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## REACH Scholarship Celebrates 6 Years

**Atlanta, GA** – Governor Nathan Deal, along with the Georgia House of Representatives and the Georgia State Senate proclaimed March 12, 2018 as *REACH Georgia Day at the Capitol*. Nearly 200 REACH Scholars from around the state toured the Capitol, met with legislators, and attended a special luncheon and senior recognition ceremony with the Governor and First Lady.

REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) is a public-private mentorship and needs-based scholarship program, as well as a key component of the state's Complete College Georgia Initiative. Upon graduation from high school, REACH Scholars are awarded up to \$10,000 to attend a HOPE-eligible two or four-year Georgia college. As part of the annual event, Scholars had the opportunity to participate in a college and career fair hosted by the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Workforce Division and Trade Five Program. The exhibition allowed REACH Scholars to learn about options for education beyond high school as well as network with some of Georgia's leading companies and postsecondary institutions.

Scholars also attended a special luncheon to celebrate the success of the program, and the second graduating class. "When I look around the room I see me," stated motivational speaker Ben Raymond. "All of you have been given an opportunity, I urge you to act on it and follow your dreams," added Raymond.

Caylee Noggle, Interim President of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), congratulated the 32 senior Scholars as the second cohort to graduate in the program and begin their pursuit of a postsecondary education.

"We are very proud of the students and their supporters who joined us for REACH Day at the Capitol," stated Noggle. "Thanks to the support from Governor Deal, the General Assembly, and our local and private sponsors statewide, REACH is allowing more Georgia students to pursue education beyond high school and be prepared for tomorrow's workforce."

### About the REACH Georgia program

*The REACH Georgia Program is a needs-based scholarship and mentorship program administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority and is designed to assist academically promising students with the extra mentoring, academic coaching, and support they need to be successful in high school and to access and complete a post-secondary credential. Upon high school graduation, eligible REACH Scholars receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Founded by Governor Deal in 2012, today the program serves more than 103 school systems and 1,200 students across Georgia, committing more than \$18 million in scholarships. Additional information about REACH is available at [reachga.org](http://reachga.org) or 800.505.4732 (GSFC).*