Carrollton-Carroll County
CCEC EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND REGIONAL SUMMIT

Bridging Talent to Opportunity
Since the Carroll Chamber’s Workforce Education Blue Ribbon Task Force first published its aspirational goals in 2011, the framework of the Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative (CCEC) began to form. The Harvard University Pathways to Prosperity project cited this work as one of the most innovative efforts in the country.

In response to the governor’s High Demand Career Initiative (Preparing Georgia’s Future Workforce Now), the CCEC met for the first time in December 2014. The CCEC brought together leadership of public and independent school systems, the regional technical college, the comprehensive four-year university, and chamber and community leaders to establish a common vision for P-16 success. Since the first meeting, the CCEC has committed to assuming the shared responsibilities of fostering change, achieving coherence in curriculum and promoting success for students past high school graduation.

By July 2015, results of the various entity partnerships already were being realized with the implementation of Move on When Ready (MOWR). UWG and WGTC merged student advisement and registration materials in a seamless format that led to phenomenal increases in student participation in the program.

During 2015-2016, the CCEC progressed from a commitment to communicate to a “one community schoolhouse P-16 design.” The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPEE), the 2016 Georgia legislature and others recognized the CCEC for the collective impact accomplished with increased expectations moving forward.

The first CCEC Summit was held in July 2016. That gathering represented the continued efforts of the Carroll County business and industry communities along with the educational entities to prepare 21st-Century students to enter the workforce, enlist in the military or enroll in a post-secondary institution immediately upon completion of high school.

We are very excited about the second annual CCEC Summit as we enter into full implementation of our P-16 collaborative approach. Some highlights from our annual report include partnering with Get Georgia Reading, development of a regional strategy, and model design aligned with a strategic focus on the four themes of student development.

We believe engaging multiple stakeholders in collaborative networks can make a profound difference in increasing the numbers of students who become enrolled, enlisted or employed. Consequently, we are working to support other collaborative efforts with communities throughout the west Georgia region.

"Through my many years at UTEP, I’ve been privileged to participate in the transformation of many thousands of lives, and my life’s work has become entirely focused on increasing access for all young people – particularly the nearly 40 percent of UTEP students who report a family income of $20,000 a year or less – and ensuring their engagement in the same kinds of enhanced educational experiences offered to their peers in more affluent settings.

DR. DIANNA NATALICIO
President, UTEP and one of TIME Magazine’s 2016 Most Influential Leaders
EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS

**DR. MARK ALBERTUS**
Dr. Albertus serves as the superintendent of Carrollton City Schools. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Albertus completed an eight-year tenure as principal of Carrollton City High School. He has been part of the CCEC full committee from the early stages of the collaborative and represented Carrollton City Schools as a member of the operations team. Dr. Albertus applies a performance-focused leadership approach within a growth and development style.

**MR. SCOTT COWART**
Mr. Scott Cowart serves as the superintendent of Carroll County Schools. Mr. Cowart has served in multiple roles in education and has been recognized for his community-focused leadership at the local, state and national levels. He was instrumental in establishing the early partnerships among the educational entities that helped promote the formation of the CCEC. Mr. Cowart takes vision and goals to reality through a deliberate and intentional approach for school improvement.

**MR. STEVE DANIEL**
Mr. Steve Daniel serves as president of West Georgia Technical College. Mr. Daniel has rapidly led WGTC with his innovative and collaborative approach to become a premier institution and community partner. He and his team are focused on preparing a modern workforce through state-of-the-art degree and skills development. Mr. Daniel leads an institution that has a seven-county service region in west Georgia and is a leader within the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG).

**MS. PAULA GILLISPIE**
Ms. Paula Gillispie serves as head of school for Oak Mountain Academy. She represents the voice of independent school systems in Carroll County as part of the CCEC Executive Committee. She serves on the board of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce where her commitment to the collaborative effort began several years ago with the Workforce Education Committee. Her experience and leadership in multiple roles in both public and private institutions provides a great resource to the collaborative.

**MR. DANIEL JACKSON**
Mr. Daniel Jackson serves as the president of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and his visioning efforts for more than a decade have been instrumental in the formation of the CCEC. His leadership and this work have been recognized at the local, state and national levels, as well as being highlighted as a model to replicate through the Harvard University Pathways to Prosperity project. Mr. Jackson’s relentless commitment to working together with the entire community provides a catalyst and support for the collaborative.

