



Adding Value – Serving the Community 2005-2007

Programs to engage K-12 students in increased academic preparation

The **Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education** at NGCSU unites colleges, universities, technical and high schools to increase the number of Appalachian Georgians who continue their education beyond high school and to further the educational goals of “at-risk” regional students. The Center allocated \$60,000 to seven high schools in the northeast Georgia region to build new programs and expand activities designed to guide students through high school and to pursue college.

The NGCSU **Teacher Education Program** and the **Honors Program** provide volunteer tutors for middle school students.

North Georgia’s **Center for Economic Education**, directed by **Dr. John L. Scott**, trains K-12 teachers to teach economics. The goal is for students to understand the economy, so that they will more likely stay in school and plan for their future.

The **School of Education**, supported by a grant from the **Goizueta Foundation** and NGCSU, provided tutors and educational experiences in Hall County middle schools to encourage at-risk Hispanic students and their families to continue their formal education and to pursue higher education. The META initiative (Mejorate – improve yourself, Educate – educate yourself, Trabaja – work, Alcanza tu sueño – reach your dream) continued over a four-year period through 2006.

Honors Program students tutor children at Lumpkin County Elementary School.

Dr. Ralph Hitt, a biology professor, taught histology labs at Chestatee High School, where students experienced a “college lab” and their teachers were able to use slides and other laboratory materials he provided.

North Georgia **Continuing Education** provides facilities and assistance for local high school Advanced Placement Exams, preparation classes for the SAT and Georgia College 411 training for high school counselors.

Other programs with K-12 schools

Over the past three years, **Dr. David Moore** of the School of Education has served as director of the **PRISM Grant** for NGCSU through the University System of Georgia. Workshops on campus provide training for pre-service and in-service K-12 teachers. Through a partnership with Georgia’s **Pioneer RESA** (Regional Educational Service Agency), science teachers are trained and then they coach other science teachers at their local schools.

The “**Math & Science on Wheels Initiative**” provides training for area math and science teachers by **David Moore**, science education, and **Heather Marshall**, math education. At summer camps for math and science teachers from Dawson County and Forsyth County, the two NGCSU faculty members train teachers with math manipulatives to take back to their classrooms.

The **Science Education Conference** at North Georgia has featured national keynote speakers for the past two years, offering a wealth of science-teaching ideas for participating teachers from several area counties.

The regional **Science Olympiad**, hosted at North Georgia, includes volunteers from the university's faculty in biology, chemistry, physics, computer science & mathematics, and education, as well as staff members from Student Affairs. Science Olympiad is a hands-on, team-oriented science program that increases interest in math and science of K-12 students. These tournaments provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their competence and receive recognition for their accomplishments while meeting students with similar interests from other schools. Events include physical science activities, chemistry labs, outdoor education, and experiences for teachers.

Each summer, **Continuing Education** offers soccer, basketball, softball and baseball camps, led by North Georgia **coaches and staff**, for area K-12 students.

The NGCSU **Appalachian Studies Center's** Woody Gap Local Studies Class teaches students at that school about the history, science and culture of the area.

Each semester, **Dr. Elizabeth Combier** directs a play in Spanish or French. The productions of the **Department of Modern Languages** are offered to area high schools, and language teachers bring their classes to the plays.

Grants or scholarships awarded to students

The **Dr. Ray C. Rensi History Award**, established by NGCSU faculty members in honor of Emeritus Professor Rensi, is presented to a Lumpkin County High School student who writes the best paper on the history of Lumpkin County or the Appalachian region.

Efforts to promote economic development

NGCSU **Continuing Education** shares its resources and expertise with the area population, business and industry, associations, governmental groups and others to enhance development and lifelong learning. More than 250 classes offer continuing education units, and businesses and industry in the area are provided customized training for their employees.

In FY '06 North Georgia **Continuing Education** completed 298 programs for 3,703 regional participants.

The NGCSU **Appalachian Studies Center** provides workshops for artists seeking to earn a living through a small business. The Center promotes traditional arts and supports the economic environment with the **Georgia Mountain Marketplace** project. The **Healthy Lumpkin Community Partnership** seeks to improve the health of the local community through coalition building and collaboration among healthcare, nonprofit agencies and education communities.

Programs to strengthen or enhance the local community

Dr. Robert Fuller, physics professor and director of the **Environmental Leadership Center**, along with a North Georgia student, spent a week paddling down the Etowah River testing its water quality and teaching and supervising dozens of participants, also paddling down the river, how to test the water and the significance of water quality in Georgia's rivers.

Dr. Fuller also works on environmental projects related to the **Appalachian Trail** and provides research results to the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. He participates in a major project by those agencies to measure the impact of human activities on the Appalachian Trail.

The North Georgia **Corps of Cadets**, along with the Georgia Army National Guard, hosted a Welcome Home ceremony for all cadets and area veterans who returned from Iraq with the 48th Mechanized Brigade.

Facilities were provided by **Continuing Education** for tax assessors training by the Georgia Department of Revenue, Georgia State Patrol testing, Army Reserve training, computer training for Etowah District Attorneys, and Nursing NCLEX Review for nursing and pharmacy state board tests.

