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

Michael Patrick (Board Chair, Chick-fil-A, Inc.)
TJ Abrams (Chief Marketing Officer, Exos)
Tommy Bagwell (Former CEO, American Proteins, Inc.)
Shuntel Beach (Community Network Specialist, King’s Ridge School)
Stephanie Blank (Chair, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students.)
Chris Carpenter (Partner, Garrett, McNatt, Hennessy and Carpenter 360 LLC)
Josh Champion (President, Carroll Organization)
Katie Chastain (Founder & Chief Learning Officer, TiskTask)
Jenna Colvin (President, Georgia Independent College Association)
Jay Cunningham (President, Superior Plumbing)
Honorable Bubber Epps (Former Member, Georgia House of Representatives)
Honorable Joy Lampley-Fortson (Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, U.S. Department of Justice)
Bill Gallagher (Chief Executive Officer, SEI)
Omari Henderson (Owner, Zucot Gallery & The Art Brothers)
Jamie McCurry (Chief Administrative Officer, Georgia Ports Authority)
John Pemberton (General Counsel, Southern Company)
Carl Peoples (Vice President, Goldman Sachs)
Kathleen Phelps (Senior Director of Finance, WestRock)
Gus Pursley III (Chief Executive Officer, Fowler Flemister Concrete)
Robert Schuetze (Vice President, BB&T)
Trey Sheppard (Vice President, Howard Sheppard)
Brad Sims (Executive Director – Internal Affairs, Technical College System of Georgia)
Fran Smith (Community Volunteer)
Charlie Sutlive, (Director of Corporate Communication, Georgia Power)
Russell Smith (President, RTS Associates)
Alex Wayne (Partner, Wayne Capital)

To learn more about the REACH Scholarship Program and its impact on Georgia students, visit: REACH Georgia (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,
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).