The Georgia Independent College Association is made up of 24 private, independent, not-for-profit colleges and universities. Through partnerships with institutions, businesses, and community leaders, GICA supports private higher education in the areas of public policy, research, fundraising for student financial aid, and collaborative programs.

69,918 students

49,750 undergraduates

20,168 graduate students

22,715 employees across Georgia

$3.9B in salaries and wages

GICA PRIVATE NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES VARY IN TYPE AND MISSION:

BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS

MASTERS COLLEGES

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

TITLE III STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM

FAITH RELATED

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

SINGLE-GENDER EDUCATION

TOP RANKINGS:

SPELMAN COLLEGE – #1 HBCU

AGNES SCOTT – #1 MOST INNOVATIVE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY – THE LARGEST UNCF COLLEGE IN THE COUNTRY

EMORY – HIGHEST RANKED NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN GEORGIA

BERRY COLLEGE – HIGHEST RANKED REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES (SOUTH) IN GEORGIA
On behalf of the Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) Board of Directors, I am happy to celebrate the 2021 achievements of GICA, its campuses and the students we serve. As the world reopened, as students and college employees returned to campus and we began to teach, learn, play, compete and be together again in person, we did so with the safety of the campus community in mind. There’s no doubt we will be assessing the impact of the pandemic for years, but in 2021, we started to think about moving past it.

Individually, the GICA campuses are unique and serve a broad range of missions—from religiously affiliated colleges, to renowned HBCUs and single-gender colleges, to global research institutions and dynamic liberal arts universities. Defying cynics, who for years have said many small, private colleges across the country were on the brink of closing, the GICA colleges approached campus operations during the pandemic with determination, innovation, and flexibility, and developed solutions tailored for their locations, student populations and campus traditions.

GICA played a pivotal role in this turbulent time in bringing the colleges together to learn from each other and work together. The organization convened colleagues from across the state to share best practices (and sometimes commiserate over shared challenges). GICA coordinated the collective advocacy efforts at the federal level for COVID relief funding. Through these efforts, we came together for collective restoration, collective opportunities, and the collective good. Working as a collective body is the very essence of this organization.

I am honored to chair this organization that advocates for our 24 institutions and the nearly 70,000 students we serve. The possibilities for the future are bright as we continue to prove to ourselves and to the rest of the higher education community that the way we work—the way we come together for the benefit of our students and to create a more educated state—has become more important than ever.
2021 Leadership

GICA STAFF

Ms. Jenna M. Colvin
President

Ms. Lisa K. Macke
Vice President

Mr. James M. (Chip) Moore III
Director of Operations &
Data Analysis

Ms. Juliet Jatcko
Marketing and Events
Manager

Ms. Judith W. Spain, J.D., CCEP
Compliance Program Consultant,
Spain & Spain

Mr. James E. Toney
Consultant, Cornerstone
Communications Group

LIFETIME HONORARY TRUSTEES

Robert K. Ackerman
Lexington, SC

Nancy Blake
Griffin, GA

John S. Burd
Gainesville, GA

Manly F. Gilmer
Woodstock, GA

R. Kirby Godsey
Macon, GA

James M. Griffin
Sanibel, FL

Henry J. Hector
Montgomery, AL

Ross W. Lenhart
Pawleys Island, SC

Sarah H. Lunsford
Roswell, GA

Walter Y. Murphy
Atlanta, GA

Manning M. Patillo
Atlanta, GA

I. Clayton Ramsey
Atlanta, GA

John K. Trainer
Jacksonville, FL

Preston C. Williams
Montezuma, GA
GICA 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The presidents of each of the 24 independent colleges and universities in the state, along with business and community leaders, comprise the GICA Board of Directors.
GICA students SUCCEED by graduating on time with high demand degrees and critical thinking skills to solve today’s complex problems.

About Our Students

62% of degrees earned by GICA students were in high demand fields.

49% of GICA undergraduates identify as Black, Latinx, AAPI, indigenous or persons of color.

GRADUATION RATE

4-YEAR

- GICA: 49%
- USG: 31%

6-YEAR

- GICA: 59%
- USG: 54%

Per student allocation of General Funds in FY22 state budget over 4 years

TAXPAYER COST

- USG: $29,052
- GICA: $3,400
When I joined GICA as President in the summer of 2020, I was told that it would take at least a year to completely onboard and transition into the role. That was not an exaggeration! As I learned the work of the Association and how things had been done in the past, our team continually adapted to the “new normal” of the pandemic and reinvented itself on a regular basis.

