



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2023-2024



# FACTS & FIGURES

<p><b>3,990</b> acres</p> <p>UGA/BOR OWNED LAND IN ACC (SOURCE: UGA REF)</p>	<p><b>5.16%</b></p> <p>UGA/BOR TOTAL ACREAGE AS PERCENTAGE OF ACC</p>	<p><b>\$681M</b></p> <p>IN STUDENT SPENDING IN ATHENS AREA FY22</p>	<p><b>108,474</b></p> <p>HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WAS COMPLETED BY UGA GREEK LIFE (2023)</p>
<p><b>40,118</b></p> <p>OVERALL STUDENT ENROLLMENT</p>	<p><b>30,166</b></p> <p>UNDER-GRADUATE ENROLLMENT</p>	<p><b>9,952</b></p> <p>GRADUATE ENROLLMENT</p>	<p><b>1%</b></p> <p>AVERAGE PERCENT GROWTH IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT PLAN</p>
<p><b>\$1</b></p> <p>100 YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF LAND FOR ACC FIRE STATION 7</p>	<p><b>\$261K+</b></p> <p>IN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR CLARKE COUNTY RESIDENTS</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>FOUNDATION FELLOWS WHO GRADUATED FROM CCSD SCHOOLS</p>	<p><b>\$12.75M</b></p> <p>VALUE OF WORK PROVIDED TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE-LEARNING COURSES</p>
<p><b>10,719</b></p> <p>PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY UGA</p>	<p><b>16,383</b></p> <p>OFF-CAMPUS JOBS EXIST BECAUSE OF UGA-RELATED SPENDING</p>	<p><b>2,700mt</b></p> <p>CO2 REDUCTION PER DAY WITH 334 UGA ELECTRIC BUSES</p>	<p><b>44</b></p> <p>CLARKE COUNTY CONTRACTORS/ SUBCONTRACTORS WORK WITH UGA FACILITIES AND ARCHITECTS ON UGA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS</p>

## Letter from the Director

I am grateful every day to have the opportunity to serve the University of Georgia and my hometown in a very meaningful way – by creating, developing and supporting partnerships that enhance our community. Areas of collaboration run the gamut, from education and youth development to wellness, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. The impact of bringing together students, faculty, staff, and residents of Athens-Clarke County benefits all of us and makes our community stronger.

This first ever Community Impact Report provides a mere glimpse into the work being done across Athens-Clarke County. I hope you enjoy learning about the many ways the University of Georgia engages with the Classic City.

*Alison B. McCullick*

**ALISON BRACEWELL MCCULLICK**

*Director of Community Relations, University of Georgia*



## Promoting Health Care in Athens

The University of Georgia is committed to providing primary care to the medically underserved and underinsured members of Athens-Clarke County. Several standing programs exist across campus, including:

### AU/UGA Medical Partnership's Athens Free Clinic

Partnership with the Clarke County School District that has provided primary care to the underserved and underinsured population of Athens-Clarke County since 2018.

### UGA College of Pharmacy's Athens Wellness Viral Hepatitis Treatment Clinic

College of Pharmacy students work alongside Dr. Brian Seagraves to help cure Hepatitis C in Athens-Clarke and surrounding counties.

Each of these programs strive to address the growing need to increase access to healthcare and wellness resources in the community, and to educate residents on what resources are readily available to them.

The **UGA School of Medicine** continues to advocate for healthcare expansion in Athens-Clarke County and across the state. On February 13, 2024, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents authorized the University of Georgia to establish a new independent School of Medicine in Athens. The UGA School of Medicine will build on the success of the Augusta University/ University of Georgia Medical Partnership, which has been educating physicians in Athens since 2010. In addition, several alumni from the AU/UGA Medical Partnership have decided to return to Athens after completing their residency training, with 14 alumni returning to practice locally.



