



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
[GAcollege411](http://GAcollege411.org)

Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

July 23, 2009

Dear Principal,

I am writing you to give you an update on GAcollege411.org, the free resource that is available for use by your school, counselors, students and parents. The GAcollege411.org website contains the most up-to-date information about colleges, careers, financial aid, the HOPE Program and much more and it is provided by the State of Georgia.

In February of 2005, GAcollege411.org was launched to help students plan, apply and pay for college. The site was developed by a group of statewide partners including the Office of the Governor, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia Foundation for Independent Colleges, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia School Counselors Association and many others. The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) operates and administers the site.

Since the site launched four years ago, GSFC has conducted thousands of presentations about the site across the state and worked in many of your schools to help your students explore their options for life after high school. As we conducted those workshops, we have listened intently to the feedback about the website. In just a few short weeks, the GAcollege411.org site will unveil a new look and updated features which include many of the suggestions that you have made. I'd like to share some of the items that will be included in the new site:

- **Increased Career Assessments** – growing from two career assessments to five career assessments;
- **Georgia Department of Education's Peach State Pathways** – including detailed information on the goals and objectives of this all inclusive program and how to put it to use;
- **Middle School Content** – specifically designed for middle school students who will now be able to create accounts and track the items they have completed on the site;
- **Increased Reporting Capabilities** – counselors, teachers, anyone at the school level will be able to track students and the work they have completed on the site, including if they have submitted a college admissions application;
- **Nationwide College Search** – provides students the ability to search for colleges nationwide instead of being limited to institutions in Georgia; and
- **Much More.**

High School Principals

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We need your help for this site to be successful, but most of all we need your help in reaching all students. Originally the tag line for the website was "Helping Students, Plan, Apply and Pay for College." This tag line doesn't reflect all that we want to accomplish. When the new site goes live, there will also be a new tag line, "Expand Your Opportunities." We realize not every student will attend a four-year university in Georgia, but every student does need to have a plan for what they will do after high school.

We would be happy to visit your school and train your teachers and counselors to use the site. For the first time, we have curriculum available that teachers can use in the classroom. We can provide you articles to include in newsletters or on blogs or emails to parents and students. We can also do presentations for your students and your parents.

We want to work with you and your school to help your students achieve their dreams. Please contact Sarah Baumhoff, Vice President, Client Services at sarahb@gsfc.org or by calling 1-800-505-4732 ext. 9021 to find out more about how we can work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy A. Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line above the first letter 'T'.

Timothy A. Connell