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Subject: Leadership Changes

Today, the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) Board of Commissioners was pleased to confirm Shawn Ryan as the agency's new President, effective November 1, 2016. Mr. Ryan will also serve as President of the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) and the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation (GHEAC). Ryan was nominated by Governor Nathan Deal to replace Tricia Chastain, who was appointed Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration at the University System of Georgia.

Mr. Ryan is currently the director of Georgia's Integrated Eligibility System, the largest information technology project in state history. He was previously the director of communications for the Georgia Department of Public Health. Mr. Ryan has more than a decade of experience in Washington, D.C., as he worked in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as for the Mortgage Bankers Association and the Heritage Foundation.

In addition to Mr. Ryan's arrival, GSFC welcomes Jennifer Herring to the role of Senior Vice President, College Affordability Initiatives. Mrs. Herring will be responsible for the REACH Program, the Path2College 529 Plan, as well as leading the further development and roll out of GSFC's financial literacy initiative. Jennifer brings over 20 years of experience in the banking industry with a wealth of knowledge about sales and management. She has held several leadership roles with her local chamber of commerce, numerous volunteer organizations and was a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2014.

Lastly, Dana Russell, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, will be leaving GSFC and retiring from state government after more than 30 years. Dana's great leadership, strong work ethic and wonderful personality have been a critical key to GSFC's success over the past 10+ years. He's dedicated the better part of his life to serving our state—and Georgia is better for it. Caylee Noggle, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, will be assuming responsibility for the loan operations and accounting functions.

GSFC anticipates a seamless transition and will continue to focus on our core mission of increasing access to education for Georgians. Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Herring look forward to the opportunity to meet our school partners in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Green at 770.724.9008 or chrisg@gsfc.org.