**MS. KIM JONES**
Ms. Kim Jones serves as president of the Community Foundation of West Georgia. She leads an organization that provides grant funding to entities in Carroll, Heard and Haralson counties. The CFWG provides a tremendous networking resource for entities engaged in supporting children and the community. Ms. Jones is actively involved in several non-profit and volunteer organizations for the purpose of improving the quality of life for children and families.

**MS. CYNTHIA LANGLEY**
Ms. Cynthia Langley serves as the Carroll County Executive Director for state-and-nationally affiliated Communities in Schools. She leads an organization that partners directly with local schools and is focused on supporting students working to be on track for graduation. Ms. Langley is the non-profit organizations’ contact for the CCEC and is actively involved in many organizations throughout the community.
DR. KYLE MARRERO
Dr. Kyle Marrero serves as the president of the University of West Georgia. During his tenure, UWG has experienced increased enrollment as well as state and national recognition. Dr. Marrero’s EngageWest! and leadership development initiatives have earned the university multiple accolades and have helped UWG continue to attain several state and national rankings. Dr. Marrero combines high energy with a results focus to the CCEC and is actively involved with several community organizations. His collaborative team spirit is contagious.

MR. TRENT NORTH
Mr. Trent North serves as District 1 representative on the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. He is currently serving his fifth term on the board. Mr. North is a published author and veteran administrator actively engaged with the community and was recently selected to serve as superintendent of Douglas County Schools beginning the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. North’s passion and relentless commitment to student success aligns well with the CCEC.

MR. FRED O’NEAL
Mr. Fred O’Neal serves as a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments. Mr. O’Neal has received numerous accolades for service and professional excellence and is actively involved with the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. O’Neal serves on several boards that support community development and citizen support. His experience with all aspects of the educational system provides valuable insights for ensuring connections among all the entities.

CCEC COMMITTEE
Ms. Mary Aderhold West Georgia Technical College
Dr. Mark Albertus Carrollton City Schools
Dr. Perrin Alford West Georgia Technical College
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey Carroll Tomorrow
Mr. Justin Barlow University of West Georgia
Ms. Jami Bower University of West Georgia
Mr. David Brooks Carrollton City Schools
Ms. Anna Clifton Carrollton City Schools
Mr. Scott Cowart Carroll County Schools
Dr. Micheal Crafton University of West Georgia
Mr. Russell Crutchfield University of West Georgia
Mr. Robert Curry West Georgia Technical College
Mr. Steve Daniel West Georgia Technical College
Dr. Kristen Douglas West Georgia Technical College
Dr. Myrna Gantner University of West Georgia
Ms. Paula Gillispie Oak Mountain Academy
Dr. John Green Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative
Mr. Jared Grifffis Carroll County Schools
Dr. Dana Harman Carroll County Schools
Dr. Dianne Hoff University of West Georgia
Mr. Daniel Jackson Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Cathi Jenks University of West Georgia
Ms. Kim Jones Community Foundation of West Georgia
Ms. Cynthia Langley Communities in Schools of Carrollton City and Carroll County, Inc.
Ms. Kim Learnard West Georgia Technical College
Mr. Gary Leftwich University of West Georgia
Dr. Scot Lingrell University of West Georgia
Mr. Jay Louttit Oak Mountain Academy
Dr. Kyle Marrero University of West Georgia
Dr. Melanie McClellan University of West Georgia
Dr. Sindi McGowan West Georgia Technical College
Mr. Trent North Douglas County Schools
Mr. Fred O’Neal Edward Jones Investments
Dr. Denise Overfield University of West Georgia
Mr. John Parton West Georgia Technical College
Ms. Jennifer Shirley Carroll County Schools
Mr. Ben Skipper Carroll County Commissioners
Dr. Laura Smith University of West Georgia
Mr. Alan Talley Oak Mountain Academy
Mr. Travis Thomas Carroll County Schools
Dr. Lok Lew Yan Voon University of West Georgia
Dear Educational Partners,

Thank you for your collaborative efforts and contributions toward student success as we continue to build our “one community school!” This year’s theme “Bridging Talent to Opportunity,” provides a direct message that we believe working together will create more opportunities for our students. The Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative (CCEC) is a community-wide effort that is the result of previous workforce education task force initiatives and the partnering of educational entities in Carroll County. The structural design of the CCEC reflects intentional participation of a broad range of stakeholders to include preschool options through graduate programs, the business community, the non-profit sector, governmental agencies and the citizens of the community.

