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Dr. Michelle Rosemond, vice president
for Student Engagement and Success

Message from the Vice President

Retention and Completion: Our Shared Priority

Retention and completion are a shared priority at GGC. For this reason, Student Engagement and Success (SES) has collected retention/completion templates from units across campus. Thank you to all units for your completed templates. Because of you, GGC is accomplishing this heavy lift together.

Our student success mission becomes easier to fulfill in our complex organization when we all cross-pollinate. It has been inspiring to gather multiple perspectives to create our student success pathways. Institutional Research and Analytics is combing through Banner for the various courses linked to high-impact practices. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government team, who are vital to our data strategy, create dashboards for the retention/completion goals. Our very own Business, Economic and Applied Research (BEAR) in the School of Business is conducting a Retention Study. The research has five goals, and the knowledge gained will increase our understanding beyond descriptive statistics. The study aims to determine which characteristics increase retention and completion. The volumes of data use regression analysis and advanced statistics for deeper understanding.

In the meantime, the Institutional Research and Analytics (IRA) team continues to share attributes and predictive analytics to optimize the student success practice. Please see the table below for an overview of the SES Retention Completion Goals that will enable GGC to focus student success efforts.

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For more info, contact ses@ggc.edu or 678-407-5879

SES Retention Completion Goals	GGC Units	Points of Contact In SES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide focused interventions for First Generation students 2. Provide focused interventions for GGC students who transfer in and who transfer out 3. Develop proactive strategies to lower equity gaps, retention and completion rates for at-risk, under-served student populations 4. Track success and retention rates in Learning Support Math and provide innovative interventions to support students to improve rates from baseline 5. Track success and retention rates in Learning Support English and provide innovative interventions to support students to improve rates from baseline 6. Increase the first year to sophomore retention rate by exploring and designing a robust First Year Ecosystem that tracks student experience outside of the classroom and DFW rates in key courses 7. Create new visualization tools designed for macro, meso and micro campus data users 8. Explore Completion Pathways and activities as part of the retention and completion strategy 	<p>Academic Affairs Advancement Business and Finance Human Resources Enrollment Management Student Affairs Student Engagement and Success</p>	<p>Sr. Associate Vice President / Dean of Student Success: Justin Jernigan jjerniga@ggc.edu</p> <p>Associate Dean for Student Success: Dr. Catherine Thomas cthomas30@ggc.edu</p> <p>Associate Dean for Advising Programs: Dr. Karen Jackson kjackson5@ggc.edu</p> <p>Director of the Student Success Advising Center: Dr. DeAnna Jackson djackso@ggc.edu</p> <p>Director of the Academic Enhancement Center: Dr. Jerome Lee jlee102@ggc.edu</p> <p>Undergraduate Education Coordinator: Mr. Marvin DeWitt mdewitt2@ggc.edu</p>

Student Engagement and Success welcomes your thoughts and questions. We can be reached at ses@ggc.edu. You may also direct your questions concerning a specific area to the point of contact listed in the table above. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Academic Enhancement Center Growth and Expansion

The Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) is pleased to welcome several new team members this spring.

- **Dr. Jerome Lee**, AEC director. Dr. Lee comes to GGC from the University of West Georgia, where he served as associate director of academic support.
- **Dr. Travis Henry**, full-time writing tutor. Dr. Henry most recently taught at Shiloh Middle School and UGA and has also taught English at international institutions.
- **Noah Atherstone**, peer math tutor; **Jordyn Hundley-Bailey**, peer writing tutor/PSI leader; **Minki Park**, peer math tutor. Noah, Jordyn and Minki will assist their fellow students in learning subject matter and study skills towards achieving success in their studies.

Academic Enhancement Center's Spring Hours

The Academic Enhancement Center's (AEC) spring hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Please encourage your students and mentees to make an appointment and take their learning to the next level.

To schedule, please stop by the AEC in W-1160 or call 678-407-5191. Students may also access online tutoring opportunities through the "Free Online Tutoring" button or study tools and classmate groups through the "Circle In" button on their D2L navigation bar.



The Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) is located in W-1160.

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CircleIn Group Study App Provides GGC Students with Virtual Study Café

CircleIn is another excellent new resource for our students. It offers the opportunity to stay connected to peers in the same class by providing space to form online study groups through text and video chat and/or collaboration on notes/flashcards. These virtual resources are critical for our students as the effects of the pandemic continue.

As Student Engagement and Success has implemented this high-impact practice, we're continually listening and learning from faculty about their concerns. **How CircleIn Deters Cheating** is designed to capture the concerns of faculty about how CircleIn handles academic safety, integrity and cheating, and **CircleIn Faculty Hub** has a great deal of useful information and videos for faculty to consult.

Thank you as always for your feedback. CircleIn continues to award GGC students for learning through generous scholarships each semester.

Grizzly Mentor Collective

We'd like to celebrate our partnership with Jennifer Hendrickson, associate vice president for Advancement, and her staff for supporting us with an extra push to identify alumni mentors for 320 undergraduate students. The conversations during several meetings to set expectations successfully create the buy-in for recent GGC alumni to mentor first-year and sophomore students. The push and support for our students are critical. The information we have learned from students in the Be Well initiative and Institutional Research and Analytics data measuring lingering effects from the pandemic motivates Student Engagement and Success to continue to identify effective activities to yield effective support long after the pandemic is resolved.



CircleIn and Grizzly Mentor Collective can help GGC students to reach success in their Spring studies.

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Student Success Advising Center

Helping Students Prepare for a Successful Semester

The Student Success Advising Center was busy during January. The advisors had 409 scheduled and drop-in appointments with students from Jan 4-24. Roughly half of these appointments were with drop-in students. Working with faculty mentors, the advising team also supported 93 students during the virtual registration session on Jan. 13. Following the drop/add period, advisors have started to check in with their advisees to build the foundation for a successful semester.

This semester, student success advisors will work with 83 GROW students who are working to improve their academic standing after being placed on academic suspension. Students in the Grizzly Renewal Opportunity Workshop (GROW) Program meet bi-weekly with student success advisors to work on improving student success skills, goal-setting and utilizing relevant campus resources.

Undergraduate Education Tackles Retention and Completion Goals 3-6

Marvin DeWitt, GGC's undergraduate education coordinator, has worked specifically to address Student Engagement and Success' Retention and Completion Goals 3-6:

3. Develop proactive strategies to lower equity gaps, retention and completion rates for at-risk, under-served student populations.
4. Track success and retention rates in Learning Support Math and provide innovative interventions to support students to improve rates from baseline.
5. Track success and retention rates in Learning Support English and provide innovative interventions to support students to improve rates from baseline.
6. Increase the first-year to sophomore retention rate by exploring and designing a robust first-year ecosystem that tracks student experience outside of the classroom and DFW rates in key courses.

DeWitt's examination of trends in new students' completion of the Accuplacer placement test, work developing the Student Success D2L page, and involvement with the First-Year Seminar have been notable contributions.

A GGC team attended the First Year Experience conference in Orlando, Florida in February. Pictured from left to right are Marvin DeWitt, undergraduate education coordinator; Nancy Ciudad-Simmons, senior student success advisor; Wendy Anderson, senior student success advisor; Dr. Karen Jackson, associate dean for advising programs; Dr. Susan Bussey, associate professor of English; Dr. Michelle Rosemond, vice president for Student Engagement and Success; and Diana Rowe, senior student success advisor.



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GGC's HACER Learning Community

The HACER (Hispanic Achievers Committed to Excellence in Results) learning community at GGC provides culturally relevant support for students on the path to graduation while offering the opportunity to live on campus in GGC's suite-style housing.

- Students explore Hispanic and Latino cultures.
- There is an on-campus, living-learning community option.
- Participating students may take intermediate Spanish language courses.
- There are dedicated bilingual advisors and a bilingual tutor associated with the program.
- Students can learn from faculty and bilingual peer mentors
- Participants in the learning community are encouraged to pursue study abroad opportunities.
- HACER supports the college's progress toward attaining Hispanic Serving Institution designation.

