

3.4.2 The institution's continuing education, outreach, and service programs are consistent with the institution's mission. **(Continuing education/service programs)**

Compliance Status: Compliance

The Center for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning, housed in the Southeast Georgia Conference Center at the College of Coastal Georgia, manages all non-credit programming. As noted in the College's mission statement, the institution strives to "engage actively with the community and region through many avenues, including professional development programs, economic development partnerships, service-learning, public service activities, early college programs, applied scholarship, and cultural enrichment experiences." The Center is solidly reflected in the mission with direct ties to each of these avenues.

The Center issues Continuing Education Units in compliance with policy stated in the USG Board of Regents' publication entitled, [Continuing Education Policy and Procedures Manual](#).

Professional Development Programs

The Center endeavors to design professional development opportunities that support the continuing education needs of graduates from its baccalaureate programs, as well as other professional development opportunities that support a wide range of local business needs. Recently much of the professional development programming has been supported by the Workforce Investment Board and local Departments of Labor and resulted in on-site programs in Medical Billing and Coding and Pharmacy Technician.

Other professional development programs include those offered by the weekly Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) from November through May each year, twice yearly classes for plumbers, and a wide range of customized trainings delivered in the last few years, including Spanish for health care workers, customer service training for more than 500 Glynn County employees, and basic computer applications including Word, Excel and Access for the County. In addition to classes delivered on the Brunswick campus or at an employer's worksite, the Center also offers a wide variety of [online](#) professional development opportunities, including more than 80 courses pre-approved by the Georgia Department of Education for teacher Professional Learning Unit (PLU) credit, as well as Certification Programs in the areas of Business and Professional, Healthcare and Fitness, Hospitality and Gaming, IT and Software Development, Management and Corporate, Media and Design, and Skilled Trades and Industrial.

In addition to on-site and online classes for the local business community, the Center also hosts events aimed at the community at large. These events include health and education forums all facilitated in part by faculty members of the College's five Schools, as well as free cultural events sponsored by Student Affairs and fundraising cultural events sponsored by the College's Foundation.

Risley Early College Programs

The Center provides space to support a variety of Risley Early College Academy (RECA) activities, including campus visits, pinning and graduation ceremonies, and public information sessions. RECA is a unique collaborative educational program serving students completing grades 6-12 with an overall goal to provide concurrent enrollment for academic dual credit College courses for students once they reach high school. The program is designed to guarantee a smooth transition into postsecondary education for students that do not typically attend college, but have the academic ability to do so under a different educational delivery system and culture for achievement. The program primarily serves low-income students whose standardized test scores fall between the 25th and 49th percentiles and who are highly motivated, but have not received the academic preparation necessary to meet high school standards.

Cultural Enrichment Experiences

Throughout any given academic year, Student Affairs hosts many events in the Southeast Georgia Conference Center that are free to the student body and the community. These events include comedians, musicians, dancers, and magicians from around the world. In Fall Semester 2010, the College's Foundation began a Southern Storytellers series as a fundraiser and included Dick Yarborough, Ronda Rich, Dr. William Rawlings, and Kate Campbell. Additionally, the College hosted a symphony event in December 2010 to benefit the College Foundation.

A [Planning Committee for Cultural, Arts and Lifelong Learning](#) (CALL) was established by the College's Foundation, in partnership with the College, for the express purpose of conducting a needs/demand analysis and planning for the introduction of new programming in the arts, cultural affairs and personal development. The Committee was convened effective January 1, 2011, with the goal of securing an initial programming plan by December 31, 2011. Core membership of the Planning Committee is small; however, the Committee is authorized to appoint task groups and/or subcommittees to focus on discrete areas of exploration.

The Committee's approach is to convene and synthesize the thinking of a broad range of key stakeholders representing these constituencies across the area. The College is to serve as a host, cultivator and supporter of existing organizations and future programming, not as a "provider" of the programming. The Committee is charged to develop a plan for arts, culture and lifelong learning programming that is responsive to community interests (e.g., visual arts, a theater series, summer master class programming, classical performances, professional enhancement curriculum, etc.). Further, the Committee is charged with undertaking cost and utilization analyses to determine the affordability and viability of the various programming options and alternatives. Finally, to the extent possible, the Committee is charged with planning for the resourcing of the programming and providing a plan for leadership to ensure that the programming is sustained long term.

Through the Committee's work, there is the opportunity to shape (or reshape) the focus and designation of certain buildings and facilities planned for or already on campus. Working through the Committee, the ultimate goal of the Foundation and the College is to greatly expand quality arts, as well as cultural and lifelong learning program offerings, in the Coastal Georgia region in a fashion that is both affordable and sustainable.

Service-Learning

The service-learning partnerships of the College are underway with the appointment of an external advisory board that works closely with the new Director of Service-Learning, who will be overseeing the development of a new Center for Service-Learning.

The role of the College's new Center is to provide clear direction and development, assuring careful planning, preparation and partnership-building that will yield successful outcomes related to both student learning and community development. The Center will offer essential training and resources to faculty interested in integrating service-learning into new or existing courses. At the same time, the Center will provide students with leadership training so they can act as colleagues to faculty and staff and play an active role in the process of creating and sustaining strong College-community partnerships. Finally, the Center will work with community and civic groups to prepare them as co-educators, help facilitate their access to College resources, and respond to their needs in the spirit of reciprocity and collaboration.

Supporting Documentation

[USG Continuing Education Policy and Procedures Manual, revised March 2010](#)

[Center for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning online courses listing](#)

[Planning Committee for Cultural, Arts and Lifelong Learning \(CALL\) charge](#)