



GICA

GEORGIA INDEPENDENT COLLEGE ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



About Our 24 Institutions

Private Colleges, Public Good

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.



**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

2025 TOP RANKINGS:

SPELMAN COLLEGE

#1 HBCU IN THE NATION FOR 19TH
CONSECUTIVE YEAR

#2 IN THE NATION FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY

EMORY

HIGHEST RANKED NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN
GEORGIA

#24 IN NATION FOR BEST UNIVERSITY

#2 NURSING PROGRAM IN THE NATION

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

#1 MOST INNOVATIVE SCHOOL IN THE NATION
FOR 8TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

#2 BEST FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

BERRY COLLEGE

#1 UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING PROGRAM IN
THE NATION

#1 BEST VALUE SCHOOL

#2 MOST INNOVATIVE SCHOOL IN THE NATION

76,483
students

54,716
undergraduates

21,767
graduate students

25,497
employees across Georgia

\$5.2B
in salaries and wages



2025 GICA TEAM

GICA STAFF & CONSULTANTS



Ms. Jenna M. Colvin
President
jcolvin@georgiacolleges.org



Ms. Lisa K. Macke
Vice President
lmacke@georgiacolleges.org



Ms. Timeri J. M. Hudson
Marketing & Communications Director
thudson@georgiacolleges.org



Ms. Beverly Grau
Special Projects and Meeting Coordinator
bgrau@georgiacolleges.org



Dr. Carolyn Sloane Mata
Director of Data and Research
cmata@georgiacolleges.org



Mr. James M. (Chip) Moore III
Director of Operations & Data Analysis
cmoore@georgiacolleges.org



Ms. Judith W. Spain, CCEP
Compliance Program Consultant, Spain & Spain
jspain@georgiacolleges.org



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 2025 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.



Ms. Lee Zak
Agnes Scott College



Dr. William "Rusty" Kennedy
Andrew College



Dr. Sandeep Muzander
Berry College



Dr. David Barnett
Brenau University



Dr. Steve Echols
Brewton-Parker College



Dr. George French
Clark Atlanta University



Dr. Brad Voyles
Covenant College



Mr. Greg Hearn
Emmanuel University



Leah Ward Sears
Emory University



Dr. Susanna Baxter
LaGrange College



Dr. Brian McAulay
Life University



Dr. William Underwood
Mercer University



Dr. F DuBois Bowman
Morehouse College



Dr. Kathryn McClymond
Oglethorpe University



Mr. Marshall Criser
Piedmont University



Dr. Stacy Bartlett
Point University



Dr. Mark Roberts
Reinhardt University



Dr. Donald Dowless
Shorter University



Ms. Roz Brewer
Spelman College



Mr. Kurt Stringfellow
Thomas University



Dr. Robert Myers
Toccoa Falls College



Dr. John O Yarbrough
Truett McConnell University



Ms. Meaghan Blight
Wesleyan College



Dr. John Wells
Young Harris College



Dr. Bharath Parthasarathy
Slalom Consulting



Mr. Howard Mosby
Grady Health Services



Mr. Charlie Sutlive
Southern Company



Ms. Nancy Juneau
Juneau Construction
Company



Mr. Antonio Molina
Nguyen & Pham, LLC
Attorneys at Law



Kevin Tanner
Georgia Department of
Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities



Mr. Tom Bowen
Bowen Law Firm, LLC



Ms. Lolita Jackson
Vulcan Materials Company



Keith Shurbutt
KPMG LLP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Hearn, *Chair*
Keith Shurbutt, *Treasurer*
Bharath Parthasarathy

