

An abstract graphic in the top right corner of the cover, consisting of a dense cluster of small, colorful circles in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, set against a dark blue background.

GSFC | Georgia Student Finance Commission Annual Report 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2020 presented unique challenges with the onset of the pandemic. I am proud to report that the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), having implemented many operational efficiency initiatives in the previous year, did not break stride in the fulfillment of our mission during the course of the public health emergency.

The agency quickly adjusted to the changes, keeping the safety of our customers and personnel at the forefront while continuing to deliver services with minimal disruption. Communications platforms (website, email, social media) were frequently updated with vital information and pandemic-related policy changes. In-person events shifted to virtual meetings to comply with social distancing protocols. Most agency personnel continue to work remotely, and have maintained the same level of productivity and exceptional service delivery as we perform within our office setting.

In addition to normal day-to-day operations, we have achieved several milestones. Record-breaking levels of contributions and new accounts were realized by the Path2College 529 Savings Plan (P2C), with 19,189 new accounts opened and \$414.0 million in contributions. The Apply to College Month campaign saw great success with 42,449 college applications submitted – a record number for Georgia since the campaign began in 2008, and a 26% increase from 2018. GSFC also extended its impact in the community by partnering with Henderson Mill Elementary School in a service project, launching the “Georgia Student Finance Commission Reads” program.

In Fiscal Year 2021 and beyond, we will continue our focus on technology innovation and effective, efficient service delivery. Workforce development and succession planning programs will be implemented to bolster the strong team of professionals who deliver service with distinction each and every day.

Our work would not be possible without the support we receive from our Board of Commissioners, our talented workforce, and our partners across Georgia. We remain ever grateful for the opportunity to serve Georgians in their pursuit of academic achievement in higher education.

Respectfully,

Lynne T. Riley
Lynne Riley

FISCAL YEAR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ GSFC administered more than **\$940 million in scholarships, grants, and loans** to Georgians to help pay for higher education expenses.
- ▶ More than **58,000 students** participated in **Dual Enrollment**, making the most of the opportunity to work toward obtaining a college credential while in high school.
- ▶ The **Path2College 529 Plan** achieved **\$3.4 billion in assets** under management in FY 2020, a 10.1% increase from FY 2019.
- ▶ More than **70%** of the **288 REACH scholars** who graduated from high school also qualified for the HOPE Scholarship.



\$940 million
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More than
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DUAL
ENROLLMENT

