



April 2021

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

## Message from the Vice President



### Maintaining Momentum: Reinforcing Student Success

The 2021 Momentum Conference demonstrated how vital the Division of Student Engagement and Success is to the GGC community. The conference stimulated creative conversations among Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) faculty and staff along with participants from the 26 other USG institutions on ways to reimagine how to serve the incoming class of 2021. [Momentum Summit IV \(recorded sessions\)](#).

The conference inspired us all and allowed members of our division to take a look at our first-year courses, GGC 1000, academic focus areas, and persistence rates for first-year cohorts.

It was my pleasure to serve on a panel discussion at the 2021 Momentum Conference titled: [Meet Your Data](#). The session focused on how institutions use data to understand their work and shape their priorities for momentum. Panel members also discussed strategies on how to communicate data to a wide audience.

Dr. Rachel Bowser, associate provost for Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Karen Jackson, associate dean for Advising Programs, and Dr. Justin Jernigan, senior associate vice president and dean of Student Success participated in a panel discussion titled: [Building and Maintaining Communities](#). The session explored strategies around reinforcing a student's sense of belonging and connection to the institution, their chosen areas of study, and their areas of personal interest.

I'd like to highlight other good news!



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## Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) Strategic Planning

The evaluation and assessment for the five areas of the current 2017-2022 Strategic Plan are underway.

- (SP1): Extraordinary focus on our students
- (SP2): Ensure faculty/staff have 21st-century skills
- (SP3): Establish a sustainable resource model
- (SP4): Build an innovative organization
- (SP5): Leverage our external environments

Once all the information is gathered, the process to develop strategies that will create a uniqueness that separates GGC from other USG colleges will begin. These strategies will serve as the blueprint for the future strategic plan.

GGC currently uses Strategic Planning On-Line (SPOL) for program review and assessment data and is exploring how SPOL can support and manage accreditation reporting. In addition to its current campus use, SPOL has a strategic plan component. SPOL's strategic management software empowers higher education institutions to optimize institutional effectiveness. Training and support will be available for all campus partners involved in strategic planning. [SPOL video highlights](#)



## Presidential Priorities

Dr. Jann Joseph's leadership is inspiring ways to optimize GGC 2.0. A kick-off meeting is being organized for the members of leadership who will lead the effort of developing goals and strategies. After the initial kick-off meeting takes place, monthly meetings will be scheduled to explore ideas, ask questions, and problem-solve together.



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## Student Success Team Awarded USG Affordable Learning Georgia Grant for GGC 1000



A team of faculty and staff have been awarded a 2021-2022 USG Affordable Learning Georgia Affordable Materials Grant for their project, “Advancing Equity through Creating a No-Cost Textbook for GGC 1000 First-Year Seminar.”

This effort will make course materials immediately accessible for all seminar students on the first day of class. It will remove the potential cost barrier to the textbook acquisition, increasing the likelihood of students’ successful completion and reducing DFW rates. This resource additionally will be mapped to and integrated with, our GGC 1000 template course within D2L, which supports both new and continuing instructors offering the first-year seminar in multiple modalities.

The grant team was led by Dr. Catherine Thomas, associate dean for Student Success Programs, and included Dr. Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy, associate professor of Biology, Mr. Kenan Kurspahic, student success advisor, Dr. Roy Marquez, associate director for the Center for Teaching Excellence, and Ms. Cara Werner, senior student success advisor. Congratulations on a job well done!



Karri Blalock, '22 biology

Karri is a Biology major with a Sociology minor. Karri's journey may be long, but she has found success. After raising two daughters, and a 13-year long career in research she has followed her dream to earn that bachelor's degree that always eluded her proving one is never too old for an education.

## Grizzly Student Success Stories

Our first series of Grizzly Student Success Stories is a wrap! This spring, ten students shared their journeys at GGC, explaining how they pursued and achieved their goals and what success means to them. Each session was an hour-long with time afterward for discussion and Q&A. Email [ses@ggc.edu](mailto:ses@ggc.edu) if you would like to nominate a student for future sessions.



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## CircleIn – Tutor Champions Providing Virtual App Tours

The Academic Enhancement Center's tutor champions, Anna Anthony and David Durden are available to host 15-minute virtual tours of CircleIn for your courses. These tours will provide students with a basic understanding of how to utilize the application to pose questions to classmates, the benefits of using the study tools, and how to create interactive video study groups.

To schedule a virtual tour for your students for this summer or fall, please email Donna Ly, MSITB coordinator at [dly1@ggc.edu](mailto:dly1@ggc.edu).

CircleIn is the latest academic support tool purchased by Student Engagement and Success. The application combines the tenets of social media and gamification to create an environment in which students can solicit academic support from peers, share course notes, and host video group study sessions. In doing so, students earn points that can be redeemed for gift cards.