Our inclusive vision for student success through partnerships across multiple community sectors is making a difference!

The 2017 CCEC Steps to Success Annual Report provides information and talking points directly related to our progress in improving specific measures aligned with four developmental themes within a P-16 framework. These themes include: early learning, foundations, independence and pathways. Our education and community networks for student support along this continuum are focused on acceleration, tutoring and mentoring (A.T.M.).

Our annual summit is an excellent opportunity for you to increase knowledge within specific developmental themes or to have a broad experience by sampling sessions throughout the entire developmental scope. You also will have opportunities to speak directly with regional, state and national experts aligned with our collaborative approach to increase college attainment and workforce preparedness.

Relationally, the primary goal for the summit is to provide an environment where you can continue to develop your network for the benefit of all students in the community. Our best source for attaining this goal is your direct participation and engagement.

Thanks again for being a part of our community wide efforts to support student success!

Sincerely,

John Green, Ed.D.
Director

Carroll County Board of Commissioners declared Carroll County a Get Georgia Reading Community on March 7, 2017. Pictured left to right: Mr. Marty Smith, Dr. John Green, Dr. Laura Smith, Ms. Michelle Morgan, Dr. Dana Harman, and Dr. Melanie McClellan.
The Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative (CCEC) is an integrated community approach to create academic success for students through educational attainment and workforce preparedness within a P-16 framework. The collaborative seeks to prepare students to succeed in the workforce and/or post-secondary opportunities.

**BELIEFS**
- Leaders from the community, post-secondary education, K-12 education, pre-K, business and government work together to increase opportunities for students.
- Talent and intellectual capacity exist throughout our school systems and post-secondary institutions, yet awareness of these strengths and opportunities to use them may not.
- Social mobility through access to post-secondary education is essential for economic development in our community.

**GOALS**
- Ensure academic success for all students, P-16.
- Educate and promote career pathways and access to post-secondary education.
- Ensure all students graduate from high school prepared to enter the workforce and/or succeed in two-year or four-year colleges or universities.
- Increase opportunities for all students through a community network.

The four developmental themes of early learning, foundations, independence and pathways are supported by key measures of kindergarten readiness, third-grade literacy, algebra readiness, personal plan development, high school graduation and enrolled, enlisted or employed. Effective strategies of acceleration, tutoring and mentoring (A.T.M.) are applied within family and community partnerships to assist students as they progress through a P-16 “move on when ready” learning continuum. It is reasonable to assert that a highly educated and developed workforce will correlate to increased numbers of kindergarten-ready children and thus form a culture of increased post-secondary attainment.
The CCEC approach evolved from a strategies developmental structure to an actual implementation model involving three distinct action teams:

**STUDENT SUPPORT AND INTERVENTIONS**
- Developed a strategic focus on acceleration, tutoring and mentoring.
- Created meaningful partnerships with Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center (GYSTC) and Mentor Village.
- Expanded cross-entity relationships between the post-secondary institutions and the K-12 educators.
- Became an inaugural member of the statewide mentoring network.
- Achieved a formal declaration as a Get Georgia Reading Community.
- Bridged the structure to an operational design aligning the four developmental themes; early learning, foundations, independence and pathways with steps to success measures.

**PERFORMANCE AND RESEARCH PROCESSES**
- Aligned with the state’s efforts to develop a kindergarten readiness measure.
- Calculated “regional” measures in third-grade literacy, seventh-grade mathematics, high school graduation and college degree completion rates.
- Worked to align at least one key performance indicator to each respective development theme.
- Established working relationships with both post-secondary institutions and the K-12 partner systems.
- Began investigating and developing meaningful ways to assess the number of students in the region who are employed, enlisted or enrolled.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**
- Expanded the education collaborative committee from 30 members in 2016 to 42 members in 2017.
- Combined efforts to provide presentation materials for the UWG/WGTC president report to the combined session of college presidents statewide.
- Developed and produced communication materials that highlight the steps to success and the P-16 model design.
- Designed the marketing information for MOWR course selection guide in the Carroll County area for UWG and WGTC.
- Developed and produced the summit materials and the 2017 annual report.
2017-2018 GOALS
- Become fully operational as a CCEC education community.
- Align the CCEC committee members within the four developmental themes of early learning, foundations, independence and pathways supported by the performance and research processes team and the communications and marketing team.
- Develop broader understanding of the steps to success and begin to see measurable improvements aligned with the respective developmental themes.
- Develop a process for assessing effectiveness and needs identification aligned with student success indicators to form appropriate strategies for improvement.
- Sustain and enhance communication among all of the partnering entities through continued implementation of deliberate structures and focused networks.
- Expand the summit to include a segment for review of best practices based on student performance results to highlight efforts within the west Georgia region.
- Develop an accurate measurement process for assessing the regional percentage of employed, enlisted or enrolled individuals as our key indicator of success.

