November 29, 2021

Dear Selection Committee:

On behalf of Georgia Gwinnett College and the division of Academic & Student Affairs, [illegible] • u Ç ‰ o • µ Œ š] our Student Success Advising Center for the University System of Georgia Regents Momentum Award for Excellence in Advising and Student Success.

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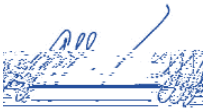

Narrative of Goals and Strategies for Student Success

Background Institutional Profile

Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) is one of two access institutions in the Atlanta metropolitan region. The

HACER offers a range of activities, including Spanish language classes, Latin American study opportunities, cultural workshops, and participating with other organizations like the Hispanic Organization for Growth, Advancement, and Retention (HOGAR). It provides a platform for students to explore their heritage, take on

Academic maps (see Appendix) are used by both Student Success advisors and peer mentors to help students select the two additional courses to round out the 15 credit hour also creates a sense of agency for the students. Triads provide common experiences and help students affirm their academic interests while fostering a sense of belonging to a cohort

GGC 1000 First-Year Seminar Course
GGC 1000, the First-Year Seminar course, is an anchor class in many of the GGC learning communities. Beginning in Fall 2021, we began offering a section of GGC 1000 linked with the HACER thematic learning community. In the last three Fall semesters, 50 students have enrolled in these sections. New students in the HACER GGC 1000 learning community are assigned to be advised by the course instructor, who is a Senior Student Success Advisor and leads HACER planning. Besides focusing on guiding students to be successful in the college experience, the class celebrates the diverse Hispanic and Latino cultures by teaching enrolled students about Latin American cultures and guiding their participation in cultural events on campus

Advising Strategies that Create a Sense of Belonging

Elevating Student Voice and Connection
After conducting surveys and facilitating focus groups in 2021, 2022, and 2023, student success advisors identified areas of support that Hispanic and Latino students told us were important to their academic and personal success. These areas include financial support, academic and career development, and mental health. To support students in these areas, bilingual student success advisors and HACER peer mentors collaborate with diverse campus units, faculty and staff for workshops on scholarships and preparing scholarship applications, completing the FAFSA, growth mindset, academic success skills, understanding academic policies and campus resources. Interactive activities to support mental health and well-being have included meditation workshops and an outdoor adventures field trip. For the past two years, student success advisors have led a community networking event, "Noche de Liderazgo" ("Night of Leadership"), which introduces students to Hispanic community leaders

Advising Strategies that Heighten Academic Engagement

Peer Mentoring in HACER
In the HACER Learning Community at Geoid weell

Data and Evidence of Innovative Advising Impact

Student Body Distinctives

To understand the impact of GGC's Student Success Advising Center (SSAC), it is important first to outline the distinctives among GGC's student population served by the SSAC.

GGC's student headcount in Fall 2023 is 11,910, an increase of almost 8% over the prior year (up 7.97% from our Fall 2022 enrollment of 11,030). The Fall 2023 enrollment represents a continuing trend approaching GGC's pre-COVID highest ever historical enrollment of 12,831 in Fall 2019. Of the total Fall 2023 student enrollment, 7,017 (59%) are women, and 3,392 (28%) are Hispanic (based on data reported to IPEDS).

Almost 98% of the students enrolled at GGC in Fall 2023 are from Georgia, being classified as in state students, with the remainder coming from 30 other states. Among those students from Georgia, 75.24% of students are from Gwinnett County, down from about 77% last year. Aside from Gwinnett County and the state of Georgia, GGC students represent 31 states and 110 countries – a truly diverse campus in terms of culture and geography.

Over 25% of GGC students enrolled in Fall 2023 identified as First Generation from their families in college. About 65.5% of GGC students are traditional age, 22 years of age. Of the total student headcount in Fall 2023, 65.4% are e c-2 (lle)9.1d iud atradition Fal2 (n)-4 m(1)-2 (8)]TJTJ -25.

For Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Fall 2023, GGC has remained among the most ethnically diverse institutions in its region. For the ninth straight year, Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) has been ranked as the most ethnically diverse Southern regional college, according to the 2023 U.S. News & World Report (USN&WR) college and university rankings, released in September 2022. The same report indicated that GGC ranks #1 in ethnic diversity among public regional colleges in the nation. In Fall 2023, 31.8% of GGC students are Black/African American, with 28% Hispanic/Latino, and 11.6% Asian. Further illustrating5 diversity and

those advisors working closely with our HACER learning community participants, place particular emphasis on credit intensity for students who are able to take closer to 15 credit hours, with the goal of enhancing their sense of purpose in their academic direction. Among GGC's full-time freshmen and sophomores, there has been a steady trend toward increasing credit intensity when compared with pre-pandemic credit intensity levels. For example, full-time freshmen over the Fall 2021-Fall 2022 semesters had average credit intensity of about 13.74 credit hours. This compares favorably to Fall 2018 credit intensity metric of 13.19 for full-time freshmen group. In Fall 2022, full-time freshmen at GGC had an average credit hour intensity of 13.68, and our full-time sophomores had average credit hour intensity of 13.78, marking the first time in recent semesters that sophomore credit intensity has been higher than that of freshmen. We will continue to watch the credit intensity metric over time, understanding that the work of our Student Success advisors has a great deal to do with reaching success in this area. (Source of credit intensity data: USG METRICS dashboard at https://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_and_policy/academic_strategy_and_analytics/)

Advisors within the HACER Learning community have been central to these efforts, offering personalized guidance and support, thereby fostering an environment conducive to networking and professional development.

In the broader context of GGC's commitment to enhancing student success, the HACER Learning community stands out as a model for active engagement and community growth. Its success is also evident in its social media outreach, which has successfully engaged a significant number of new accounts. The HACER Learning Community's achievements and its integrated approach to academic and cultural enrichment align with GGC's strategic goals, underscoring the potential for similar initiatives to thrive and contribute to the success of the institution's student body.

Evidence of Creating a Sense of Belonging

Peer Mentoring

Within the HACER Learning Community at Georgia Gwinnett College, peer mentoring has been a cornerstone in nurturing a sense of belonging among students. Feedback from participants underscores the program's effectiveness. Students have shared their appreciation for the guidance received, with one noting, "I enjoyed the very helpful information especially during this time of rising costs on everything. Education began to look like a luxury, but after this session I am more motivated to look for scholarships and continue with my education." Another student highlighted the value of peer advice, stating, "Absolutely [my peer mentor] was excellent in explaining the topic and was very helpful."

The HACER peer mentors recognized during GGC's Spring 2023 Commencement ceremony have provided much-needed support and motivation, particularly for students navigating the transition to college and the associated challenges. Mentees have also shared positive experiences from various workshops, with comments like, "This workshop was very helpful. I learned a lot of new skills and got a better understanding of what leadership is," and the sentiment that field trips are "really educational and it helps us see into our past."

Evidence of Heightened Academic Engagement

The HACER Learning Community has facilitated meaningful connections, with students expressing the importance of interfacing with the community and getting involved. This is what

of other groups and , yes, people recognized me and yes I contributed a lot, but for me in hig

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In conclusion, the HACER program is an exemplary nominee for the Regents' Momentum Award for Excellence in Advising and Student Success. Its quantifiable impact on student engagement, retention, and success, coupled with its transformative influence on students' lives, including my own, is a testament to its excellence in advising and student support.

Thank you for considering this nomination. I am confident that the HACER program will continue to positively impact the lives of students at Georgia Gwinnett College and beyond.

Alejandro Osorio Ocampo

First Bilingual Peer Mentor, HACER Program
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November 28, 2023

Regents' Momentum Award for Excellence in Advising and Student Success Award Committee

Dear Award Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for Georgia Gwinnett College's one-of-a-kind support team, HACER (Hispanic Achievers Committed to Excellence in Results). During my twelve years as a tri-lingual (Korean Spanish English) full-time faculty at Georgia Gwinnett College, I am consistently striving to meet great organization and colleagues to promote, support and advising in our great area of Gwinnett County and all-around Georgia. Georgia Gwinnett College is uniquely gifted by having a great population of multi-cultural-diverse population, and our students, who are coming from different backgrounds are striving to succeed each day. Our great institution offers direct contact with students, training faculty to be excellent advisors, and developing programs and tools for students to support their goals personally and professionally.

HACER continually supports and encourage students to make purposeful choices regarding their education and mostly prepare them to succeed within the diverse society we all live in. HACER have also held encouraging

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events during critical times of the semester to help students cope with the stress associated with college. HACER and GGC are always creating a clear path to graduation from the first time a student steps on campus, engaging and assisting students to be successful during their time at GGC and on campus. HACER's main mission is not only to

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