

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAfutures.org

Shawn Ryan
PRESIDENT

For Immediate Release:
May 5, 2017

Media Contact: Chris Green
(770) 724-9008

Dr. Sarah Beck Hawthorne Elected Chair, Lee Tucker as Vice Chair of the Georgia Student Finance Commission Board of Commissioners

MACON – The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) announced its Board of Commissioners has elected Dr. Sarah Beck Hawthorne Chair and Mr. Lee Tucker as Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Hawthorne and Mr. Tucker were also elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Boards of the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) and the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation (GHEAC), respectively. The newly elected officers will begin their new roles on July 1 and will serve for a period of one year.



Sarah Beck Hawthorne

Dr. Hawthorne represents Georgia's 8th congressional district and was first appointed to GSFC's Board in May 2013 by Governor Nathan Deal. Hawthorne is a former elementary and secondary classroom teacher and administrator, as well as president and founder of AlphaSkills, Inc. She has served as President of the Georgia Teacher of the Year Association and Chairman of the Central Georgia Technical College Board of Directors. Dr. Hawthorne serves on the Communities in Schools of Central Georgia Board of Directors, the executive committee of the Twiggs County Family Connection, the education committee of the Twiggs County Chamber of Commerce, and is the past Chairman of the City of Jeffersonville Downtown Development Authority. Hawthorne earned a bachelor's degree from Mercer

University and both a master's and doctorate degree in Reading Education and Educational Administration from the University of Georgia. She and her husband, Fleming, have one daughter and four grandchildren. They reside in Jeffersonville.



Lee Tucker

Mr. Tucker represents Georgia's 7th congressional district and was first appointed to GSFC's Board in August 2015 by Governor Nathan Deal. Mr. Tucker is a founding partner of Mahaffey Pickens Tucker, LLP, a general business law firm with operations in the northern suburbs of Atlanta. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the North Fulton Bar Association and the Gwinnett County Bar Association. Mr. Tucker also serves on the board of directors for several business and community organizations including, Brand Group Holdings, Inc., the Gwinnett Technical College Foundation, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, and the Gwinnett Children's Shelter. Mr. Tucker earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law

degree from Georgia State University College of Law. He and his wife, Stanna, live in Peachtree Corners with their three children.

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

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, GAfutures.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC programs and services is available at gsfc.georgia.gov, www.GAfutures.org or 1.800.505.GSFC (4732).