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## Institutional Research and Analytics

Institutional Research and Analytics now has data and retention dashboards that allow our campus partners to visualize:

- Trends among first-year students who take 30 hours during the academic year
- Retention patterns for first-year students across disciplines
- Completion patterns across English 1101, 1102, and Math 1001, 1111 and 1113

This level of information informs how to optimize our Complete College Georgia goals. All campus partners interested in a GGC Persistence and First-Year Data presentation please request a presentation via [ses@ggc.edu](mailto:ses@ggc.edu).

Most importantly, the data on five years of past cohort performance provides evidence to reimagine coordinated care at GGC. In the upcoming months, Student Engagement and Success and campus partners are working together to welcome incoming 2021 students into the GGC community as well as provide high levels of support for returning students during the summer.

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## Talks in Linguistics

This year's Talks in Linguistics was another success. The series was established to analyze languages and the social, cultural, historical and political factors that influence languages. The series began in March and was held in the Stephens Family Executive Forum and virtually through Zoom.

A special acknowledgment goes to the following individuals who gave a presentation at this year's Talks in Linguistics: Mr. Bradley Hodges, ELI Instructor; Dr. Justin Jernigan, senior associate vice president and dean for Student Success; Dr. Kristina Watkins Mormino, associate professor of French; and Dr. David Johnson, professor of English and linguistics from Kennesaw State University.

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Student Engagement and Success

Karibu  
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Hoş geldin bienvenidos

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## Spring 2021



## Preview Week

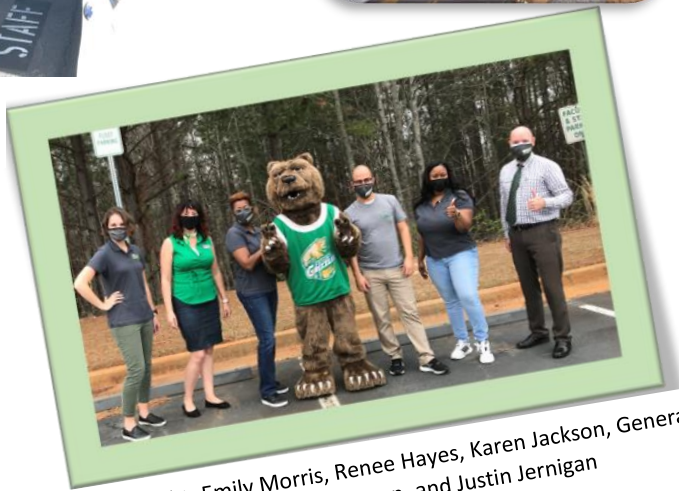
Thanks go to the Student Engagement and Success team who volunteered at this year's Spring 2021 Preview Week. The campus event offered a hybrid format for future students and their families. Options included virtual sessions, one-on-one chats with our admission counselors, and a Grizzly drive-thru event. Each event showcased the GGC experience, its academic opportunities, student services, or the steps to becoming a Grizzly.



Catherine Thomas



Renee Hayes



Left to right: Emily Morris, Renee Hayes, Karen Jackson, General, Jose Gutierrez, Doneisha Johnson, and Justin Jernigan



Justin Jernigan

Please join us as we welcome our new Student Success Advisor.



Michelle Hudson

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## World Language Tables

Student Engagement and Success and the Office of Internationalization hosted the annual World Language Tables as part of GGC's Global Awareness Week. Student and faculty volunteers facilitated virtual sessions on world languages and cultures. A sincere thank you goes to all the volunteers and a special thanks to our volunteers from the Japanese Consulate for taking time each semester to help us celebrate.

## HACER FIESTA

### Hispanic Achievers Committed to Excellence in Results

Student Engagement and Success recently hosted a student workshop to introduce our newest Learning Community. HACER is a learning community and living-learning community that celebrates Hispanic and Latinx cultures. Nancy Ciudad-Simmons, senior bilingual student success advisor, delivered three student success workshops focusing on the HACER learning community. We had an overall attendance of 50 people including Dr. Luis Mora, associate professor of Spanish; and student leaders from the OLAS (Organization of Latin American Students) registered student organization, were also present. For information on learning communities visit [www.ggc.edu/learningcommunities](http://www.ggc.edu/learningcommunities) or contact us at [learningcommunities@ggc.edu](mailto:learningcommunities@ggc.edu).



## SES Staff Highlight: Bradley Hodges

Bradley Hodges, English Language Institute instructor, joined GGC in August 2019. Brad is a veteran ESL instructor and a member of TESOL since 2005. Previously, he taught at the University of Alabama for 12 years as well as at Georgia State University, in the Peace Corps in Gabon, and in Canada during a graduate exchange program. He enjoys etymology, comparative linguistics, and delivering tailored lessons to his ESL students. When you see Brad on campus ask about his guinea pigs to spark a conversation with him.