PROJECTED 2018-2019 GOALS
- Develop and support collaborative leadership efforts within the west Georgia region focused on student success.
- Improve vertical and horizontal instructional alignments to include economics thinking coupled with work skills preparedness to help make soft skills training a collective community priority.
- Develop a sustainable operational structure for a collaborative P-16 approach supported by measured progress for improvement within each county of the regional network.
- Continue to build on best practices to be a regional opportunity for professional development aligned with performance results.

At the heart of CCEC efforts rests the belief that while talent and intellectual capacity exists throughout area school systems and post-secondary institutions, opportunities to apply those may not. We are engaging as educators and community partners to provide those opportunities.

DR. KYLE MARRERO
President, University of West Georgia

The 2017 CCEC Annual Report provides a sample, both quantitatively and qualitatively, of student centered community efforts aimed at closing access and support gaps for all students.

Performance, data, and conversations associated with these measures, help to tell our story. Regional student achievement measures are used to provide comparative benchmarking points for our partnering K-12 communities to assist in improvement efforts.
The Carroll County Fert Foundation provides books for children under the age of 5. This group currently raises approximately $100,000/year to provide books to our families that are developmentally appropriate. Opportunities exist to conduct research studies focused on student performance impact using the steps to success measures.

Early intervention speech therapy is currently provided through a partnership with University of West Georgia (UWG), West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) Murphy Campus and the Alice Huffard Richards grant award.

Dr. Laura Smith of UWG is coordinating our early learning cross entity networks and serves as the contact person for any partnering agencies. She also leads the Comprehensive Community Clinic (CCC) which provides summer enrichment camps for youth and services throughout the year.

Relationships have been formed with the chief state health officer, Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, and she delivered an in-depth presentation on early brain development to the full Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative (CCEC) Committee at the October 2016 meeting hosted by UWG.

A commitment to be a Get Georgia Reading community was established and partnering efforts with this statewide organization are under way. The Carroll County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation officially naming Carroll County as a Get Georgia Reading Community.

Arianne Weldon, director of Get Georgia Reading is scheduled to engage with our Carroll County team of Dr. Laura Smith and Dr. Melanie McClellan of UWG and Kim Jones of the Community Foundation of West Georgia in facilitating the early learning choice session at the 2017 summit.

Mindy Binderman of Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) is presenting an engaging session on literacy development as part of our focused content sessions included during the early learning choice session at this year’s summit.

TCSG Instructor of the year, Dr. Angela Brown will help facilitate the early learning choice session at this year’s summit. Dr. Brown brings years of practical experience of developing early childhood teachers to the conversation.

Partnering efforts with Tanner Medical Center are under design between the P-16 educational entities and appropriate medical staff with direct contact and support for new mothers. Planning sessions took place among appropriate representatives of the educational entities and officials from the Health Department and WIC. The Talk With Me Baby program is being implemented through both the healthcare and education communities.
• Materials and talking points are being created to share with various day care providers through personal on-site visits by representatives of the CCEC. These visits are scheduled to begin November 2017 and a resource journal will be developed during the process. Daycare providers can include those provided in faith-based organizations as well as the for profit sector.

• Midway Church donated $32,000 to childhood literacy programs in the west Georgia region. Recipients included the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy, Bremen, Carrollton, Carroll County, Douglas County, Haralson County, Heard County, and Paulding County school systems. Each received a sum of $4,000 for their efforts towards childhood literacy and early learning.

Our west Georgia regional benchmark in third-grade literacy (nine county reference area) is currently 34 percent at or above grade level (Governor’s Office of Student Accountability). This measure is slightly higher than the state but provides a call to action for our efforts.
• The Marine Corps League provides dictionaries to third-grade students in various elementary schools.

