

Executive Director of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy

The Executive Director will be responsible for advancing the statewide mission and executing the overall strategic vision and management of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy. The vision, Propelling Every Georgia Child to Read Proficiently and Beyond, will guide the Executive Director in building on the firm foundation of the center and to advance the collaborative work of improving the reading achievement of students through third grade. The Executive Director works closely with leaders throughout the state of Georgia, the Deal Center Governing Board, Georgia College & State University's Office of Academic Affairs and the John H. Lounsbury College of Education. The Executive Director leads operational objectives and provides inspiring and compelling strategic leadership to the Deal Center. The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of the Deal Center's work in support of key research and policy drivers to address factors that impact early language and literacy development. This includes developing and supporting statewide professional development programs for educators of children ages birth through age eight, building a strong early language and literacy research agenda to support statewide strategies to improve literacy outcomes and supporting community efforts to enhance literacy. This also includes communicating directly with national and state audiences and media, formulating strategic alliances with non-profit organizations, initiating key partnerships with state and private universities, as well as the state's technical college system; overseeing evaluation and research as it relates to Deal Center programs; and maintaining enthusiasm for the enhancement of early language and literacy in children from birth through age 8 in Georgia. The ideal candidate is a collegial, consensus-building, visionary leader who is comfortable with providing the strategic direction for a unique Center that provides statewide, early language and literacy leadership.

For more information and to see the posting, visit www.gcsu.edu/humanresources/employment-opportunities that will be available and accepting applications until February 4, 2023.

About the Deal Center

The Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy, named after the former First Lady of Georgia, was founded in 2017 by the Governor's office and the state legislature. The Deal Center is the state's training and research center that focuses on literacy outcomes for children birth through third grade. The Deal Center is working to continue the legacy of Mrs. Deal through our charge to put all of Georgia's children on the path to reading success. With offices housed at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, we are centrally located and work alongside partners and collaborators throughout the state. Therefore, we are well-positioned to design, scale, influence, and invest in evidence-based solutions that improve early language and literacy.

The Deal Center's work is grounded in the research strategy to collect, conduct, and share evidence-based research and best practices in the field of early language and literacy development. Additionally, the Deal Center actively supports partner organizations in an ongoing effort to add to the literature base and make improvements in early language and literacy research and recommendations. Our specific goals aim at achieving our vision to propel every child to read proficiently and beyond by the end of third grade.

About Georgia College & State University

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) is the state's designated public liberal arts university. As a member of the prestigious Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), GCSU is committed to fostering a liberal arts environment that values interdisciplinary inquiry, diversity and inclusion, and academic excellence. The University enrolls approximately 7,000 students -5,800 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students-- and is prominently cited for excellence in teaching, undergraduate research, nursing education, and high impact practices outside the classroom in a number of leading publications.

The university's beautiful and historic campus is located downtown in Milledgeville, Georgia, a charming, diverse college town of approximately 19,000 residents in Central Georgia, approximately 90 miles southeast of Atlanta. Milledgeville is also the home of noted American author and alumna, Flannery O'Connor, and the college community enjoys many exciting literary arts programs at O'Connor's former home, Andalusia. Milledgeville is also located on the banks of beautiful Lake Sinclair and Lake Oconee, allowing faculty, staff, and students to take full advantage of the environmental and recreational benefits of being part of a lake community. For cultural, educational, and leisure opportunities beyond Milledgeville, Macon and Atlanta are located within easy driving distances.

GCSU takes great pride in combining the educational experience of private liberal arts colleges with the affordability of a public university. The university's main campus is a residential learning community focused on undergraduate education and a select number of graduate programs. Faculty and staff are dedicated to engaging students through high-impact pedagogies that foster intellectual curiosity, reasoned inquiry, and critical thinking. We strive for excellence in the classroom and beyond. We nurture collaborative leadership and global citizenship, and we value diversity and inclusion in all of its forms.

About Milledgeville:

Serving as Georgia's state capitol for 64 years, Milledgeville is located less than a two-hour drive from Atlanta, and an easy drive from all the other great cities in the Peach State - Augusta, Athens, Macon, Columbus, and Savannah. Close enough to everything, but far away enough to avoid the hustle and bustle. For more information on Milledgeville, please visit www.visitmilledgeville.org/.

