

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Emma Johnson, Office of External Affairs
ejohnson@gsfc.org
470.464.1396

**REACH Georgia Foundation Inc. Board of Directors Confirmed by the
Georgia Student Finance Authority**

TUCKER (February 9, 2021) | On Friday, February 5, 2021, the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) Board of Directors met to confirm a slate of 26 nominees to serve as members on the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia Foundation Inc. Board of Directors. Approved unanimously, the slate consists of 14 new and 12 returning members.

Established in 2012 as the state's first needs-based financial aid program, the REACH Scholarship Program is a public-private partnership that provides students with educational support beginning in eighth grade. Delivering up to \$10,000 of financial assistance for REACH scholars to use at an eligible Georgia postsecondary institution, over 70% of the program's 2020 graduating class also met the academic requirements for the HOPE Scholarship.

"Our dedicated team of professionals at the Georgia Student Finance Authority are committed to ensuring every Georgia student has the opportunity to access higher education, regardless of financial background," said GSFA President Lynne Riley. "I commend Governor Kemp for appointing these highly qualified individuals to advance the original vision of providing support to low-income students in their academic pursuits. I have the utmost confidence that the members of the REACH Georgia Foundation Inc. Board of Directors will continue building upon this innovative program that has become a foundational aspect of Georgia's nationally acclaimed student financial aid structure."

Bringing expertise from an array of industries and professions, the Board of Directors are responsible for generating awareness of the program and promoting engagement and financial investment in the program for the thousands of scholars served through the program.

New REACH Georgia Foundation Inc. Board of Directors Confirmed by the Georgia Student Finance Authority

Page 2 of 3

February 9, 2021

Appointed members to the REACH Georgia Foundation Inc. Board of Directors include:

Michael Patrick (*Board Chair, Chick-fil-A, Inc.*)

Jay Cunningham (*President, Superior Plumbing*)

Kathleen Phelps (*Senior Director of Finance, WestRock*)

TJ Abrams (*Chief Marketing Officer, Exos*)

Honorable Bubber Epps (*Former Member, Georgia House of Representatives*)

Gus Pursley III (*Chief Executive Officer, Fowler Flemister Concrete*)

Tommy Bagwell (*Former CEO, American Proteins, Inc.*)

Honorable Joy Lampley-Fortson (*Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, U.S. Department of Justice*)

Robert Schuetze (*Vice President, BB&T*)

Shuntel Beach (*Community Network Specialist, King's Ridge School*)

Bill Gallagher (*Chief Executive Officer, SEI*)

Trey Sheppard (*Vice President, Howard Sheppard*)

Stephanie Blank (*Chair, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students.*)

Omari Henderson (*Owner, Zucot Gallery & The Art Brothers*)

Brad Sims (*Executive Director – Internal Affairs, Technical College System of Georgia*)

Chris Carpenter (*Partner, Garrett, McNatt, Hennessey and Carpenter 360 LLC*)

Jamie McCurry (*Chief Administrative Officer, Georgia Ports Authority*)

Fran Smith (*Community Volunteer*)

Josh Champion (*President, Carroll Organization*)

John Pemberton (*General Counsel, Southern Company*)

Charlie Sutlive, (*Director of Corporate Communication, Georgia Power*)

Katie Chastain (*Founder & Chief Learning Officer, TiskTask*)

Carl Peoples (*Vice President, Goldman Sachs*)

Russell Smith (*President, RTS Associates*)

Jenna Colvin (*President, Georgia Independent College Association*)

Alex Wayne (*Partner, Wayne Capital*)

To learn more about the REACH Scholarship Program and its impact on Georgia students, visit: [REACH Georgia \(reachga.org\)](https://reachga.org).

About the Georgia Student Finance Authority: The Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) is a companion student finance entity of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). Together, they administer nearly 20 state- and lottery-funded scholarships, grants and service-cancelable loans,

New REACH Georgia Foundation Inc. Board of Directors Confirmed by the Georgia Student Finance Authority

Page **3** of **3**

February 9, 2021

including the nationally renowned HOPE programs. Founded in 1965, GSFC strives to ensure Georgians have an opportunity to access education beyond high school. GSFC also provides free financial aid and college planning counseling to K-12 students, parents, counselors, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations across the state. To learn more about our programs and services or to find an Outreach Representative in your area, visit www.gsfc.org, gafutures.org, or 1-800-505-GSFC (4732).