• The Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has the West Point Lake Floating Classroom program available for students in elementary through high school.

• STEM acceleration opportunities are currently offered through Georgia Youth Science and Technology Consortium (GYSTC) summer camps. Expansion of these camps is planned to include West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) campuses in Waco and Carroll County.

• Dr. Jill Drake of the University of West Georgia (UWG) provided an engaging presentation on Foundations in Mathematics: Promoting Good Beginnings. Dr. Drake also shared a math sequencing resource that illustrated developmental preparation in mathematics from kindergarten through undergraduate school.

• Ms. Carrie Carmack of UWG provided an engaging presentation on Increasing Student Success with Intervention Tutoring delivered through a growth mindset. She will provide a focused content session at the 2017 summit that further explores effective intervention strategies as well as assist networking with our K-12 mathematics instructors.

• Approximately 20 guest teachers attended the CCEC foundations winter meeting in January 2017 and began discussions of developing a cross entity network among our mathematics instructors.

• The UWG College of Education is actively engaged in conversations related to the development of a P-16 strategic design for tutoring in the region. Pilots of this effort may be in place as early as next year.

• State efforts are currently underway to support and promote literacy development through establishing on grade level by end of third-grade as a common performance goal. Communities and districts throughout the state are exploring collaborative approaches to this challenge that are consistent with the CCEC.

• Cathy Fontenot of the GYSTC is working closely with Southwire and the K-12 systems to promote the STEM Expo scheduled for August 2017.

Our west Georgia regional benchmark in algebra readiness seventh-grade mathematics (nine county reference area) is currently 43 percent at proficient or exceeds (GOSA). We anticipate continued conversation and strategy development to occur across entities during the summit and throughout the 2017-2018 school year, building on the many initiatives involving literacy, numeracy, STEM and STEAM, and other foundational efforts.
The Third Annual Eighth-Grade Career Expo was held for 1,520 students on March 17 and March 24, respectively on the campuses of UWG and WGTC. Expanded training for the school counselors as well as post-event activities were strategic improvements for this year. Student ambassadors representing UWG and WGTC volunteered at their partner institutions, as did more than 50 adult volunteers from the community. Plans and discussions are taking place to make this a cornerstone event in the process of preparing our students for high school and to serve as a catalyst for the process of personal plans.

Communities in Schools (CIS) has expanded from two site coordinators to seven site coordinators with service extended to all high schools and one middle school in the county. Cynthia Langley, executive director of CIS has developed the Carroll County program to be a service provider model for the state.

Customized mentoring programs are in place at several middle and high schools such as the Carroll County Juvenile Courts sponsored Girls on Good Ground and the Girl Power programs implemented at Bay Springs and Villa Rica middle schools.

The Mentor Village is establishing nationally supported guidelines for credentialing processes to support the placement of certified mentors in the middle and high schools. Other mentor services providers will have the opportunity to utilize the services of Mentor Village contingent on alignment agreements. Cathy Robinson, executive director of Mentor Village, is actively involved in the Georgia Mentoring Partnering Network which is also affiliated with the National Mentoring Partnership Network. Brad Bryant and Tyler Thigpen of these networks are hosting a session at this year’s summit.

Carroll chamber sponsors the Carroll Junior Chamber, which is a leadership development program for selected high school students with personal success skills and community service networking components.

Dr. Jane McCandless, dean of the College of Social Sciences, and Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre presented to the CCEC and invited guests at the spring meeting on the psychology and sociology affecting the learner during the developmental phase of independence.

Dr. Dianne Hoff, dean of the College of Education, is facilitating, with selected faculty members, the development of a peer tutor training summer institute.

West Georgia Technical College partners with University of West Georgia and area high school counselors to provide Move on When Ready parent and student night presentations.

West Georgia Technical College partners with programs such as West in 30, the Comprehensive Community Clinic, STEM camps, the Carroll County Workforce Education Task Force, as well as promoting the economic teacher workshops for the Center for Economic Education.

Established a cross sector design team to formulate a personal plan process to support students in the transition from independence to pathways.
Our west Georgia regional benchmark in the area of personal plans is currently in the design phase. Practices are in place to assist students with high school four-year plans, career pathways selection and articulation from middle school. The process of developing personal plans is a focus and action item as we enter the 2017-2018 school year.
Both Carroll County Schools and Carrollton City Schools increased high school graduation rates in 2017.

