

Georgia College & Career Academies
Quarterly Report: October – December 2017
Griffin Region College & Career Academy

Mission and Goals

Mission Statement:

"To develop and grow a well-trained workforce by empowering our students with a rigorous and relevant education, excellent soft skills, and the confidence to succeed in a highly competitive world."

Goals:

- Dual enrollment has increased at each of our partner high schools; we are working to see this number continue to increase. All but three of our courses are dual enrollment courses.
- Continue to provide workplace experience; apprenticeships, mentoring, and work based learning have been a part of this first semester this school year.
- Continue to build private sector engagement through GA-CATT, and with the opportunity to present or be a sponsor at the Lt. Governor's 10th Annual Business and Education Summit held the first day at the GRCCA.
- Implement teaching and learning that meets the needs of area businesses and industries; again the GA-CATT program and also through volunteering during the month of December for the Salvation Army through the Griffin Rotary Club made up of all business leaders of the community.
- Began this school year with an enrollment increase of approximately 100 students.

Need

As we begin our second year of hosting students, this is our first year in our newly renovated building We have hosted our Ribbon Cutting, Open Houses, tours for educators and Boards of Education from all three partner counties in an effort to familiarize the region with the opportunities available for students at the GRCCA. We are continuing to look for ways to provide work force development for business/industry in the region.

Partnerships

Our partnerships have continued with all three school systems, as well as Gordon State College, Southern Crescent Technical College and the University of Georgia-Griffin Campus. This semester we have also forged a new partnership with Middle Georgia State University through their Aviation Program. We are also working with the Georgia Office of Economic Development, Delta Airlines, American Airlines, Griffin Airport, and Candler Field in Williamson, GA (Pike County), as well as others in order to bring the new Aviation Pathway to the GRCCA. This program will begin in fall 2018 with Aviation dual enrollment courses taught by Middle Georgia adjuncts, while we work toward fund raising and building an A & P program that must be FAA approved. This will be at least a two year process, but students can begin in the Middle Georgia courses this fall.

Budget

The budget continues to change according to the needs of the program. For example, in the original budget it was not known how legislation in Georgia would change encouraging and promoting dual enrollment, thus the GRCCA becoming a 100% dual enrollment program. We are working closely with GSCS CFO Ryan McLemore to insure we meet the demands of staffing, while be good stewards financially. We also continued fund raising during November and December, with funds coming in through our hosting of Day 1 of the Lt. Governor's

Business & Education Summit, as well various businesses and civic groups purchasing brick pavers and bench sponsorship with all funds going into student programs.

Governance & Leadership

We held GRCCA Governance Board meetings each month this quarter, as well as GRCCA Executive Management Team meetings each month. The Executive Management Team is made up of the three superintendents from our partner counties, a representative from each of our post-secondary partners, the GRCCA board chair and co-chair, GRCCA CEO and Director. The Executive Management Team continues to support and grant good advice to the GRCCA Governance Board. The GRCCA Governance will be focusing on strategic planning for our upcoming training this year. We have training planned for both the March and April Board meetings, with each meeting lasting 3 hours to incorporate training. In addition, CEO Arrowood has already begun the research and ground work to propose a new capital campaign to be a part of the strategic plan that will be designed during training. Frank Pinson with TCSG will be conducting the training in March 2018 (3 hours) and April 2018 (3 hours). We also had GRCCA Board members who received 3 hours of state approved training by attending the Lt. Governor's Business & Education Summit on November 13 and 14, 2017.

Timelines

We completed our first year of serving students, and it was a success. We had 155 students completing core academic college courses, and/or technical college courses leading to TCCs. We began this school year with a goal of 250 students. Although initially we did meet our goal, with a few drop/adds due to scheduling issues we began with 238 students. We are proud to be moved in and operating out of our newly renovated building. The labs and classroom spaces are state of the art, and the entire facility and campus has a collegiate and professional climate. We have already begun planning for registration for next school year, including training of counselors at the home high schools, setting up courses to be offered, recruitment in the high schools and middle schools in all three counties, and registration information on the website.

Career & College Focus

All of the pathways offered at the GRCCA are college pathways with the opportunity to earn core academic college credits to transfer towards a degree, a technical college certificate to be used to enter the workforce, or potentially an Associate degree from one of the post-secondary partners. Each of our offerings in the 2017-2018 Program of Study is a Dual Enrollment program or course. We are 100% Dual Enrollment academy for the 2017 – 2018 school year, minus the freshman JROTC cohort from Pike County. These students take JROTC at Griffin High one block each semester, and one high school academic at the GRCCA each semester. First semester it is World History and second semester it will be American Lit.

Grade Levels

We currently serve primarily 10th – 12th graders. With the heavy influence of all dual enrollment programs, most students have high school requirements they need to finish during their 9th grade year. We did add for the 2017-2018 school year an opportunity for freshman students from Pike County High School to participate in JROTC through our partnership with Griffin-Spalding Schools. The first cohort began this August.

Enrollment & Student Focus

The enrollment goal set forth by the GRCCA Executive Management Team was 250 for the 2017-2018 school year. We currently have 238 enrolled, but with the additions for second semester, we should hit 250 by year's end. All programs have a heavy student focus, with apprenticeships, internships, and volunteer opportunities also being offered.

Student Support

We have continued to offer student support this semester, and have noticed the need for this support especially for less mature students. We have worked with students on attendance issues and helped students take on the responsibility for their own grades as well as student/instructor interactions. The Early Alert System has also been used this semester to inform GRCCA's administration if any student is struggling in a college course so that we may offer support to that student in a variety of forms. Gordon State has is now piloting for the state the use of the Accuplacer exam for acceptance into their college. This has proven to be a great option for many of the students we serve.

Standards & Curriculum

All post-secondary partners are SACS accredited, so all of those standards are met. The curriculum will follow the courses listed to complete a post-secondary degree or certificate. We opened this year offering Technical College Certificate programs in Welding, Automotive, Cosmetology, Film Production, and Forensic Science. We also have students taking Dual Enrollment courses in core academics. New programs this year include: Pharmacy Technician Diploma or Associates Degree: this is a two year program for Juniors & Seniors; and the Precision Manufacturing Diploma/Degree through the German Apprenticeship Model, this will match with the Maintenance Mechanic apprenticeship.

Structure

All marketing done thus far emphasizes the professional, collegiate culture that will be a part of the GRCCA. The building plans support this same culture, as well as the soft skills emphasis that will be part of the program. Opening in the new building has been a big highlight in the community including business/industry, the Chamber of Commerce, and of course the three school systems we serve.

Faculty & Staff

Dr. Laura Ergle has been named the Director of the GRCCA; she will continue to be Griffin-Spalding School System's CTAE Director as well. We have also two high school teachers to assist in offering the high school courses some students will need to meet their high school graduation requirements. The teachers are both part time and one will teach British Literature and the other will teach Tools for College Success. In addition to the CEO, we also have a part time counselor/registrar.

Evaluation

CEO and Director both received high evaluations for the current school year. The program will be evaluated at the end of this school year by pathway completers and number of college credits earned. We will also evaluate the registration process and work with the home high schools counselors in order to help stream line this process for the upcoming registration sessions.

Cycle of Improvement

We were proud to launch two new multi-year programs this year, the German Apprenticeship Program (GA-CATT) and the Pharmacy Technician Diploma/Degree Program. We are continuing to work hard this semester on bringing more new offerings for next school year including Teaching as a Profession with the first three education courses that are a part of the University System of Georgia, an Aviation program, Para-legal program, and Medical Office Assisting program.

Charter School Law

Charter was approved.