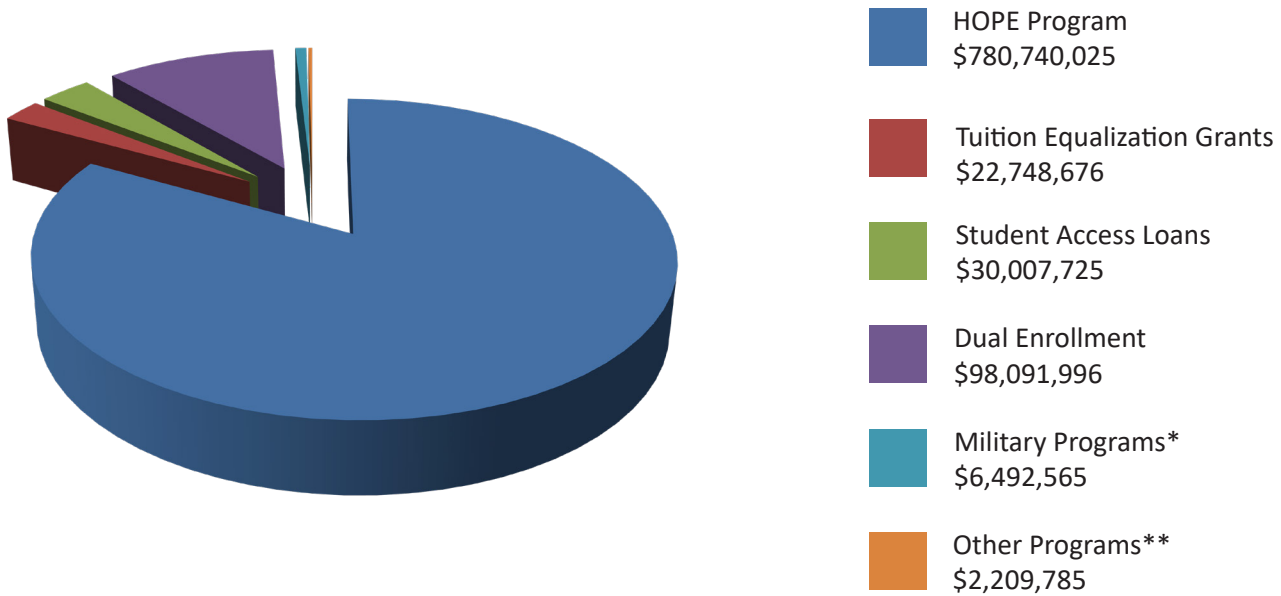


\$3.4 billion
in assets under
management

More than **70%**
of REACH scholars
qualified for HOPE



FISCAL YEAR 2020



GSFC Use of Funds for
Fiscal Year 2020:
\$940,290,772

* Military Programs include: Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship, Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan Scholarship, HERO Scholarship, University of North Georgia Military Scholarship, University of North Georgia ROTC Grant, and University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers.

** Other Programs include: Scholarship for Engineering Education, Scholarship for Engineering Education for Minorities, Public Safety Memorial Grant, REACH Georgia Scholarship, Georgia Veterinary Education Loan Repayment Program, and John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program.

Figures in chart represent awards for FY 2020. The information in this display is presented only to show the general nature of the Georgia Student Finance Commission's business and does not represent its financial position nor conform to generally accepted accounting principles.

HOPE PROGRAM

2019-2020 in Detail

Program	Students	Awards
Zell Miller Scholarship		
Public Colleges*	29,817	\$247,839,272
Private Colleges	3,081	\$16,381,103
HOPE Scholarship		
Public Colleges*	95,875	\$413,335,559
Private Colleges	11,478	\$42,722,927
Zell Miller Grant	10,259	\$14,310,702
HOPE Career Grant	25,971	\$16,246,403
HOPE Grant	29,680	\$29,482,395
HOPE GED	845	\$421,664
2019-2020 Totals**	176,180	\$780,740,025

* University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia institutions.

** 2019-2020 Totals for the HOPE Program are unduplicated. Students who received multiple awards and/or enrolled in more than one type of institution were only counted once.



ABOUT THE GEORGIA STUDENT FINANCE COMMISSION

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) is the state's single education finance entity and is responsible for administering nearly 20 state and lottery-funded scholarship, grant, and student loan programs totaling nearly \$1 billion annually. Founded in 1965, GSFC strives to promote and increase access to education beyond high school for Georgians. In addition to providing awards to more than 255,000 students each year, GSFC also provides free financial aid and college planning counseling to students, parents, and community organizations across the state. To learn more about our programs and services or to find an Outreach Representative in your area, visit GAfutures.org or gsfc.georgia.org, or call 1-800-505-GSFC (4732).



SERVICES & PROGRAMS

SERVICES

- ▶ FAFSA Completion
- ▶ Financial Literacy
- ▶ GAfutures.org
- ▶ K-12 and Postsecondary Outreach
- ▶ Loan Servicing
- ▶ State Financial Aid Information Services

PROGRAMS

- ▶ Dual Enrollment
- ▶ Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship
- ▶ Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan Scholarship
- ▶ Georgia Veterinary Education Loan Repayment Program
- ▶ HERO Scholarship
- ▶ HOPE Career Grant
- ▶ HOPE GED Grant
- ▶ HOPE Grant
- ▶ HOPE Scholarship
- ▶ John R. Justice Program
- ▶ Public Safety Memorial Grant
- ▶ Path2College 529 Plan
- ▶ REACH Georgia Scholarship
- ▶ Scholarship for Engineering Education
- ▶ Student Access Loan
- ▶ Tuition Equalization Grant
- ▶ University of North Georgia Military Scholarship
- ▶ University of North Georgia ROTC Grant
- ▶ University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers
- ▶ Zell Miller Grant
- ▶ Zell Miller Scholarship



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anna Chafin
First Congressional District
**Reappointed November 2020*

F. Faison Middleton, IV
Second Congressional District

Linda McWhorter
Third Congressional District

Thomas E. Bowen
Fourth Congressional District

Laura Morgan
Fifth Congressional District

Ed Pease
Sixth Congressional District

Linwood (Thad) H. Thompson, IV
Seventh Congressional District

Dr. Sarah Beck Hawthorne
Eighth Congressional District

Will Wade
Ninth Congressional District

A. Middleton (Mid) Ramsey
Tenth Congressional District

David Perez
Eleventh Congressional District

Don Anthony Grantham, Jr.
Twelfth Congressional District
**Appointed November 2020*

Richard Mant
Thirteenth Congressional District

Bill Hightower
Fourteenth Congressional District
**Appointed November 2020*

Lynne Riley
President & Ex Officio Board Member