Marshall Criser
Lee Zak
Steve Echols

Antonio Molina
Charlie Sutlive
Nancy Juneau

About Our Students

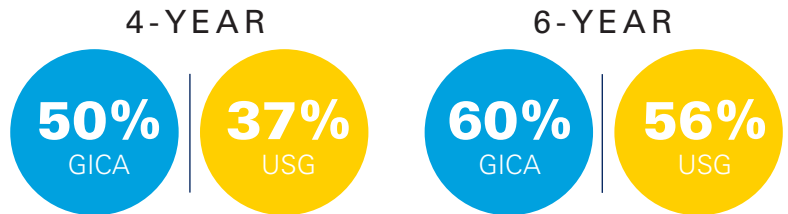


61%
of GICA undergraduates
identify as non-white



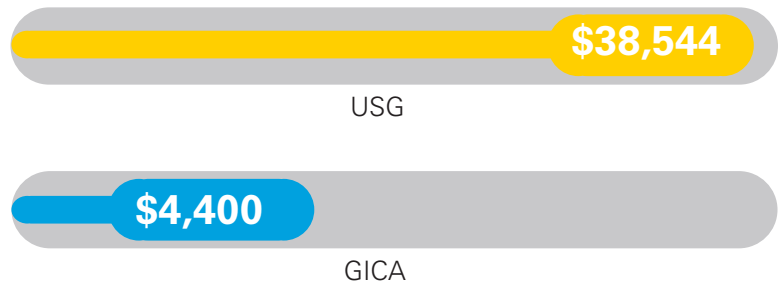
GICA students SUCCEED by graduating on time with high demand degrees and critical thinking skills to solve today's complex problems

GRADUATION RATE



Per student allocation of General Funds in FY25 state budget over 4 years

TAXPAYER COST



From Our President

Dear Friends,

In a year of rapid change for higher education, Georgia's independent colleges and universities remained focused on what they do best: helping students succeed.

Over the past year, the Georgia Independent College Association has worked alongside our 24 member institutions to strengthen opportunity, amplify our collective voice, and deliver meaningful results for students across our state.

This year brought important progress in public policy and advocacy. In Georgia, lawmakers approved a historic increase to the HOPE Private Scholarship, an important step toward more parity for students attending private, nonprofit colleges. In Washington, GICA and campus leaders engaged directly with our congressional delegation on issues affecting student aid, accountability, and institutional independence. In a fast-changing environment, GICA has remained a trusted resource, providing guidance, convening expertise, and helping our institutions respond with clarity and confidence.

At the same time, our institutions continued to collaborate and innovate. From strengthening long-standing partnerships to participating in statewide initiatives such as the Credential Registry, GICA members are ensuring that private higher education remains visible, responsive, and aligned with Georgia's broader education and workforce goals.

Our reach also extended beyond the state through the "Study Private, Study Georgia" initiative, which helped showcase Georgia as a destination for education and opportunity to students and families around the world.

At the heart of all this work is connection—between institutions, with policymakers, and across campus communities. That connection has remained central to GICA's work this year, from advocacy and partnerships to new opportunities for engagement among campus leaders and professionals.

None of this progress happens in isolation. It is made possible by the leadership of our campus presidents, the dedication of faculty and staff, the advocacy of our students, and the support of our partners and friends. Together, we are advancing a shared mission: to ensure that Georgia's independent colleges remain strong, relevant, and transformative for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support of GICA and the students we serve.

Sincerely,



Jenna Colvin

President

Georgia Independent College Association



Jenna M. Colvin

Collaborative Services

GICA's colleges and universities view collaboration as a valuable way to work together to improve the efficiency of their institutions, learn new ways of serving their key stakeholders and leverage their collective buying power to decrease costs. Because our colleges collaborate, they can enhance educational experience and improve operational efficiency.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

GICA institutions collaborate on a range of academic programs that expand opportunities for students, improve retention, and help contain tuition costs. These partnerships benefit students, faculty, and staff while strengthening the communities they serve through the creation of innovative programs, job growth, and the exchange of knowledge and experience.

Example: GICA partners with McGraw-Hill Education to provide innovative learning tools and teaching materials to member institutions. Offerings include affordable digital content, print-on-demand books, interactive assignments and assessments, and instructional support for faculty and students. These materials align with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), ensuring timely access to integrated assistive technologies across devices.

SHARED SERVICE PROGRAMS

GICA campuses continue to find innovative ways to share services across their colleges and universities. While these programs require thoughtful planning and time to implement, their long-term benefits far outweigh the initial challenges. Current collaborations include compliance, information technology, retirement planning, and data sharing to assess academic program effectiveness.

Example: Information Technology Shared Cybersecurity Program. The GICA Cybersecurity Program strengthens each participating institution's security posture in an increasingly complex threat environment. Institutions complete a cybersecurity assessment, develop a three-year roadmap, receive vulnerability scans with expert analysis and recommendations, and participate in quarterly progress reviews with a security specialist.

COLLABORATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAMS

GICA partners with companies to secure cost savings across a wide range of products and services, while member institutions collaborate on purchasing to increase efficiency. GICA also maintains membership in the Coalition for College Cost Savings, expanding access to discounts through national contracts. In 2025, member campuses spent more than \$16 million through the GICA procurement program.

