Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading in Georgia grant from the Georgia Department of Education, totaling $15,000.
Hailey Hughes, a current graduate student in English in the COAH, will visit Ireland this summer after receiving a Fulbright Award. She will study creative writing at University College Cork as part of a project to study creative nonfiction and create a transatlantic storytelling group for able-bodied and disabled communities.

Kibbey Crumbley, current doctoral school improvement student in the COE, was recently approved by the Fulton County Board of Education as the new area superintendent for the Northwest Learning Community. In her new role, Crumbley will be responsible for 15 elementary, five middle, and five high schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Milton, and Roswell.

Share your own story and tell us your own Point of Pride. For more information visit www.westga.edu/ucm/points-of-pride.php