

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GCollege411

Tricia P. Chastain
PRESIDENT

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REACH Georgia Foundation Raises \$500,000

ATLANTA - The REACH Georgia Foundation achieved a significant milestone of raising \$500,000 in private donations since the launch of an annual fundraising campaign in August 2015. The Foundation's sole mission is to raise funds to support the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia Program.

Governor Deal launched REACH in 2012 as a key initiative of Complete College Georgia. School systems partner with REACH and identify academically promising, low-income eighth grade students who are then paired with a mentor and an academic coach. Upon graduation from high school, REACH scholars are awarded up to a \$10,000 scholarship to be used at a Georgia HOPE-eligible two- or four-year college.

"I am delighted that we are well on our way to the goal of raising \$750,000 for the REACH Georgia Program before July 1, 2016," stated Beth Shiroishi, chair of the Foundation and Vice President-Global Corporate Social Responsibility, Strategy and Insights, AT&T Services. "AT&T has supported the program since its launch in 2012 because it so closely aligns with our goals to ensure that students are prepared for college and careers," added Shiroishi.

REACH began with three Georgia school systems and 15 eighth grade students. To date, the program has grown to include 41 school systems and 335 students. REACH's growth is projected to continue and aims to provide all 180 Georgia school systems and over 2,800 students the ability to participate in the program by 2020.

"I am personally honored to be a member of the Foundation and work with these fine people in an effort to boost Georgia's needs-based scholarship options," stated James Hull, member manager, Hull Property Group and vice chair of the Foundation.

The REACH Georgia Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors: Matt Arthur, Chantal J. Bagwell, Susanna Baxter, Stephanie Blank, Brad Bryant, Chris Carpenter, Tricia Chastain, Barbarella Diaz, James M. Hull, Anne Kaiser, Laura R. Morgan, Jose Perez, Jennifer A. Rippner, Joe Sam Robinson, Linda Sewell, Sachin Shailendra, Beth A. Shiroishi, Kessel Stelling, Henry Turner and Don Waters.

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

REACH Georgia is administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), a companion student finance entity of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). 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, GCollege411.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 www.gsfc.org or www.GCollege411.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732).