Example: Corpay partners with GICA institutions to automate accounts payable processes. Its platform streamlines approvals, enhances fraud protection, and centralizes payments. Participating campuses benefit from a more efficient, secure payment process while earning rewards.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GICA offers a robust calendar of professional development programs each year, providing affordable, high-quality opportunities for campus leaders, faculty, and staff. Consistently ranked among GICA's most valued services, these programs help participants stay current in their fields while offering a forum to share ideas and address common challenges.

In 2025, GICA convened representatives from all 24 member institutions, including chief academic, financial, enrollment, and student affairs officers, as well as leaders in financial aid, information technology, human resources, career services, and marketing and communications.

Keeping College Accessible

Expanding access to higher education is at the core of GICA's mission. In 2025, member institutions awarded more than \$851 million in institutional aid, complemented by over \$631,000 in GICA-funded scholarships—critical resources that help students stay on track to graduation. With 45% of students qualifying for the federal Pell Grant, public investment in student aid remains essential to ensuring that Georgia students can access and afford a private college education.

\$851M

amount of institutional grant aid awarded

\$17,137

average institutional aid per first-time, full-time student

\$631,000

in scholarship aid provided by GICA to students attending GICA colleges

40%

of first time, full-time degree/certificate seeking undergraduates were awarded the Pell Grant

\$113M

appropriated by Georgia General Assembly for Georgia students at private colleges and universities



Philanthropic Support for GICA

GICA HONOR ROLL

Distinguished 2025 Investors

SPONSORS

(\$10,000-\$40,000)

Vulcan Materials Company, *57 years*

PACCAR Inc., *35 years*

Carr, Riggs, Ingram LLC , *4 years*

ASSOCIATES

(\$3,000- \$9,999)

Colonial Foundation, *65 years*

Honey Family Charitable Fund, *65 years*

TIAA, *11 years*

CapinCrouse, *8 years*

Crawford Investment Council, *3 years*

Forvis Mazars, *2 years*

Parker Poe, *2 years*

FRIENDS

(\$2,999 and under)

John and Emma Derst Foundation, Inc., *65 years*

McNeely, *63 years*

The Dixie Group Foundation, *59 years*

Arthur H. & Ernest B. Merry Foundation, *55 years*

Nancy Blake, *52 years*

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of GA, *51 years*

Shaheen Carpet Mills, *49 years*

Sizemore Group, *21 years*

Keith Shurbutt, *16 years*

Mauldin & Jenkins, *15 years*

Scholarbuys, *13 years*

Lisa Macke, *12 years*

Sageview, *11 years*

Boldyn, *10 years*

Metz Culinary Management, *9 years*

First American Equipment Finance, *8 years*

McGraw Hill, *8 years*

Credo, *8 years*

Corpay, *7 years*

Pentegra, *7 years*

Lockstep, *7 years*

Jenna Colvin, *6 years*

ENDOWMENT & TRUST FUNDING

We are proud to recognize the endowment and trust funds established by generous supporters to benefit GICA's colleges and their students. In 2025, these funds returned more than \$631,000 in scholarship aid to member institutions, expanding access and opportunity for students across Georgia.

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

Jenzabar, *6 years*

UWill, *6 years*

Pathify, *5 years*

PRAXIS3, *5 years*

Slalom, *4 years*

IMA, *3 years*

Sage Dining Services, *3 years*

HUB International, *3 years*

Juneau Construction, *3 years*

Parrish Construction Group, *2 years*

Bartlett James, *2 year*

Core Education, *2 years*

CPL, *2 years*

DeepSeas, *2 years*

DegreeSight, *2 years*

Fortinet, *2 years*

InterVision, *2 years*

Sqwire, *2 years*

Verkada, *2 years*

Coursedog, *1 year*

Accelecom, *1 year*

Protocall, *1 year*



GICA

CORPORATE ALLIES PROGRAM

The Georgia Independent College Association Corporate Allies Program fosters meaningful partnerships between GICA and businesses that support and strengthen our work. We are grateful for the following companies whose engagement and investment help advance our mission.





50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 655
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.georgiacolleges.org
404.233.5433

Thank you to the following institutions for the use of photographs:
Berry College, Brenau University, Clark Atlanta University, Covenant College, LaGrange College,
Morehouse College, Shorter University, Toccoa Falls College, Young Harris College