To discover more about upcoming HACER events visit our Student Engagement and Success homepage or to join HACER, visit **Learning Communities/HACER** or contact us at LearningCommunities@ggc.edu.



In a recent HACER workshop, Dr. David Sepulveda, assistant professor of English, led the session "Immigrants as Professional Cross-Cultural Communicators." Sepulveda (at right) is joined here by Alejandro Osorio, '23, information technology, HACER peer mentor; Nancy Ciudad-Simmons, senior student success advisor; and Diana Gonzalez, student success advisor.

SES Launches Student Success course in D2L

Did you know we have a virtual one-stop shop for student success resources?

All faculty and students have access to the Student Success course in D2L under the "All" menu. On this site, you will find important information and valuable resources from key support areas around campus such as the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC), Student Success Advising Center (SSAC), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Career Development and Advising Center (CDAC), Financial Aid, Kaufman Library, and more.

The **Student Success D2L** site will provide a host of opportunities to boost your and your students' resource knowledge:

- browse videos on learning tips
 - download flyers on student success best practices at the start of the semester, midterm and finals
 - print a checklist of mentoring milestones; access online workshops on time management, avoiding test anxiety, and other success topics
 - learn how to responsibly and effectively choose sources for personal or academic research subjects.
- Visit the Student Success D2L site today to explore and learn more.

SES Listened and is Presenting the Following Data Sharing Tour Spring 2022



SES Spring 2022 Data Sharing Tour

All events will take place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Topic	Date
Hope, Zell, Pell Data for Student Financial Aid	January 28
BeWell@GGC Data	February 4
Student Services Data	February 25
High Impact Practice and Specialized Program Data	March 4
Accuplacer Data and GGC 1000	March 11
Student Course Grade DFW Data	April 1
AEC Data and PSI	April 15
SES Advising Programs	April 29



Please join Student Engagement and Success along with other campus and external community partners as we dive in and share data for insightful conversations.

 **Georgia Gwinnett
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 and Success

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In other news...

GGC 1000 No-Cost Open Educational Resource Textbook Now in Use

Thanks to an Affordable Learning Georgia grant and the work of a dedicated team of faculty and staff, this spring's GGC 1000 First-Year Seminar sections have zero textbook costs for students. Dr. Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy, associate professor of Biology, chair of studies; Kenan Kurspahic, student success advisor; Dr. Rolando Marquez, associate director for the Center for Teaching Excellence and assistant professor of Instructional Technology; Charlotte Reames, '21, English; Dr. Catherine Thomas, associate dean for student success programs, professor of English; and Cara Werner, student success advisor, collaborated on creating an open educational resource textbook called Steps to Success: A Guide to Excelling in College and Beyond. This e-textbook is embedded in the D2L course sites for each section, providing equitable access to important information for the course from day one.

SES Scholars in Action

Wendy Anderson, senior student success advisor – “Exploring Visceral Experiences of Physiology: The Role of Embodied Cognition in Fostering Transformative Learning” accepted for a paper presentation at the 2022 International Transformative Learning Conference (virtual online conference).

Justyna Kikowska, English Language Institute (ELI) instructor – “Useful communication strategies: Let your voice be heard” was accepted for presentation at the 2022 Teaching Matters Conference at Gordon State College.

Dr. Michelle Rosemond, vice president for Student Engagement and Success; **Dr. Justin Jernigan**, senior associate vice president/dean of student success; and **Dr. Mei Miranda Zhang**, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, professor of finance/internationalization – “Protecting Student Growth Mindset and Faculty Engagement from COVID-19” accepted for presentation at the 2022 USG Teaching and Learning Conference (virtual online conference).

Dr. Catherine Thomas, professor of English and associate dean for Student Success Programs – Essay contribution accepted for publication in Providing Engaging, Inclusive, and Equitable Instruction, a special e-publication produced in recognition of the 2022 Teaching Matters Conference at Gordon State College.



Best wishes for Spring success from your Student Engagement and Success team!