The Challenge Continues:
Georgia Grantmakers’ Role in Shaping PK-12 Education Policy

2015 ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday · September 3, 2015 · Middle Georgia State University · Macon, Georgia
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

About GGA’s Annual Meetings
The theme of this year’s meeting is “The Challenge Continues: Georgia Grantmakers’ Role in Shaping PK-12 Education Policy.” Through our speakers and discussions among grantmakers, we will explore the complex issues surrounding education in Georgia, the broad range of perspectives on how to best ensure all of Georgia’s children are prepared for success, and how grantmakers can best support and promote quality education in our state.

About Georgia Grantmakers Alliance
The Georgia Grantmakers Alliance (GGA) is open to all private grantmakers in Georgia. GGA is a non-partisan association of grantmakers who explore statewide issues, connections to public policy, and their implications for grantmaking. Quality programming requires capable volunteer leadership. If you would like to volunteer to serve on GGA’s program or policy committees, please email Will Kauffman at will@secf.org.

About SECF
The Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) is one of the nation’s largest regional associations of grantmakers, serving more than 330 of the most dynamic foundations and corporate giving programs in the South. SECF works in partnership with members in 11 Southeastern states to serve, strengthen, promote and champion the South’s philanthropic voice and infrastructure through engaging programming, leadership development training, access to unique resources and invaluable connections. By encouraging insightful philanthropic collaboration – like GGA’s Annual Meeting - SECF creates opportunities to increase the region’s grantmaking impact and empower transformational community change.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Southeastern Council of Foundations strives to support Members and grantmakers with access to education, resources and networking by serving as a convener and facilitator, offering a diverse range of voices and perspectives.

We do not endorse colleague organization views but rather aim to provide access to a broad range of information and resources to increase grantmaking impact and develop philanthropic leaders throughout the region.

We are grateful to the following Georgia foundations for providing support to GGA

The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation
Pittulloch Foundation
THE SAPELO FOUNDATION
Tull Charitable Foundation

2015 · SUPPORTERS

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Georgia Grantmakers Alliance
in partnership with the Southeastern Council of Foundations

Southeastern Council of Foundations
where grantmakers connect
8:30am - 8:45am · Coffee and Networking

8:45am - 9:00am · Welcome

- Lesley Grady, Chair, GGA Chair
- Dr. Christopher Blake, President, Middle Georgia State University
- Suzanna Stribling, Program Committee Chair

9:00am - 10:30am · Georgia’s Proposed Opportunity School District: Who, What, When & Why

The General Assembly passed a constitutional amendment resolution and implemented legislation for the OSD during the 2015 legislative session. It now requires a majority approval by Georgia voters in the 2016 general election. Based on similar initiatives in Louisiana and Tennessee, it would authorize the state to temporarily step in to assist chronically failing public schools. We’ll learn more about how the OSD would work, invite questions about it, and discover how an Atlanta area group of funders are preparing for its passage.

- Erin Hames, Principal, Reform Ed, and former Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Legislative Affairs, Governor Nathan Deal
- Nina Gilbert, current 50CAN Fellow, and founder of Ivy Prep Charter School.
- Dena Blank Kimball, Trustee, Arthur M Blank Foundation and Executive Director, The Kendeda Fund
- Moderator: Lori Armistead, Program Officer, The Walton Family Foundation

10:30am - 10:45am · Break

10:45am - 11:45am · Dr. Charles Knapp, The Governor’s Commission on Education Reform

Dr. Charles Knapp, former President of the University of Georgia, has his hands full chairing the 33-member commission charged with studying the state’s education system, including its funding formula, and making recommendations to improve the system, increase access to early learning programs, recruit and retain high-quality instructors, and expand school options for Georgia’s families. Knapp is also the former chair of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce which published Tough Choices or Tough Times, a 2007 report on education and the economy.

11:45am - 12:30pm · Richard Woods, GA State School Superintendent

A retired principal and home school administrator from Tifton, Richard Woods was elected in November as Georgia Superintendent of Schools. A political newcomer and a Republican, Woods has walked a cautious line between being an old-school traditionalist and new-school reformer, earning praise, so far, from public school lobbyists on one side, and on the other lawmakers who are bent on overhauling the system and even eliminating his job. We’ll ask him about his vision for progress, his antipathy for federal mandates like testing, and how he thinks private philanthropy can best help education reform efforts.