- The 2021 legislative session was like no other—we wore masks, took weekly COVID tests, practiced social distancing, and made the required appointments for visits—all with much fewer people in the building.
- GICA moved our offices from midtown to downtown Atlanta, reducing space and costs for the colleges and putting us closer to the Capitol.
- We modified the format of our Board meetings to increase engagement and participation. After hosting online visits from legislators in the spring, we welcomed friends and colleagues back to our first in-person meeting in the fall (just as the Braves were about to win the World Series!).
- GICA Presidents and board members participated in a “Virtual Fly-In,” meeting federal representatives via Zoom organized by NAICU to advocate for the inclusion of private colleges in the final COVID relief package.
2021 was an exciting, invigorating, and inspiring year. Instead of fearing change, the GICA team embraced it. Sometimes, the “new normal” felt like we were moving in fits and starts. But every day, we experimented, tweaked, refined and most importantly learned from our daily experiences. With a clear vision and a sense of collaboration, we not only got through it, but came out better on the other side of it.

I am proud of the accomplishments within these pages. They are representative of the not-so-glamorous work of implementing new processes, developing new relationships, moving offices, and developing ways to be more efficient. Being innovative is no longer an option, but a necessity. Like our colleges, we value tradition, but we did not covet it at the expense of progress.

Being innovative is no longer an option, but a necessity. Like our colleges, we value tradition, but we did not covet it at the expense of progress.

The pandemic was disruptive to every sector of our economy, including the GICA colleges. I could not be more grateful for our colleges who, by way of example, taught us how to come back together. Our return to campus visits showed us first-hand how campus leaders, faculty and staff handled the enormous responsibility of educating, growing, housing, and in a real sense – taking care of our students through this unprecedented time. Their passion to serve our students under any circumstance was awe-inspiring. Their vision inspired us to follow their lead and empowered the team to come back together as well.

As an organization, we were reminded in countless ways of the benefits of working together and the value of collective action. At the heart of GICA’s mission is bringing people together for the benefit of the students we serve. Like our colleges, we found ways to be true to our mission, but did so in new ways with new tools. We had to flex in ways we had not before, and we know it made us better. We are better in how we work, how we collaborate and share best practices, and how we tell our story in one voice. Most importantly, we are better in how we serve our students.

Thank you to our board members, college leaders, policymakers and other state officials who helped GICA weather the storm that was 2021.
Collaborative Services

GICA’s colleges and universities view collaboration as a valuable way to improve the efficiency of their institutions, learn new ways of serving their key stakeholders and leverage their collective buying power to decrease costs. GICA institutions collaborate in a variety of ways to enhance the educational experience and operational efficiency of each campus.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

GICA institutions collaborate on a variety of academic programs. These programs have multiple impacts, such as expanding academic opportunities for students, improving student retention rates, and containing tuition costs. Ultimately, institutions involved in these projects see benefits to their students, faculty, and staff as well as the communities within which the institutions are located. New leading-edge academic programs are created and communities benefit from job creation and the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Example: McGraw Hill-Education

McGraw-Hill works with GICA institutions to offer affordable digital content, print-on-demand books, interactive exercises and testing materials, and teaching support for faculty and students across the curriculum. These digital course materials support Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) so students with disabilities have timely access to assistive technologies integrated into a variety of devices, including screen reader technologies, desktops, laptops, and mobile devices.
SHARED SERVICES PROGRAMS

GICA colleges continually seek creative ways to share services at their colleges and universities. While these programs take a considerable amount of innovative thinking and time to establish, sharing services offers numerous benefits that far outweigh the short-term challenges. GICA schools have either formed or are currently implementing shared service programs in the areas of compliance, information technology, retirement planning, and collecting data from multiple institutions to assess the effectiveness of their academic programs.

Example: Information Technology Consortium

The GICA Information Technology Consortium was established in 2019. Comprised of all 24 GICA member institutions, the consortium offers professional development opportunities and reviews software and hardware contracts. During 2021, the consortium conducted two surveys to evaluate the need for various shared service contracts. The cybersecurity assessment as well as the connectivity and access survey provided detailed information to form roadmaps for IT Consortium projects and services.

COLLABORATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAMS

Companies work with GICA to establish cost savings on a broad range of products and services, and GICA institutions frequently collaborate on purchasing to save money and increase efficiency. In addition, GICA maintains membership in three group-purchasing organizations, the Coalition for College Cost Savings, E&I, and Omnia which increase member institutions’ access to discounts offered through national contracts. GICA member campuses spent over $33 million through the GICA procurement program in 2020.