The University of West Georgia (UWG) divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs have listed Complete College Georgia (CCG) as a shared area of focus. West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) has also developed comprehensive action plans for CCG as well.

The SPARK mentoring program housed at UWG assists students through a referral process to complete high school and make a positive transition to post-secondary opportunities. Dr. Tom Peterson, director of the program, provided one of our choice sessions at this year’s summit.

The Southwire/Carroll County Schools 12 for Life program is nationally recognized as a premier dropout prevention and workforce development program.

The Community Foundation of West Georgia (CFWG) supports the Carroll County Communities in Schools (CIS) as well as local mentoring programs in both Heard and Haralson counties.

Structured tutoring assistance is being established between UWG students through the division of Student Affairs as well as through classroom volunteerism requirements through various colleges and departments.

Jill Duncan, an original Workforce Development Taskforce member, is researching effective opportunities for student internships to possibly implement in a pilot phase for the 2017-2018 school year.

West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) offers on-site Move on When Ready (MOWR) courses at the local high schools, and the University of West Georgia offers on-campus courses for MOWR students. Both institutions have collaborated in creating a MOWR course selection document to make the selection process more seamless for qualifying high school students to enroll in the program.

eCore offers online MOWR courses with the most MOWR students originating from Carroll County (183) and Coweta County (158).

Gretchen Corbin, Technical College System of Georgia, Commissioner, spoke at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce membership breakfast, citing collaboration between partners, local businesses, and educational entities as a key to successful workforce development in Carroll County.

West Georgia Technical College expanded its GED-to-college program from four to 100. The programs include majority of the college’s certificate and diploma classes.

The University of West Georgia and West Georgia Technical College collaborated to create the West in 30 program. This program allows high school students who were not accepted into UWG to enroll in WGTC, earn 30 credit hours with a 2.5 GPA, and then transfer to UWG.
• West Georgia Technical College has developed and offers an associate degree in psychology which is also available to Move on When Ready students.

• The Fusion Center of UWG supports STEM education, innovations, and international programs for the College of Education and is a collaboration with the College of Science and Mathematics. The center also houses the UTeach program, a nationally acclaimed program used for preparing STEM teachers and is a point of outreach to schools and students in the region, providing workshops for teachers and exciting summer projects and competitions for students.

• West Georgia Technical College has partnered with E.G.O. along side Central Education Center, and the German-American Chamber of Commerce of the South to develop an apprenticeship system modeled on the German dual system. This helps aid students in discovering a meaningful career path as well as helping manufacturers in finding well-trained skilled technicians.

• Carroll Tomorrow’s Donna Armstrong-Lackey, is the county-appointed representative on the Three Rivers Workforce Development Board which, in cooperation with the state of Georgia and West Georgia Technical College, is expanding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program to better serve the job training and placement needs of out-of-school youth ages 16-24.

Our west Georgia regional benchmark in the area of employed, enlisted or enrolled spans across several data points in varying agencies. Our current regional academic attainment level is approximately 30 percent (Lumina Foundation based on 2014 data) and reflects the number of individuals between the ages of 25 - 64 who hold at least an associate degree. This rate is approximately 8 percentage points below the state percentage and does not include work based certifications. Our regional post-secondary enrollment rate is approximately 68 percent. Efforts are underway to provide comprehensive information to reflect the region’s degree, industry certificates and military readiness numbers that would mark progress towards increased attainment after high school.
DR. STEVE WRIGLEY

Chancellor, University System of Georgia

The Board of Regents named Dr. Steve Wrigley the 13th chancellor of the University System of Georgia effective January 1, 2017. He oversees 28 public colleges and universities with a $8.4 billion annual budget, more than 48,000 faculty and staff, and 320,000 students. The Georgia Public Library System and the Georgia Archives are also part of the University System. He currently serves on the Alliance of Education Agency Heads and is a member of the board of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. In the past, he served on the boards of the Nature Conservancy of Georgia and the Georgia Humanities Council.

Prior to becoming chancellor, Dr. Wrigley served as executive vice chancellor of administration for the University System of Georgia from June 2011 until his appointment as Chancellor. As executive vice chancellor of administration, Wrigley oversaw the day-to-day operations of the System’s budget, facilities, Information Technology Services, human resources, legal affairs and strategic planning units.