12:30pm - 1:15pm · Break and Buffet Lunch

1:15pm - 2:15pm · Keeping Curiosity and Creativity Alive in Georgia’s Schools

How might we support transformative, hands-on learning opportunities for all of Georgia students? In this session, we will explore effective strategies for closing the academic achievement gap through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and learn from national experts on the current data, trends and best classroom practices.

- Dr. Glade Montgomery, VP, East Region, Project Lead the Way
- Karen Puty, Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts
- Facilitator: Jennifer Curry, Chief of Staff and Programs, The Goizueta Foundation

2:15pm - 3:15pm · Talent Show: How to Recruit and Retain Excellent Teachers

Good teaching is everything. But how do we elevate teachers and the school leaders we need to inspire them? New research has taught us more about what makes a teacher successful, how to better prepare them, and how to evaluate the quality of their work. Proposals in front of the Education Reform Commission are considering new methods of compensation and significant changes to the current model. This session will explore teacher recruitment and retention issues with experts from several angles.

- Pam Williams, Chair, Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Compensation Subcommittee of the Education Reform Commission, Georgia Teacher of the Year 2011, Instructional Specialist for grades 9-12, Appling County Schools
- Emily Lembeck, Superintendent, Marietta City Schools
- David Weitnauer, President, R. Howard Dobbs Foundation
- Moderator: Hunter Pierson, Vice President, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and member, Education Reform Commission

3:15pm - 3:30pm · Next Steps and GGA Update

- Lesley Grady, Chair
Lori Armistead  
Program Officer, The Walton Family Foundation

Lori Armistead is a program officer in the Walton Family Foundation’s Systemic K-12 Education Reform Focus Area, where she manages the Foundation’s interests in Georgia and Tennessee, among other projects. WFF’s core strategy is to infuse competitive pressure into America’s K-12 education system by increasing the quantity and quality of school choices available to parents, especially in low-income communities. Prior to her role with the Foundation, Lori consulted with WFF and a variety of other advocacy and coalition management programs.

Lori has served as director of state projects at the national non-profits Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice and as director of public affairs and the director of the education task force at the American Legislative Exchange Council. Lori began her career serving as the legislative advisor to Ohio’s then-Assistant Majority Leader. She currently resides in Duluth, Georgia, with her husband and son.

Dr. Nina Gilbert  
50CAN Fellow and Founder, Ivy Preparatory Academy

Dr. Nina Gilbert has spent more than 15 years advocating for high-quality education in her home state of Georgia. She founded and opened Georgia’s first single-gender charter school, Ivy Preparatory Academy, in 2008 and served for several years as the Head of School and Executive Director. During her tenure, Ivy Prep grew from one school to a small network of three charter schools serving nearly 1,300 Metro Atlanta families.

In addition to her charter school work, Nina has served as an adjunct professor and the senior advisor on education reform at Morehouse College’s Research Institute. Previously, Nina spent several years as a Gwinnett County school administrator, teacher and educational consultant. Nina has completed several national prestigious education fellowships including Building Excellent Schools and the Pahara Aspen Institute. She currently is an advocacy fellow with the 50 State Campaign for Achievement Now (50CAN). She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of West Georgia, a Master of Education degree from Clark Atlanta University, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Erin Hames  
Deputy chief of staff for policy and legislative affairs

After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Georgia’s College of Education, Erin Hames taught middle school for three years. She later graduated with honors from Georgia State University College of Law. After law school, she began serving as Gov. Sonny Perdue’s education policy adviser and later as his policy director. In that role, she served as executive sponsor for Georgia’s Race to the Top team and led the early implementation of the plan in her role as the chief of staff at the Georgia Department of Education. Erin is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and was selected as a 2010 Henry Toll Fellow by the Council of State Governments. She and her husband, Ben, have one son. They are Habersham County natives who now reside in Atlanta and are active members of Buckhead Church.

Dena Kimball  
Executive Director, The Kendeda Fund

Dena Kimball is the Executive Director of The Kendeda Fund. Formerly, she served as Vice President of Network Support of Teach For All, Vice President of Alumni Affairs and Deputy Vice President of Admissions for Teach for America, and as Executive Director of GirlVentures in San Francisco, a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire adolescent girls to develop and express their strengths.