## Providing Accessible Care

The Community and Population Health Athens Free Clinic program, founded by Associate Professor Dr. Suzanne Lester and now co-led with Dr. Kate Meixner and nurse Jeni Fitzpatrick, provides primary care to underserved patients at 11 locations spanning the Athens community. Under faculty physician direction, students see patients at Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, Bigger Vision of Athens, the Potter's House, several schools in the Clarke County School District (CCSD) and Pinewoods Community, among other locations. This service-learning program teaches medical students in a two-year curriculum and sends them to a community practice site in Athens. More than 300 medical students have provided free primary care under the supervision of 14 faculty physicians under the Athens Free Clinic service-learning umbrella. By returning each week for two years, medical students observe how patients' treatment progresses and develop relationships with those patients.

"By going to different environments, it gives the students a real sense of where the patient is coming from," Lester said. "And because we have such long-term partnerships, we have the capacity to have a long-term impact on the patients and the organizations."

The program has made a tangible contribution to healthcare across Athens. Since its inception, the Athens Free Clinic has provided more than \$850,000 in free care at more than 3,450 patient

visits. This service to the community was recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges with its Star of Community Achievement award in 2023.

The Athens Free Clinic has partnered closely with CCSD to care for students, staff, faculty and their families. Medical students travel each week to Cedar Shoals High School, Clarke Central High School and Clarke Middle School to provide primary care to students, staff, faculty and family members.

"Our long-standing partnership with the Athens Free Clinic has been a wonderful resource for CCSD students and staff," said Amy Roark, CCSD's director of school nursing services. "We are grateful for the collaboration and look forward to their continued support. The integral relationship between health and education creates thriving schools, and it's great to have partners who help us with our vision to sustain healthy, thriving schools."



## ATHENS FREE CLINIC

**\$850,000+**

IN FREE CARE PROVIDED

**3,450+**

PATIENT VISITS CONDUCTED

**300+**

STUDENTS HAVE PROVIDED CARE



## Supporting Local Business

At the University of Georgia, we strive to enhance the next generation of Georgia business owners. The UGA Small Business Development Center Athens' office (SBDC) and the Innovation District are conveniently located on campus and adjacent to the downtown business district to help broaden the scope of impact. Both work diligently with the local business owners and entrepreneurs in Athens to better support their work. The SBDC provides tools, training and

resources to help small businesses grow and succeed. Designated as one of Georgia's top providers of small business assistance, the SBDC has 18 offices ranging from Rome to Valdosta to serve the needs of Georgia's business community. Since 1977, their network of partners has helped construct a statewide ecosystem to foster the spirit, support, and success of hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs and innovators.

Over the last 5 years, in Athens-Clarke County, the SBDC has...



HELPED START 68  
NEW BUSINESSES



ASSISTED 358  
ENTREPRENEURS



HELPED BUSINESS  
OWNERS OBTAIN  
\$18.8M IN CAPITAL



## Promoting Economic Development

Athens is a town known for arts, creativity and a vibrant collection of independent businesses.

The University of Georgia established the Innovation District at the intersection of campus and downtown as a thriving hub for collaboration, problem-solving and entrepreneurship.

The Innovation District hosts the Innovation Bootcamp, a program supported by a 2021 grant from the Truist Foundation, to provide access to the resources, expertise and programs within UGA's Innovation District for aspiring Athens-Clarke County entrepreneurs and startups. Considered to be an on-ramp to entrepreneurship, Innovation Bootcamps help participants clarify goals, streamline pitches and build leadership skills. Truist's grant supports two seven-week Innovation Bootcamps each year for cohorts of 20-30 entrepreneurs at no cost to the participants.

The cohorts are organized by industry or audience and are tailored to underrepresented groups. Past cohorts

have focused on artists, creatives and entrepreneurs of color. With Truist's support, nearly 80 percent of the participants have come from the local community.

"My cohort was a mixture of startups from the university and community businesses from all walks of life, different cultures, different stages of business," said Wesley Chenoweth, a bootcamp participant and owner of Grizzly Delivery LLC.

