

June 2021

For more info, contact [ses@ggc.edu](mailto:ses@ggc.edu) or 678-407-5879

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## Message from the Vice President

### Extraordinary Summer Success During Challenging Times

As we celebrate the graduating class of 2021, we must remain steadfast in inspiring students, faculty and staff to stay engaged. Student Engagement and Success (SES) is actively planning enrichment experiences for students, faculty and staff. During the summer months, SES will focus on student success, with student persistence as the focal point.

As SES continues its listening sessions with campus partners and leaders across Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC), we are using quarters one and two to fine-tune our goals and services. SES leadership and staff are in constant communication to diminish misalignments between organizational culture and the deliverables that will add value exponentially in GGC 2.0. The SES team has worked diligently to identify the SES division goals below.

Goal 1: We will leverage course-based initiatives to educate students in academic success practices, and in so doing, close equity gaps, lower DWFI rates and increase persistence rates.

Goal 2: Through intrusive advising, tutoring and peer supplemental instruction, we will empower students to successfully engage support resources to address challenges and navigate their academic programs.

Goal 3: Using robust data analytics and planning strategies, we will support GGC faculty and staff in promoting equitable, inclusive student success programs and initiatives.

Goal 4: We will engage in collaborative partnerships across campus to discuss and analyze student success data towards effective decision-making and continual improvement.



Dr. Justin Jernigan and Dr. Michelle Rosemond

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## Campus Partnerships

Student Engagement and Success (SES) and its campus partners continue to create ways to improve student success and provide enrichment experiences for faculty and staff. This includes:

1. SES and the Center for Teaching and Excellence (CTE) – Dr. Michelle Rosemond, vice president for SES, Dr. Justin Jernigan, senior associate vice president for Student Success, and Juan Ren, senior institutional research analyst, presented at this year's CTE Summer Institute. Their presentation titled: "A Data Analytic Ecosystem," analyzed six years of data on student persistence.
2. SES and Student Affairs. Dr. Tomas Jimenez, senior associate vice president for Student Affairs, and Dr. Zachary Friedman, interim director of Counseling and Psychological Services, worked closely with the SES leadership team on the Jed Foundation (JED) campus Initiative. Dr. Rudy Jackson, director of co-curriculum assessment, and Dr. Austen Krill, research associate II, triangulated historical and current data into eight domains to illustrate the best practices for mental wellness at GGC.
3. SES, Business and Finance, and Housing teamed up to select furniture for GGC's living learning communities initiative. Chris Smith, director of Operations, provided valuable insight on options to update the buildings. Make sure you stop by this fall to see these upgrades.

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## Student Engagement and Success Leadership Team to Present at National Conferences

Several SES staff and faculty allies will present at two conferences during summer 2021.

Dr. Michelle Rosemond, vice president for Student Engagement and Success, Dr. Latanya Hammonds-Odie, associate professor of biology, and Juan Ren, senior institutional research analyst, will present a research poster at the Accelerating Systematic Change Network in June. The research poster is titled, "Moving beyond Access with a Data Collection Ecosystem to optimize Underrepresented Minority Student Persistence in STEM."

Rosemond also will present two research topics at the NASPA Virtual Assessment, Persistence, and Data Analytics Conference in June. The first presentation titled, "An Analytical Ecosystem to Drive First-Year Success at a Minority-Serving Institution," will include presenters Dr. Justin Jernigan, senior associate vice president for Student Success, and Juan Ren, senior institutional research analyst.

Rosemond partnered with members of the Carl Vinson Institute on her second NASPA research presentation, "Data-Informed Data Informing." Both presentations focus on student success and persistence.

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## Summer Preparatory Academic Resource Camps

Student Engagement and Success will offer several new Summer Preparatory Academic Resource Camps (SPARC) for summer 2021. The SPARC camps will consist of two hour-long sessions, with a half-hour devoted to social support.

The camp highlights integrative learning within one of the six academic focus areas associated with the Momentum Approach: business, education, health professions, humanities and arts, social sciences, and science, technology and math. The sessions also will provide further learning opportunities for students participating, consistent with GGC's Coordinated Care model, with a particular focus on those whose experiences during the pandemic have indicated they are most likely to benefit from additional summer support.

Dates and times for the SPARC camps are:

Monday, June 21, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (new students)

Wednesday, June 30, 1:30-4 p.m. (new students)

Monday, July 12, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (new students)

Wednesday, July 21, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (new students)

Wednesday, July 21, 12:30-3 p.m. (returning students)

Monday, July 26, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (new students)

Monday July 26, 12:30-3 p.m. (returning students)

GGC students may sign up for a SPARC camp session at [bit.ly/RegisterforSPARC](https://bit.ly/RegisterforSPARC) or contact [LearningCommunities@ggc.edu](mailto:LearningCommunities@ggc.edu) for assistance or more information.



## Academic Enhancement Center to Offer In-Person Tutoring

Beginning in the summer 2021 term, the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) will be open for in-person sessions 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Online tutoring will be available every day with evening and weekend sessions facilitated by our vendor.

All tutoring sessions must be pre-scheduled by calling the AEC's front desk. All appointments will begin at the top of the hour and last 45 minutes.

Instead of students waiting in the AEC for their sessions to start, they will be advised to wait in the hallway until called by one of the assistants. The assistant will help the students check in and seat them at one of the round tables in the AEC's open space. Once the tutoring session is over, students will be guided through the check-out process.



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## Institutional Research and Analytics

Institutional Research and Analytics (IRA) surveyed 769 students about their learning/hybrid experience. The data summary of the questions is provided below.

**How would you rate your experiences with learning in hybrid and/or online courses during fall 2020 and/or spring 2021?** *Data summary:* Approximately 75% of students rated their experience with hybrid and/or online learning as satisfactory, with a little over 40% of those students reporting that they were extremely satisfied.

**Overall, for fall 2021, which class format do you or would you prefer?** *Data summary:* When asked which class format students would prefer for fall 2021, 34% reported that they would like to complete all classwork online, 32% said that they would prefer a hybrid format, and 21% of students would like to return to the classroom setting full-time.

**What do you think is or might be the greatest benefit of returning to meet regularly in a classroom setting rather than completing coursework online?**

*Data summary:* Top four greatest benefits reported by students:

1. Increased communication and interaction with faculty
2. Improved learning experience
3. Increased structure and ability to focus
4. Sense of community and interaction with peers

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## Name Change for Mentoring and Advising Center

The Mentoring and Advising Center (MAC) is now the Student Success Advising Center. Please make a note of the new name. Kudos also go to Dr. DeAnna Jackson who has been promoted to director of the Student Success Advising Center.



**Dr. DeAnna Jackson, director of  
Student Success Advising Center**

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## SES Staff Highlight: Thomas “Buddy” Shay

Thomas “Buddy” Shay has been the writing coordinator at the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) since March 2018. Before joining GGC, he was an assistant professor of academic support and coordinator of the Individualized Learning Center at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has been involved with learning centers since 2003 when he was a consultant at a writing center while in graduate school.

In addition to tutoring and helping to manage the AEC, Shay writes fiction. He recently had his collection of short stories, *Brighton Under Siege*, accepted for publication by Olympia Publishers in London. It is a series of fantasy stories set against the backdrop of a city with early 20th-century technology. The collection follows the lives of nine men as they navigate life during wartime.



**Thomas “Buddy” Shay,  
writing coordinator for  
the AEC**