The Appalachian Nurse Practitioner Clinic at NGCSU provides basic healthcare services for uninsured, rural and underserved patients in a seven-county area.

JoAnn Dankelman, a staff member in Career Services, worked with the local Community Helping Place to present a demonstration and instruction on the Georgia Career Information System to help the local Helping Place clients investigate job interests and develop resumes and provided other assistance to prepare them for employment.

As a volunteer, **Jeffrey Boggan**, NGCSU director of Development, served on the founding committee to organize the United Way for Lumpkin County and consults with local non-profit service agencies and provides training for board development, strategic planning and fundraising.

North Georgia **faculty members** frequently serve as guest speakers at numerous civic organization meetings, participate in community events as musicians, artists, and for environmental research and other local projects.

Programs to provide cultural and related activities and opportunities

North Georgia's **Fine Arts** programs offer numerous concerts, art exhibits, stage productions, recitals and other performances annually, most with no admission charge, that are popular with area residents. The **music program** offers concerts in Lumpkin County, Forsyth County, Hall County and other regional venues.

The **John L. Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series** annually brings regional performing groups and art exhibits to campus with no admission charge for campus and community audiences.

The **Cultural Events Committee** events throughout the academic year bring professional performers and productions to campus for programs that are free and open to the public.

North Georgia's **Hoag Lecture Series** and additional public addresses on campus by scholars, writers, creative artists, military leaders, public officials and other speakers are free and open to the public.

The nationally acclaimed **Corps of Cadets**, its **Color Guard**, **Golden Eagle Band** and award-winning drill team, the **Blue Ridge Rifles**, are frequent participants in community parades, celebrations, civic programs and other public events throughout Georgia.

Numerous campus events staged by the **International Student Association** and other **student organizations** are usually free and open to the public.

Continuing Education offers an array of courses in music, dance, Tai Chi, Yoga, crafts, language and recreational activities available to the public.

The NGCSU **Appalachian Studies Center's** cultural arts programs include the "Georgia Pick & Bow Traditional Music School" for schoolchildren, the "Mountain Music & Medicine Show" for the community and the state and the NGCSU Artist-in-Residence project, among others.

North Georgia's **literary e-zine**, www.unfetteredmuse.com, accepts work from the community as well as students.

The **University Press of North Georgia** focuses on regional history, literature and health issues for its publications.

Travel programs organized by **Continuing Education** and **Alumni Affairs** are open to area residents.

Activities by faculty, staff or students that have contributed to the community or society

A camp for hippotherapy, the use of the movement of a horse to facilitate motor control in individuals with disabilities, takes place over a six-week period twice a year, providing **physical therapy services for children of Lumpkin County and surrounding areas** at a minimal rate. Students and faculty of the **Physical Therapy Department**, along with the NGCSU **Equestrian Team**, participate in the "Gold Dust Riders" camps, with assistance from the Rotary Club, Jaycees, Home Depot, Epiphany Farms and several alumni.

Honors Program students visit a local nursing home to play games with the residents.

The NGCSU chapter of **Habitat for Humanity** raises funds and provides volunteer workers for the local affiliate to provide affordable housing for area residents

Timothy May, assistant professor of history, regularly speaks to the Rotary Club, Girl Scouts, and other area audiences about “Aspects of Islam,” “Mongolia,” “Chinggis Khan,” and other related topics.

Graduate students in the **Physical Therapy** program have raised funds to purchase equipment in the department’s outpatient clinic and to assist the family of one of their professors who has suffered a long-term illness.

Historic photographs of the campus and region are part of a preservation project in the NGCSU **Stewart Library**.

The **Oral History** ongoing project of the NGCSU Department of History includes a growing collection of recordings of military experiences as well as local and regional history. North Georgia’s **Appalachian Studies Collection** and **Oral History** projects collect and preserve cultural and historical records of the region.

Sports programs at North Georgia offer many opportunities for area families to watch intercollegiate competition in baseball, softball, basketball, cross country, soccer and tennis.

In-kind services for community projects

Continuing Education provides facilities for area organizations, Divorcing Parents Seminars, Interagency Resource Panel meetings, American Red Cross Blood Drives, American Sign Language classes, Defensive Driving courses, and computer classes for senior citizens, among other services.

Shari Holtzclaw, a manager in the NGCSU library, teaches three levels of computer classes to the Lumpkin County Senior Citizen Community, organized through Continuing Education.

For three years, North Georgia has provided facilities for the Boy Scouts of America Etowah District Advance-A-Rama for scouts to earn merit badges in several fields and to train adult leaders. **Dr. Tammy Rogers**, a faculty member in Business Administration, coordinates the event with **Continuing Education**.

North Georgia’s Quality Enhancement Plan, which focuses on Information Literacy, has been the topic of presentations by **Dr. Donna Gessell** and **Dr. Robert Fuller** for area civic organizations. The speakers provide an overview of the university’s program while soliciting feedback regarding the specific needs of the community for educating citizens regarding **Information Literacy**.