Example: ScholarBuys

GICA institutions collaborate with ScholarBuys to provide purchasing opportunities for Adobe, Cylance, and Microsoft. Committed exclusively to the education community, the ScholarBuys team is able to guide each school through the many choices available when choosing from software licensing options. Through this agreement, GICA institutions improve productivity with updated products, reduce legal liabilities through confirmed license compliance, participate in professional development opportunities, and ensure that constant security measures are in action.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GICA maintains a robust calendar of professional development programs. These programs are offered to key campus groups to provide inexpensive, high-quality opportunities for professional growth and development. These opportunities are consistently listed as one of the most valued services offered by GICA. The programs allow participants a forum to explore new solutions for issues that arise on their campuses. During 2021, GICA held meetings for participants from all 24 institutions including chief academic officers, chief financial officers, chief enrollment officers, information technology directors, human resource directors, and chief student affairs officers.
Keeping college accessible for students and their families is a priority for the 24 GICA institutions. GICA institutions provided $730.3 million in institutional aid to students, and GICA awarded $597,000 in scholarship funding in 2021. With almost 40% of the first time, full-time students attending GICA institutions being eligible for the federal Pell grant, federal and state aid programs for students are a critical component for keeping college accessible for all Georgians.
Thank you for providing me the opportunity to help build my future. I have been attending Andrew College where I study Business Administration. Obtaining this scholarship has helped me immensely to be able to manage my time as a student-athlete with multiple jobs. This in turn has helped shape my personality and contributed to the growth of my resume.”

—Burke Rawlinson ’23

$730.3 M
amount of institutional grant aid awarded

$20,635
average institutional aid per first-time, full-time student

$597,000
in scholarship aid provided by GICA to students attending GICA colleges

40%
of first time/full time undergraduates are eligible for the Pell Grant

$90.7 M
appropriated by Georgia General Assembly for Georgia students at private colleges and universities
Philanthropic Support for GICA

ENDOWMENT & TRUST FUNDING

We are pleased to recognize the special endowment and trust funds which supporters have created over the years to benefit GICA’s colleges and their students. In 2021, over $597,000 was returned to member institutions in the form of scholarship aid.

Bank of America
GICA Member Services Council
Julia and Lawrence Willet
Lucy Claire Harris
Marianne and I. Clayton Ramsey
Plantation Pipe Line Company
Reunette W. Harris
W.P. Stevens
William W. and Catherine M. Kelly
John and Emma Derst Foundation

GICA Honor Roll
Distinguished 2020 Investors

SPONSORS
($15,000-$24,999)

PACCAR, Inc.
29 years

Vulcan Materials Company
53 years

Warren Averett
7 years

ASSOCIATES
($5,000-$9,999)

Gertrude & William C. Wardlaw Fund, Inc.
57 years

J. W. & Ethel I. Woodruff Foundation
53 years
FRIENDS
($4,999 and under)

- ABM, 3 years
- Apogee, 6 years
- Ardeo, 2 year
- Arthur H. & Ernest B. Merry Foundation, 51 years
- Barron, Frank, 31 years
- Barron, Thomas W., 40 years
- BB&T, 26 years
- Blackbaud, 1 year
- Burd, John, 23 years
- CapinCrouse, 4 years
- Cherry Bekaert, 3 years
- Christie Campus Health
- Collegis Education, 4 years
- Colvin, Jenna, 2 years
- Cornerstone Communications Group, Inc., 23 years
- Crawford Investment Counsel, 32 years
- CBRE, 1 year
- Dock Sisk, 25 years
- Dykhouse, James, 28 years
- EUA, 1 year
- FamTeck, 1 year
- First American Education Finance, 4 years
- First Risk Advisors, 4 years
- William & Audrine Honey Foundation, 61 years
- IMA Financial Group, 2 years
- Jatcko, Juliet, 3 years
- Jenzabar, 3 years
- Juneau Construction Company, 10 years
- KI, 4 years
- Kognito, 1 year
- Lee, Gary, 22 years
- Lilly Realty Associates, Inc., 25 years
- Lockstep Technology, 3 years
- Macke, Lisa 8 years
- Mauldin & Jenkins, 11 years
- Metz Culinary Management, 5 years
- Milner, 2 years
- Nexus Capital, 1 year
- Pathify, 1 year
- Paymerang, 3 years
- Pentegra, 3 years
- PNC Bank, 4 years
- Praxis3, 1 year
- SageView, 8 years
- ScholarBuys, 9 years
- Shaheen Carpet Mills, Inc., 46 years
- Shurbutt, Keith H., 11 years
- Sizemore Group, 17 years
- Smith & Howard, 3 years
- Stevens & Wilkinson, Inc., 11 years
- Tarrant, Melissa, 2 years
- Taylor English, 2 years
- Tallo, 2 years
- TIAA, 7 years
- The Dixie Group Foundation, Inc., 56 years
- The William E. and Audrine C. Honey Foundation Inc., 60 years
- Thiele Kaolin Company, 63 years
- The Virtual Care Group, 2 years
- Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia Foundation, 46 years
- Wisr, 1 year
- Ziegler, 2 years
The Georgia Independent College Association Corporate Allies Program is designed to promote a closer working relationship between GICA and businesses that support the work of GICA. We gratefully acknowledge the following companies that are members of the GICA Corporate Allies Program:
Thank you to the following institutions for the use of photographs: Berry College, Brenau University, Emmanuel College, LaGrange College, Mercer University, Oglethorpe University, and Young Harris College.