Wrigley formerly served as senior vice president for external affairs, as well as vice president for government relations, at the University of Georgia. He also served as Director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Prior to his work in the University System, Wrigley worked in state government in Georgia, including five years as chief of staff to former Governor Zell Miller.

During his career, Wrigley has worked on a number of key issues, including the creation of the state lottery and the HOPE scholarship, along with campus consolidations within the University System of Georgia.

Wrigley earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University and his doctorate in history from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

He and his wife, Lynne, have two children and reside in Clarke County.
Gretchen Corbin was sworn in as commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) in January 2015 by Governor Nathan Deal. She oversees the state’s 22 technical colleges, adult literacy programs, and a host of economic and workforce development programs, including Georgia Quick Start, the nation’s number one workforce training program.

As an avid supporter of Georgia’s economic success and passionate enthusiast for a highly educated, skilled and motivated workforce, Commissioner Corbin serves the mission and the 244,000 students of the Technical College System of Georgia by leading its divisions in a multi-faceted approach to meet the economic needs of the state. She is committed to meeting the goals of Complete College Georgia while building the system’s reputation as the state’s primary resource for workforce development.

Commissioner Corbin joined TCSG from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), where she also served as commissioner as well as executive director of the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority. At DCA, she oversaw 65 programs and was responsible for more than $71 million in investment in Georgia communities. Previously she served 15 years at the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), holding a variety of roles leading economic development teams at global, statewide, regional and local levels. During her time as deputy commissioner for Global Commerce, GDEcD brought nearly 69,000 jobs and over $13 billion in capital investment to Georgia.

With her leadership experience at these agencies, Commissioner Corbin has a unique understanding of the way education and business must join together to ensure that Georgia has a globally competitive workforce. Global giants like Baxalta (formerly Baxter), Caterpillar, and Gulfstream are just some of the hundreds of companies she continues to help grow in Georgia through providing the workforce development and training assets of the technical colleges.

During her tenure, TCSG has seen numerous advances, including an influx of dual enrollment students thanks to new legislation; new options for GED® completion and transcript acquisition; a new tax credit program for employers who encourage GED completion, the opening of the Georgia BioScience Training Center and other new facilities, and a new mobile app that will facilitate college registration.

Corbin is a native Georgian and is involved in a number of professional and civic organizations, including Leadership Georgia, where she has served as president and chairman. She is a member of the Georgia Tech Manufacturing Institute External Advisory Board, the University of Georgia’s Board of Visitors, and the Fanning Institute board of directors. She is also a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow and has been named the last three years as one of Georgia Trend magazine’s 100 most influential Georgians.

She, her husband David, and their two daughters reside in Rome, Georgia.
EARLY LEARNING

Participants in this session will have the opportunity to learn with Ms. Arianne Weldon (Get Georgia Reading), Ms. Mindy Binderman of Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) and Ms. Kimberly Stringer Ross (Early Brain Development and Language Acquisition, Georgia Department of Public Health). A focus on community network strategies involving various sectors is a key emphasis for this session. Attendees will also network for the purpose of implementing action plans focused on the age range from birth to 5. Carroll County data will be utilized to form the specific plans; however, the process and action steps may be transferable to other communities.

FACILITATORS: DR. LAURA SMITH, DR. MELANIE MCCLELLAN, DR. ANGELA BROWN

FOUNDATIONS

Participants in this session will learn essential sequencing of content in literacy and numeracy that equips students for increased academic choices and post-secondary opportunities. Child development aligned with instructional practices such as inquiry-based learning will also be discussed. Experts in the field include Ms. Carrie Carmack, Dr. Natasha Ramsay-Jordan, Dr. Angela Insenga and Dr. Rebecca Harrison (University of West Georgia). Data analysis of regional performance will be provided and attendees will have opportunities to engage in conversations in direct response to the data. Student support experts in the areas of acceleration and tutoring will also participate as an integral component. Networking and vertical conversations will be part of this engaging session.

