

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for middle school and high school educators!

### New GACollege411 Website Launched

On July 29, 2009, we launched a new version of [GACollege411.org](http://GACollege411.org). We hope that you will find the site contains more robust career planning information and that it will be beneficial to your students. Students under the age of 13 are now able to create an account and track their activities on the website as well. Look at the training section in this newsletter for additional information.

### Path2College and The State of Georgia Declare September College Savings Month

As Georgia's students and parents settle back into the new school year, education is undoubtedly at the forefront of everyone's mind. Governor Perdue has once again declared September "College Savings Month" urging parents to save and plan for their children's higher education by taking advantage of Georgia's 529 college savings plan, the Path2College 529 Plan—a tax-advantaged way to save for college.

A college education has become more important than ever to our children. With the continually rising costs of education and the ever-changing financial aid options available to students and parents, the Path2College 529 Plan and GACollege411 are just two of the ways Georgia is working to help secure the educational future of our children.

To learn more about the Path2College 529 Plan visit [www.path2college529.com](http://www.path2college529.com).



## Help Us Find a Name!

We would like your suggestions to help name this new newsletter. This newsletter will contain information specific to middle and high school educators, including the latest information on GACollege411, training opportunities, state specific initiatives and more. If you have suggestions for a name, please send those to Sarah Baumhoff at [sarahb@gsfc.org](mailto:sarahb@gsfc.org).

## Counselor Course Coming Soon!

College Access for All Students – College and Career Advisement Strategies for School Counselors

The purpose of these courses is to provide high quality, online professional learning for:

- Middle and high school counselors to improve their effectiveness in preparing all students for college and careers.
- Post secondary counseling staff to improve their effectiveness in encouraging college completion for all students.

Professional Learning will include strategies for advising all students – particularly first-generation college students from low-income families.

The three modules are designed for participants to receive Professional Learning Units (PLUs) for the individual modules. Each module includes four 1-week sessions that require an average of about 5 hours per week to complete. Each participant who completes a module will earn two PLUs. All three modules are taught through an online delivery system by carefully selected instructors. The instructors include leading counseling faculty from University System of Georgia universities and exemplary Georgia middle and high school counselors.

Counselors interested in registering for any of the three modules should visit: <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/collegeaccess.html>

You can also [view the attached brochure](#) for additional information.

## Latino Youth Leadership Conference

November 14th 8:30am – 3:30pm  
1424 West Paces Ferry Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327

Students will interact with peers from all over the state of Georgia and work on topics ranging from college preparation to gang prevention. Since its inception in 2000, the conference's attendance has been growing annually, with last year's attendance exceeding six times the attendance at the first conference. The day is filled with opportunities for students, parents and teachers to interact with all of the major universities in the metro Atlanta area who attend the event as exhibitors. The attendees also have the chance to hear success stories from world renowned keynote speakers. This event has become the catalyst for Latino youth in Georgia to pursue their educational goals and improve their chances of success.

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The event is completely FREE for students, parents and teachers. For additional information, please see the [attached flyer](#).

## School of the Month

Are you using GAcollge411 in a unique way at your school? If so, we want to hear about it! We will be featuring a school on the GAcollge411 home page each month. For your school to be featured, we want to know how you are using GAcollge411. If you'd like to nominate your school, please visit the following link:

<https://www.gsfc.org/secure/communications/schoolofthemothreq.cfm>

We will be combining all the information about how you are using the site to share with other counselors and educators across the state as some of the best practices for using GAcollge411.



## Professional Center Access

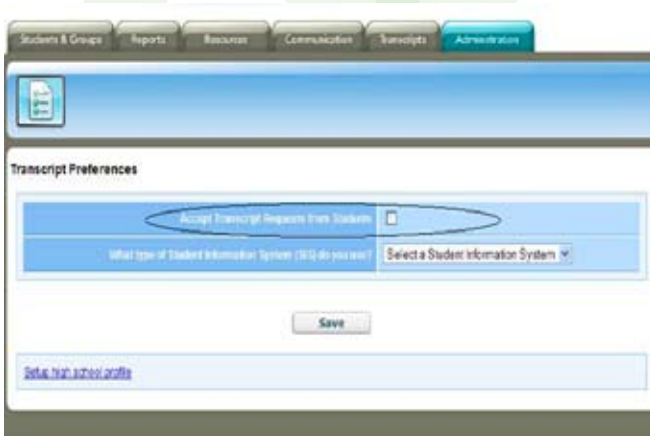
Do you have access to the new Professional Center? If not, has your school designated an Administrator for your school? The Professional Center is replacing the Counselor Center for GAcollge411. It will allow you to track your students in groups, send emails to students, review their portfolios, add events to their calendars and much more. It is also how transcripts are sent for HOPE GPA processing and for sending transcripts to post-secondary institutions.

If you aren't sure about the Professional Center or want additional information, please check out our upcoming training sessions or contact Sarah Baumhoff at [sarahb@gsfc.org](mailto:sarahb@gsfc.org) for additional information.

## Change to Fulfilling Transcript Requests

If you have students requesting transcripts and they are receiving a message that their high school does not participate in sending transcripts electronically, and you want to do that, you need to update your setting. This can be done by following the steps outlined below. A screen shot of what this will look like is included below.

1. A Professional Center Administrator must log into the Professional Center.
2. Select the "Administration Tab".
3. Select "Transcript Preferences".
4. If you want the school to receive transcript requests from students, the check box below must be checked.
5. Click the "Save" button.



**Please note:** Transcripts will not be automatically sent for students who submit transcript requests. You will need to fulfill those requests through the Professional Center. This is completed on the Transcripts tab of the Professional Center. You will have an opportunity to review the request prior to sending the transcript and you do have the option of not fulfilling the request.

## Presentations and Questions

Over the past few weeks we have conducted a number of webinars on GAcollege411 and the Professional Center. If you missed those webinars or would like to review the Power Point presentation and the questions that were asked, we have posted those to the website. We will be posting recorded sessions of the webinars in the next few days, so you can actually view the webinar that was conducted.

Please visit the [Presentations and Questions](#) link to view the information.

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## Training Sessions

We will be conducting training at the following locations in October on the GAcollege411 website. Please check the Events Calendar on GAcollege411 often for additional times and locations. To register, please click the registration link.

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| October 2nd  | Atlanta Metropolitan College<br><i>Register for Session</i>                  |
| October 5th  | Georgia Highlands College, Rome Campus - <i>Register for Session</i>         |
| October 6th  | South Georgia Technical College, Americus - <i>Register for Session</i>      |
| October 7th  | Georgia Highlands College, Cartersville Campus - <i>Register for Session</i> |
| October 21st | Golden Isle Career Academy, Brunswick<br><i>Register for Session</i>         |
| October 27th | South Gwinnett High School<br><i>Register for Session</i>                    |
| October 29th | Macon State College<br><i>Register for Session</i>                           |

## Final Notes

I hope that you will find this publication useful. If you have suggestions of things to be included or want additional information about something, please do not hesitate to contact me. We value our partnership and are committed to help you work with your students and their parents. Thank you for what you do every day!

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