Dena holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Emory University and a master’s degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She has served as an associate director of development for Pacific Crest Outward Bound School and as program specialist at the National Economic Development and Law Center. Dena also has worked as an independent consultant, specializing in the curriculum development, management, strategic planning and development of nonprofit organizations focusing on youth.

Dena was the founding chair of the American Jewish World Service’s Global Circle. She is married to Josh Kimball and they have two daughters.
Dr. Charles Knapp
Chairman, Governor's Reform Commission and President Emeritus of UGA

Dr. Charles Knapp leads the Commission tasked with studying Georgia's education system and offering recommendations for improvement and reform, including suggestions on how to rework the state's antiquated QBE funding formula. Its work is intended to actualize Governor Deal's vision of expanded opportunity for all learners, increased access to education, and greater system flexibility.

Dr. Emily Lambeck
Marietta City Schools Superintendent

Dr. Emily Lembeck assumed the office of Marietta City Schools (MCS) Superintendent on July 1, 2005, becoming just the 12th superintendent since 1892, leading the district’s 11 schools, approximately 8,900 students and 1,200 employees.

Emily served as Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Operations of Marietta City Schools from 2001 until her appointment to the superintendency in 2005. As Associate Superintendent, she oversaw the school system's overall instructional program. Before her successful career in school administration, she dedicated 11 years to the classroom as a teacher in Florida and Georgia.

A graduate of Brooklyn College in New York, Emily holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Georgia, a master's degree in Administration and Supervision from Nova University in Florida, and a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood from Brooklyn College in New York.

Dr. Glade Montgomery
Vice President, East Region, Project Lead the Way

Dr. Glade Montgomery serves as Project Lead the Way's Vice President of the East Region. In his role, Glade works to support the implementation and growth of PLTW programs in districts across the eastern United States, while also creating partnerships with business, industry, and university affiliates.

Prior to joining PLTW, Glade served 29 years in public education in Indiana. He most recently served as the superintendent of schools in LaPorte, Indiana, where he was active on numerous community boards, including co-chairing the 2012 United Way campaign in LaPorte County. While in LaPorte, Glad focused on improving student achievement through the use of school-wide data teams, the implementation of a district and community drug task force to contest issues of drug and alcohol use, and creating a collaborative working environment for all employees.

Glade earned doctoral, masters, and bachelor's degrees from Purdue University. Additionally, he received the 2010 Norbert Nelson Outstanding Educational Leadership Dissertation Award from Purdue University and was selected Administrator of the Year by the Indiana Association of Office Professionals in 2009.

Karen Paty
Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts

Karen L. Paty has been working in the arts and community development for more than 15 years and became director of the Georgia Council for the Arts in 2011. As director, she is responsible for developing policies, procedures and programs, initiating statewide partnerships and collaborations to further the organization's strategic goals, as well as managing financial and organizational capacity to ensure the council's compliance with all state mandates and federal reporting requirements.

Prior to her work at Georgia Council for the Arts, Karen worked as the associate director of civic engagement at Hands On Atlanta, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community through volunteerism and civic engagement. She earned a bachelor's degree in Metropolitan Studies from New York University, where she was also a recipient of the university’s President's Award for Service.

Prior to her work at Georgia Council for the Arts, Ms. Paty worked as the associate director of civic engagement at Hands On Atlanta, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community through volunteerism and civic engagement. While there she managed numerous local community-building and social issue awareness initiatives, designed and implemented a leadership development program for emerging grassroots leaders, and worked with organizations to underscore the power of the arts as a means of outreach and social change. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Metropolitan Studies from New York University, where she was also a recipient of the University's President's Award for Service.
Hunter Pierson
Investment Manager, Goldman Sachs & Co.

Hunter Pierson is an investment manager at Goldman, Sachs & Co. He is responsible for managing the assets of foundations, endowments and wealthy families across the Southeast. Prior to Goldman, he served as the Executive Director of Teach for America – Northern California. Hunter began his career as a public middle school teacher in Oakland, California. A native New Orleanian, he earned both his bachelor’s degree and Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University. Currently, he serves on the boards of New Schools For New Orleans and Teach for America – Atlanta. Hunter cofounded Young Professionals for Educational Equity and was appointed to Governor Nathan Deal’s Education Reform Commission.