FACILITATORS: MR. JARED GRIFFIS, MR. ROBERT CURRY
INDEPENDENCE
Participants in this session will engage with thought leaders regarding the personal, emotional, and social factors that impact the transition from dependency to independence to have an effect on the academic preparation necessary for successful pathways. Dean Jane McCandless and Dr. Kathy Skott-Myhre (College of Social Sciences, University of West Georgia) will provide research and guidance through expert discussions. Dr. Brian Mosier (UWG), Ms. Christi Kay (HealthMPowers) and Ms. Debra Kibbe (Georgia State University) are also expected to share and discuss state and regional data related to personal health and well being. Participants will contribute to the discussion and activities developing operational definitions of Independence and personal plans that are process based to support each individual student. Various leaders from the community directly involved with mentoring services will facilitate conversations related to credentialing and implementation. This session is an excellent preview for the mentoring network session on July 20.

FACILITATORS: MS. DONNA LACKEY, MS. JILL DUNCAN, MS. MARVIA MIRANDA, MR. G.W. ROGERS

PATHWAYS
Participants in this session will examine key factors that prepare students to be enrolled, enlisted or employed upon graduation from high school. Discussion topics for this session include: STEM pathways, Move on When Ready, eCore and early credit pathways, military service preparedness, Georgia apprenticeships, and community-based mentoring for at-risk young adults (SPARK). Our expert panel for this session includes Dean Lok Lew Yan Voon (UWG College of Science and Mathematics), Ms. Kim Holder (Center for Economic Education) and Mr. Kenny Adkins (TCSG). Also participating and providing informative networking sessions include April Wood, Danny Gourley, Randy Blackman, Karen Lingrell and Tom Peterson from UWG and Michelle Davies from the Georgia Department of Labor.

FACILITATORS: DR. JEANNOTTE DIAZ, DR. JULIAN SCHMOKE
Our community, as do so many other communities in Georgia and the nation, face challenges that are non-academic when supporting students and families. Every student benefits from positive role models and mentors. Our hope with the Georgia Mentoring Network session is for participants to gain valuable insights from the research that has been accomplished in this area as well as make connections with like minded individuals who provide quality mentoring to students.

MENTOR GEORGIA: THE GEORGIA MENTORING PARTNERSHIP
Cynthia Langley, executive director for Carroll County Communities in Schools will facilitate an engaging session on community based mentoring. Mr. Brad Bryant (Georgia Student Finance Commission) and Dr. Tyler Thigpen (Transcend) will provide key findings from the recently published 2017 Youth Mentoring in Georgia Report. Along with a review of the publication, challenges and success stories will be examined with the intent to further develop Georgia’s mentoring network. This session will also provide networking opportunities for mentor services providers, mentors and program directors.

Georgia is the number one state in the nation for developing and supporting businesses. This session takes the priority of making Georgia business-friendly to the regional and local level. Our goal is for participants to gain deeper insights into the process of economic development, while also looking toward the future for our region.

THE WHAT, WHERE AND HOW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Andy Camp, vice president of economic development for Carroll Tomorrow, will lead a expert panel discussion on current economic development trends and future sites for development in the west Georgia region. The group also will discuss critical steps in the economic development process. Experts serving on the panel include Mr. Jamie Jordan (executive director of Governor Deal’s High Demand Career Initiative), Ms. Carrie Barnes (Georgia EMC) and Dr. Joey Smith (department chair of Economics at UWG’s Richards College of Business).
WITH SPECIAL THANKS

2017 SUMMIT PLANNING TEAM
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey Carroll Tomorrow
Dr. Jeannette Diaz University of West Georgia
Ms. Jill Duncan State Farm Insurance
Mr. Kelly Edwards Central High School
Ms. Karen Hartley Carroll County Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy
Ms. Kim Holder University of West Georgia
Mr. Jared Griffis Central High School
Ms. Kim Jones Community Foundation of West Georgia
Dr. Melanie McClellan University of West Georgia
Ms. Marvia Miranda Oak Mountain Academy
Mr. G.W. Rogers West Georgia Technical College
Ms. April Saunders University of West Georgia
Dr. Julian Schmoke West Georgia Technical College
Dr. Joey Smith University of West Georgia
Ms. April Wood University of West Georgia
Ms. Amanda Wright University of West Georgia

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What matters for us — and what is genuinely important in the vital effort to meet the nation’s need for talent — isn’t so much the credential itself. What matters is the learning inherent in that credential: the knowledge, skills and abilities a student has developed while earning it.

JAMES MERISOTIS
President and CEO, Lumina Foundation

We work together for student success.
We connect talent and opportunities.
We build our future workforce.