



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT





*“When we strive to become better than we are,
everything around us becomes better, too.”*

Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KELLY

Members of the University of West Georgia Community,

I am pleased to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the University of West Georgia President's Report. Within the pages of this Fall 2022 report, you will learn about outcomes realized across our enterprise over the past year to move the needle in service to students, industry, and our communities. There are so many outcomes to celebrate, in fact, that what is shared in this report is a non-exhaustive account of the fantastic work taking place in and around the University of West Georgia.

All our institutional efforts are focused on the commitment stated in our Becoming UWG Strategic Plan (see pages 10-11): ***we dedicate ourselves to the curation of a first-choice university.*** When students enroll at UWG, they hire us to provide them with a university experience that fills their toolboxes in multiple dimensions, including (but not limited to) academically, socially, physically, emotionally, and professionally. These experiences, knowledge, skills, and abilities are what they need to be competitive for and fulfilled by what comes next in their lives, and they expect a healthy return on their investment.

To remain relevant and competitive in the 21st century (particularly in the challenging marketplace of higher education), we have to deliver on the promise of higher education every single day. We do this by serving as a proactive point of connection among our students and the industries, organizations, and communities that are hungry for their talent, ingenuity, and expertise.

Over the past year, we have planted many seeds and celebrated as many have already borne fruit. You'll find evidence of this work – and how our focus on outcomes is driving us where we need to go – throughout the pages that follow. Thank you for your commitment to the University of West Georgia. Go West, and Go Wolves!

Sincerely,



Brendan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
President
University of West Georgia



ABOUT UWG

Since 1906, the University of West Georgia has been home to those who are eager to embrace opportunities and define their own paths. Today, UWG is a regional powerhouse with campuses in Carrollton, Newnan, and Douglasville, Georgia, making a difference in the lives of our students, our neighbors, and our world.

UWG curates a first-choice experience for students across Georgia, 32 other states, and 63 other countries. Continually recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a top national university, the institution provides a high-quality, affordable college experience that transforms lives by launching students' careers before they graduate.

The one thing that's never changed since 1906: amazing things happen when you Go West.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAST FACTS

#1 ONLINE MBA AND NURSING GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

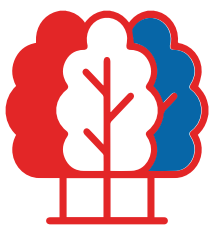
2022 BEST COLLEGE: REGION BY REGION - SOUTHEASTERN BY THE PRINCETON REVIEW

#2 IN SOCIAL MOBILITY IN GEORGIA BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (AND #41 IN THE NATION)



73,000+ ALUMNI
FROM ALL 50 STATES AND 20 COUNTRIES

\$627 MILLION
IN ECONOMIC IMPACT ANNUALLY



645+
ACRES ON UWG'S THREE CAMPUSES IN CARROLLTON, NEWNAN, AND DOUGLASVILLE



3,048
DEGREES CONFERRED IN 2021-22
130+
UNDERGRADUATE, MASTER'S, SPECIALIST, & DOCTORAL PROGRAMS AND CONCENTRATIONS



26
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
16:1
STUDENT-PROFESSOR RATIO (UNDERGRADUATE)



12,718
TOTAL ENROLLMENT (FALL 2021)



\$4M+
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ANNUALLY



14
DIVISION II NCAA TEAMS IN GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

28
UCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CHEERLEADING

VARSITY
ESPORTS TEAM IN PEACH BELT CONFERENCE

BECOMING UWG STRATEGIC PLAN



Drawing upon the university's 116-year history and the input and feedback of more than 1,300 students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters, community members, and other stakeholders, the University of West Georgia launched its Strategic Plan for 2021-26 – ***Becoming UWG*** – last year.

The plan presents a bold vision for UWG, with numerous objectives that fall under one of its three strategic priorities of relevance, competitiveness, and placemaking.



Since its launch, UWG has operationalized the strategic plan in several key areas:

- Initiatives to seamlessly integrate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion – as well as wellness – into all institutional actions (pages 14-15)
- A strengthened sense of belonging and connectedness among all members of the university community (pages 18-19)
- Enhanced professional learning opportunities for students to launch their careers upon graduation – if not before (pages 20-21).



NEW LEADERS, FRESH PERSPECTIVES



During the 2021-22 academic year, UWG brought on board numerous key leaders to advance the institution forward in service to students and the Becoming UWG strategic plan. Each of these leaders brings a wealth of experience, insightful perspective, and a positive mindset to their roles.

A non-exhaustive, alphabetical list of faculty and staff who have been Welcomed West this year – or who have served the university for some time but have stepped into new roles of leadership – is provided below.