David D. Weitnauer
President, R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation

David D. Weitnauer joined the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation in June of 2007 as its president. He came to the Dobbs Foundation following an 11-year relationship with the Rockdale Foundation, where he served as a founding Board member and its first Executive Director.

He currently serves as a trustee of Agnes Scott College and chairs the Advisory Committee of the Foundation Center Library – Atlanta. David also serves on the Advisory Committee of Grassroots Capital Management. He served previously as the Founding Chair of the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Steering Committee and on the boards of the Southeastern Council of Foundations, Columbia Theological Seminary, the Davidson College Alumni Association, and Sanabel, The Microfinance Network of Arab Countries.

David earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Davidson College, a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Theology degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1987, David has served on the pastoral staff of four congregations and as a pastoral counselor/marriage and family therapist. He grew up in Decatur and lives there now with his wife, Nancy. They have two children in college.

Pam Williams
Teacher Leader, Appling County High School

Pam Williams has just begun her 25th year in public school education. For 21 years she taught social sciences and language arts at the elementary, middle and secondary levels. For the last four years, Pam has worked as a teacher leader at Appling County High School in southeast Georgia, where she supports both teachers and students in curriculum and instruction.

Pam was honored to be named the 2011 Georgia Teacher of the Year and has traveled across the state and nation promoting the teaching profession. From 2011-2014, Pam served on the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and has been a member of the AdvancEd Georgia State Council since 2011. Pam currently serves on the Education Reform Commission and is the chair of the Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Compensation subcommittee.

Richard Woods
Georgia State Superintendent

Richard Woods has over 22 years of pre-K through 12th grade experience in public education. He was a high school teacher for 14 years, serving as department chair and teacher mentor. During his tenure, he was also selected as Teacher of the Year. For eight years, he served in various administrative roles such as assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, testing coordinator, pre-k director, and alternative school director.
GGA Steering Committee:

Lesley Grady, Senior Vice President, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc., Atlanta, GA (Chair)
Jeff Barker, President, St. Mary’s United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc., St. Mary’s, GA (Finance Committee Chair)
Bobbi Cleveland, Tull Charitable Foundation, Atlanta, GA (Policy Committee Chair)
Suzanna Stribling, Executive Director, The Wilbur & Hilda Glenn Foundation, Atlanta, GA (Program Committee Chair)
Betsy Verner, Associate Director, J. Bulow Campbell Foundation, Atlanta, GA (Communications Committee Chair)

Speer Burdette, President, Callaway Foundation, Inc., LaGrange, GA
Kathryn Dennis, President, Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Macon, GA
Tjuan Dogan, Manager of Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs, IBM, Atlanta, GA
Robbo Hatcher, Secretary, Georgia Pine Level Foundation, Macon, GA
Erik Johnson, Secretary, Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Allen Mast, Trustee, Mattie H. Marshall Foundation/SunTrust, Atlanta, GA
Atiba Mbiwan, Associate Director, The Zeist Foundation, Inc., Atlanta, GA
Alston Watt, Executive Director, Williams Family Foundation of Georgia, Thomasville, GA
Janine Lee, President & CEO, Southeastern Council of Foundations, Atlanta, GA (ex officio)

GGA Policy Committee:

Bobbi Cleveland, Tull Charitable Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Robbo Hatcher, Georgia Pine Level Foundation, Macon, GA
Valerie Hepburn, Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, St. Simons Island, GA
Erik Johnson, Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Kathy Palumbo, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
David Weitnauer, R. Howard Dobbs Jr. Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Betsy Verner, J. Bulow Campbell Foundation, Atlanta, GA

GGA Program Planning Committee:

Suzanna Stribling, The Wilbur & Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Lori Armistead, The Walton Family Foundation, Duluth, GA
Betsy Covington, Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, Columbus, GA
Tjuan Dogan, IBM, Atlanta, GA
Atiba Mbiwan, Zeist Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Emily Patteson, SunTrust Foundations and Endowments Group, Atlanta, GA
Local Host: Kathryn Dennis, Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Macon, GA

GGA Annual Meeting Resource Experts:

Hunter Pierson, Goldman Sachs
Dana Rickman, GA Partnership for Excellence in Education