Chenoweth said the bootcamp helped him clarify his objectives and leadership style, and he learned most from speaking with program facilitators and business coaches. Innovation Bootcamp is just one of UGA's programs to help aspiring entrepreneurs gain the skills they need to successfully launch their businesses. The Innovation District offers additional educational opportunities for bootcamp alumni, while small business owners can receive other types of support from UGA's Small Business Development Center housed in the university's Office of Public Service and Outreach.



## Focused on the Future

Through more than 50 academic and service partnerships, UGA collaborates with the Clarke County School District (CCSD) to enhance opportunities for local youth. These initiatives not only prepare students for life after high school but also align with CCSD's goals of strengthening the learning environment and providing teachers with additional support and resources. Additionally, recognizing that factors outside the classroom can impact student success, UGA partners with community organizations to reduce barriers and promote achievement for local children. Examples of these partnerships include:

**Experience UGA:** Hosting nearly 8,000 students annually through 92 field trips for hands-on, curriculum-based learning activities on campus.

**Georgia College Advising Corps:** Providing one-on-one college and career guidance to over 96% of seniors at Clarke Central and Cedar Shoals High Schools, led by well-trained, recent college graduates.

**Horizons Program:** Offering a six-week summer learning experience for Barnett Shoals Elementary School, where students discover the joy of learning, develop skills for success, and find inspiration to achieve their dreams.

**After-School Collaborations:** Partnering with CCSD to deliver after-school programs at five locations across Athens-Clarke County, including Lay Park and Pinewood Estates.

**Clarke County Mentor Program:** Connecting approximately 200 UGA student mentors with CCSD students through a UGA student organization partnership.



## Advancing Youth in Athens

### Georgia Possible helps teens become leaders

The Georgia Possible program is helping high school students like Cedar Shoals High School 11th grader Jamar Bailey envision their futures.

On a recent visit to Athens Technical College, Bailey had an opportunity to visit the welding department and meet with faculty and staff about the program.

“Without Georgia Possible, I would not have learned as much about college,” Bailey said. “I have seen a path for the future laid out in front of me and through the program I can expand on what I want to do after high school.”

Created by the University of Georgia and the Clarke County School District, Georgia Possible began as an initiative from University of Georgia President Jere W. Morehead. Launched in 2019, an inaugural class of 36 students graduated from the program in April 2022.

The current class of 30 students began in fall 2022. Students participate in the program for three years, starting as 10th graders. Georgia Possible is the result of a collaborative effort across the UGA campus that includes the Office of the President, Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, Office of Community Relations and Office of Institutional Diversity, along with the Clarke County School District.

Faculty at the UGA J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, a unit of UGA Public Service and Outreach, facilitate leadership skill development sessions. The students also explore postsecondary and career options available beyond high school graduation while meeting with local leaders.

220

CCSD STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH AFTER-SCHOOL COACHING4SUCCESS PILOT INITIATIVE IN THE PROGRAM'S FIRST YEAR

72

CCSD HIGH SCHOOLERS ENGAGED THROUGH GEORGIA POSSIBLE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SINCE 2019

50+

PARTNERSHIPS WITH CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Commitment to Sustainability

The University of Georgia is committed to the best practices in sustainability, experiential education, research, and community engagement. Students, staff, and faculty work to ensure that all people can thrive, both now and in the future, through the integration of social, environmental, and economic solutions.