- Dr. Ralitsa Akins, *Vice Provost*
- Kristy Burton, *Head Coach of UWG Softball*
- Colton Campbell, *Director of Internal Communications and Strategic Initiatives*
- Samantha Lapier Dennis, *Director of Inclusion and Chief Inclusion Officer*
- Dr. Mike Dishman, *Dean of the College of Education*
- Kara Hellmann, *Head Coach of Volleyball*
- Dr. Daryush Ila, *Vice President for Innovation and Research*
- Dr. Christopher Johnson, *Dean of the Richards College of Business*
- Jeremy McClelland, *Associate Vice President for Facilities Development and Sustainability*
- Scott McElroy, *Vice President for Business and Financial Services and Chief Business Officer*
- Cassidy Nelson, *Director of Housing and Residence Life*
- Sarah Powell, *Director of Government and External Relations*
- Joanna Reitz, *Head Coach of Women's Basketball*
- Kimberly Scranage, *Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management*
- Bridgette Stewart, *Chief Wellness Officer*
- April Wood, *Executive Director of the Center for Student Involvement and Inclusion*
- Amanda Wright, *Director of Public Service and Outreach*

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

The Becoming UWG Strategic Plan charges us with intentionally cultivating a safe, inviting environment that seamlessly integrates diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in all institutional actions. This is a key piece in UWG emerging from the transformational challenges of the changing landscape of higher education as a stronger, richer institution.

WE SEE YOU BECAUSE WE ARE YOU

- Seamless Integration Team Established
- We Stand Together March Led by Student-Athletic Advisory Committee
- DEI Resources Framework Established Online: westga.edu/diversity
- Samantha Lapier Dennis Named Director of Inclusion and Chief Inclusion Officer

ENHANCING WELLNESS OUTCOMES

As we have certainly learned over the past two years, wellness is the glue that holds our lives and communities together. As part of the Becoming UWG Strategic Plan's priority of competitiveness, the university has connected the dots between a wide variety of resources both within the university and outside of it to advance wellness outcomes for everyone.

BE WELL

- Center for Integrative Wellness Launched
- Bridgette Stewart Named Inaugural Chief Wellness Officer (A First for the University System of Georgia)
- UWG Counseling Center Expanded Training Opportunities in Mental Health First Aid, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)
- 14 Mental Health First Aid Instructors Certified
- Amy Swingle Named Director of University Recreation
- Ambrose "Joey" Moncayo Named Director of Campus Dining
- UWG to Launch Master's Degree in Integrative Health and Wellness in 2023
- Integrative Wellness Framework Established Online: westga.edu/wellness
- UWG Staff Members Appointed to City of Carrollton's Joint Task Force on Mental Health Resources
- Tailored Video Messaging through the SharpenMinds App
- Grant Submission to Health Resources and Services Administration for Community Health Worker Training Program
- Howl Against Hunger: UWG's Response to Food Insecurity

CURATING RELEVANCE INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The landscape of higher education is undergoing transformative change, and regional comprehensive universities like UWG are poised to emerge more relevant and competitive by proactively responding to the needs and expectations of students, communities, and industries. Through academic programs that engage students in 21st-century learning experiences built to launch their careers before graduation, UWG is guiding the waves of change locally and across the state.

INTELLECTUAL ENGINE

- **Two Regents' Teaching Excellence Awards**
 - » Dr. Jeannie Pridmore – Felton Jenkins Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award
 - » Department of Student Success – Regents' Momentum Year Award for Excellence in Advising and Student Success
- Online Graduate Programs in Business and Nursing Named Best in Georgia by U.S. News & World Report
- Ribbon Cut on Roy Richards Sr. Hall, New Home for the Richards College of Business
- **New Degree Programs Launched**
 - » Bachelor's Degree in Computing
 - » Master's Degree in Digital and Social Media Communication
 - » Master's Degree in Integrative Health and Wellness
 - » Computer Science Endorsement for K-12 Educators
- Dr. Danilo Baylen Earned Fulbright Scholarship to Travel to Philippines in 2023
- Management Information Systems Lab in Richards College of Business Approved as an SAP Next-Gen Lab

FOSTERING BELONGING AND CONNECTEDNESS FOR ALL

Relevance must be curated outside the classroom, as well. Finding new, innovative ways to foster a sense of belonging and connectedness for everyone at UWG – particularly our students – is critical to curating a first-choice institution. Initiatives to intentionally nurture relationships and bonds among all members of the university community demonstrate the difference between being welcomed to something and being *part of something*.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU



“Wolfie Finds His Howl,” Inaugural UWG Children’s Book, Released



Homecoming Was Back – and Better Than Ever



Celebrate West 2022 – Employee Recognition and Appreciation Day



Student Solutions Team in Momentum Center Continued Work to Curate a Seamless University Experience



#WestGorgeous Initiative Launched to Embrace Rigorous Aesthetic Standard On-Campus



Student Unable to Attend Fall 2021 Commencement Graduated via Telepresence Robot

Suite of Cost-Saving Incentives:

- In-State Tuition for Bordering States
- Elimination of Special Institution Fee
- Tuition Remaining Same for 2022-23

CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING

Students attend UWG so they can fill their toolboxes in a variety of dimensions – knowledge, skills, and abilities – to launch their careers before graduation. Through professional learning opportunities that are aligned with industry demand, UWG grants its students a competitive advantage in positioning themselves for success in the marketplace.

POPULATE THE PIPELINE

- Handshake App Brought to Students by Office of Career and Graduate School Connections
- Sarah Grace Rogers '21 Named UWG's Academic Recognition Day Scholar
 - » Sarah Excavated 11th-Century Cemetery in Poland as Part of Her Anthropology Curriculum
- 72% of Local Teachers of the Year for 2021-22 Were UWG Alumni
- Three Students Developed a 3D Model of a Helicopter Landed at University Stadium by Aviation Pro Lance Toland '74
- Amanda Lucey '06, CEO and Owner of The Partnership, Established Collaborative Effort with bluestone, UWG's Student-Led PR Firm
- Art Students Ariana Culver and Trinity Dendy Created New Sculpture and Mural for UWG Newnan
- Student-Led UWG Productions Founded to Deliver Live Broadcasts of Athletic and Signature Events



ADVANCING ESPORTS

Much like their counterparts in UWG Athletics, students who participate in Esports at UWG can find belonging and connectedness in a program that is supportive, inclusive, and competitive. Over the past year, we have doubled down on intentionally nurturing our existing Esports offerings and creating new ones to fill the demand of a billion-dollar industry that continues to grow in both its revenue and the number of opportunities it can provide our students after graduation.

LEVELING UP

- Varsity Esports Team Launches Inaugural Season
- Joseph Lee Named Esports Coach
- Esports Team Joined Peach Belt Conference and Competed in Conference Championship
- New Space Created in the Education Center
- Partnered with Atlanta Hawks for Tours of State Farm Arena and Events Like Careers Beyond the Console
- The Coliseum Hosted Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Georgia High School Association Esports State Championships



GAME ON

- Living-Learning Community in Housing and Residence Life and African American Gamers United Club Established
- Academic Courses in Sport Management and Interdisciplinary Studies Implemented
- **UWG Wolves Esports Brand Developed**
 - » Merchandise Available in UWG Outfitters / the UWG Bookstore



DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

To curate a first-choice university and meet the talent pipeline needs of industries in the 21st century, UWG invests in building upon and strengthening our connectivity with external partners as well as our sister institutions in higher education. This work fosters strong partnerships and goodwill in the communities we serve and advances our university's mission to launch students' careers before they graduate.

SISTERLY LOVE

- Transfer Credit Agreement Signed with West Georgia Technical College
- Supports Joint Advising and Concierge-Level Support for WGTC Students and Alumni to Seamlessly Go West
- Partnership with Georgia Highlands College to Support Students Affected by Closure of GHC's Douglasville Campus
- Educational Partnership Agreement Signed with Dalton State College for Business Students
- Pathway Established for Georgia Highlands College Psychology Students to Earn Bachelor's Degree at UWG



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

- Stone Center for Family Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Established
- Launch of Atelier Art Project
- The Vault Gallery at the Wadsworth Auditorium in Newnan
- Partnership with Comcast Xfinity to Enhance Wi-Fi in Residence Halls
- Established First-of-Its-Kind Partnership with College Park Skyhawks and Hawks Talon Gaming
- The Placemakers Initiative Launched to Strengthen UWG's Brand and Place in Community
- UWG Selected as Second Chance Pell Grant Experiment Site
- Partnered with Community Action for Improvement's Head Start Program to Offer 3-Year-old Class in Early Learning Center
- "More Than a Trail: Exploring the GreenBelt" Art Collection Unveiled in Ingram Library
- \$3.3 Million Awarded in Grants and Sponsored Projects – An Increase of 204% Over the Previous Year



UWG ATHLETICS

UWG is proud to be Home of the Wolves. Fielding 16 sports teams, UWG offers programs in football and men's and women's basketball as well as in baseball, softball, golf, Esports, and more. We also boast one of the most decorated cheerleading programs in the nation, having earned 28 national championships since 2001. See how We Run Together at uwgathletics.com.

COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE

28th National Championship for
UWG Cheerleading



20 UWG Cheerleaders Represented Nation
as Part of Team USA at International Cheer
Union World Championships

- Brought Home Silver Medal for U.S.

UWG Football Earned Spot in NCAA
Division II Postseason for Third Time
Under Coach David Dean



Men's Golfer Austin Fulton Advanced
to NCAA Division II National
Championship – An Institutional First

- Named an All-American and in
the Top 25 DII Golfers in U.S.

Brandi Boddy Named Field Athlete of
the Year by Gulf South Conference

- Finished in No Less than Second
Place in Seven of Eight Meets
- Serves as Officer in UWG Police
Department



Three Former Wolves Now in NFL
Returned to Campus for the Spring
2022 Football Game



ALUMNI AND GIVING

UWG's foundations and the UWG Alumni Association, alongside staff in University Advancement, build lasting relationships with alumni, supporters, and friends who invest their time, talents, and treasure with UWG. The UWG Foundation supports UWG in providing access to excellent higher education experiences by attracting and involving leaders from among the university's alumni and friends in this endeavor.

A gift to the UWG Foundation provides much-needed scholarships, helps us recruit and retain well-qualified faculty and staff, expands student research and travel opportunities, and improves the holistic university experience we provide. To learn more about how you can support UWG, visit westga.edu/give.

UWG ALUMNI CURATE A TRADITION OF PHILANTHROPY

- Michael '17 and Andrea Stone '78 Student Innovation Lounge Opened in Roy Richards Sr. Hall
- Wanda '79 '93 '97 and Grant '79 McGukin Endowed Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students
- Dr. Nancy Irwin '77 Breathed New Life into UWG Opera Workshop Scholarship
- Zachary Rogers '99 '07 and Sara Wofford '07 '08 Established Scholarships for Business Students to Study Abroad
- Christa Pitts '97 Established Endowment to Support Programming in the Stone Center for Family Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation
- The Family of the Late Michael Steed – Including Zach Steed '89 – Created an Endowment in Michael's Name for UWG's Townsend Center for the Performing Arts
- Dr. Rick Martin '73 and His Family Established Scholarship for Student Interested in Medical Career
- Alumni of the United Voices Gospel Choir Endowed Scholarship to Support Choir's Current Students
- Amanda Lucey '06, CEO and Owner of The Partnership, Established Collaborative Effort with bluestone, UWG's Student-Led PR Firm



PLANTING THE SEED

- **Record-Breaking A Day to Give West Campaign in 2021**
 - » More Than \$1.14 Million Raised
 - » 40th Annual A Day Campaign Kicked Off in Summer 2022
 - » A Day Scheduled for October 20
 - » Make Your Gift Today at westga.edu/give/a-day
- 2022 Presidential Black Tie Gala – Celebrating UWG's Live Oaks and Live Impact – Raised a Record of More than \$153,000
- \$6.3 Million in Fundraising – Increase of 18.2% Over Previous Year
 - » 54% Increase in Number of Donors; 17% Increase in Number of Gifts; 17 Newly Established Endowed Funds

FRIENDS OF UWG GIVE BACK

- Dr. John Ferling Scholarship Fully Endowed by Local Chapter of Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution
- Memory of UWG Art Professor Henry Setter Honored by His Stepson, John Stenger, Through Scholarship for Sculpture Students
- Frazier Music Business Internship Scholarship Earned Two Wolves Invaluable Experience at Carrollton City Schools in 2021
- Professor Emeritus Dr. Joseph "Harrison" McCraw Jr. Committed Life Estate Donation for Students in Accounting and Finance



ENGAGE WITH US



@UWESTGA



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA



@UNIVWESTGA



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

WESTGA.EDU

ATTEND AN EVENT IN FALL 2022:

- » Homecoming 2022 – Saturday, Oct. 1
- » Hall of Fame Game vs. Valdosta State – Saturday, Oct. 22
- » Winter West Wonderland – November-December

See more at westga.edu/calendar

1601 Maple Street
Carrollton, GA 30118
678-839-5000

#UWG #GOWESTGOWOLVES

I am **DETERMINED.** I am **WEST.**

Find your direction at westga.edu/iamwest



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST GEORGIA

Nursing | Information Technology | Education | Business | Film & Video Production | And More

UWG ALMA MATER

In the western pines of Georgia, standing strong and true,
Our wise Alma Mater beckons to the Red and Blue.
Though you be in learning founded, youthful yet you be,
While thus guided by tradition yet you still breathe free.
Dear West Georgia, Dear West Georgia,
standing strong and true,
Our wise Alma Mater beckons to the Red and the Blue.



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