



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAcollege411

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Governor Deal Proclaims February 6, 2015 REACH Georgia Day

ATLANTA, GA (February 5, 2015) – Governor Nathan Deal today proclaimed February 6, 2015 as REACH Georgia Day. In its third year, REACH Georgia is currently preparing 150 students in 23 school systems for high school and college completion.

REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) is a public-private mentorship and needs-based scholarship program and a key component of the state's Complete College Georgia Initiative. Upon graduation from high school, REACH Scholars are awarded up to \$10,000 to attend a HOPE-eligible two or four-year Georgia college. In addition, 60 Georgia colleges have pledged to match or double match these scholarships.

"REACH is critical in our state's continued efforts to increase access to higher education for our students, regardless of their income," said Deal. "By the year 2020, it is projected that 60 percent of jobs in Georgia will require a postsecondary credential. Every child willing to work hard and stay out of trouble should have the chance to attain higher education and change the trajectory of their economic destiny. That's why it's so important that we support programs such as REACH Georgia that prepare our students for success in college and beyond."

Today, AT&T presented a check to Governor Deal to support REACH scholarships, bringing AT&T's contributions since 2012 to \$450,000. "AT&T's commitment to supporting education spans decades and continues today," said Kevin Curtin, Regional Vice President – AT&T Georgia. "The REACH Scholarship will open the door to a postsecondary education for at-risk youth in Georgia who may have not otherwise had an opportunity."

"The success of REACH Georgia would not have been possible without the commitment of our funding partners in the private sector and of local communities across the state," stated Tricia Chastain, President, Georgia Student Finance Commission. "Our goal is to be in every school district and have over 2,000 REACH scholars by 2020."

Georgia school systems participating in REACH Georgia include: Ben Hill, Bulloch, Clarke, Coffee, DeKalb, Dodge, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Laurens, Madison, Peach, Quitman, Rabun, Turner, Twiggs, Warren and Atlanta, Calhoun, Cartersville, Decatur, Dublin, and Marietta City Schools.

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

REACH Georgia is administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), a companion student finance entity of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). GSFC is the state agency that administers the HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program as well as other state- and lottery- funded financial aid programs. GSFC also manages the career and college preparation website, GAcollge411.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, default management and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC products and services is available at www.gsfc.org or www.GAcollge411.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732).