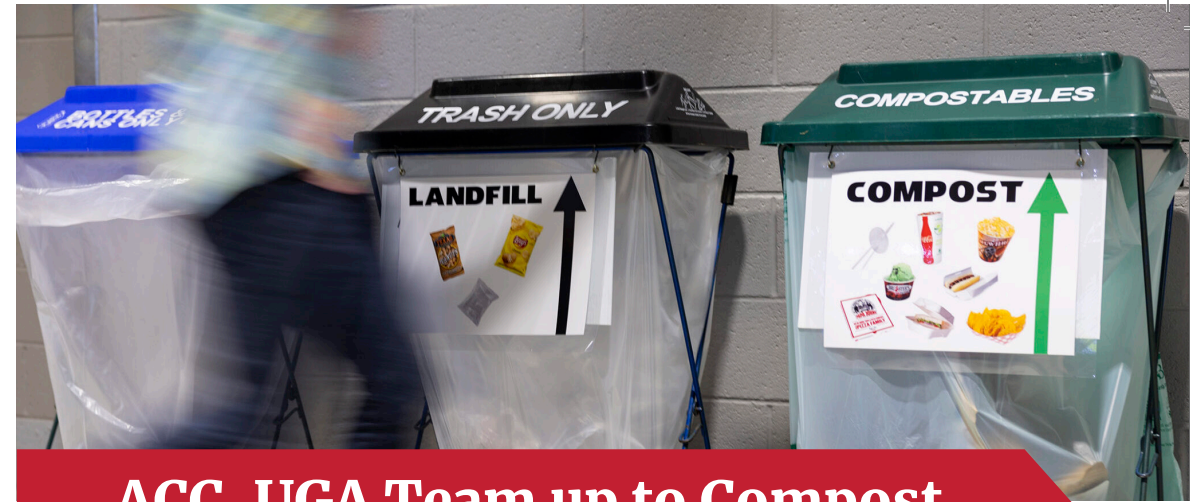
While the UGA Office of Sustainability is often front and center on joint initiatives within Athens-Clarke County, units across campus such as the Office of Service Learning can be found partnering with local nonprofits and organizations to address needs and community priorities. Examples include:

**Restore Our River Project** – 2 “trash traps” installed to capture and remove plastic waste from Trail Creek and Tanyard Creek.

**B-Collaborative** – student effort to support two Athens businesses on the journey to B-Corp certification.

**UGarden** – supporting sustainable food production for distribution to underserved ACC residents.

**Campus Kitchen** – student-led hunger relief in ACC through waste reduction at local grocery stores, meal prep, and food donation to people experiencing hunger.



## ACC, UGA Team up to Compost

In late January, nearly 400 steel trash cans appeared at the ends of driveways in Athens’ Normaltown, Boulevard and Cobbham neighborhoods, attracting neighbors’ curiosity.

The bins advertised the launch of a compost pilot program jointly conducted by the Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department and the University of Georgia’s New Materials Institute, a consortium of UGA experts in green engineering. Funded by a Walmart Foundation grant, the program allows participants to dispose of compostable materials and food scraps in steel bins that are emptied once a week by ACC Solid Waste.

The pilot program is just one example of the way that ACC and UGA team up to promote sustainability.

“We coordinate with ACC Solid Waste on all composting efforts,” said Ella Filston, the waste reduction coordinator in UGA’s Office of Sustainability. “We could not do what we do without ACC, and it’s awesome that they’re an amazing solid waste department.”

The university pays ACC Solid Waste to pick up compostable materials on campus and transport them to the county’s processing facility at the landfill. Compost is collected across campus, including at the dining halls, at food scrap drop off locations, and at zero waste events on campus.

In addition to the physical composting efforts, UGA and ACC partner on waste reduction education initiatives. The two entities have shared educational graphics and have aligned messaging to provide customers with consistent information on recycling and composting practices.

“Our partnership is invaluable financially and creatively,” said Suki Janssen, director of ACC Solid Waste. “Our partnership provides opportunities we wouldn’t otherwise have. It makes us all more efficient and sustainable. We are sharing resources and knowledge. We are better together.”

**16,536lbs**

**PRODUCE FROM UGARDEN DISTRIBUTED TO ACC RESIDENTS (JULY 2023-JUNE 2024)**

**13,286**

**CLIENT MEALS SERVED TO ACC RESIDENTS BY CAMPUS KITCHEN IN 2023-2024**

**1,233lbs**

**CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS DONATED THROUGH UGA SWAP SHOP IN 2023-2024**

**821lbs**

**PLASTIC AND LITTER REMOVED IN TRAIL CREEK AND TANYARD CREEK**

**21,050lbs**

**MATERIALS DONATED THROUGH DAWGS DITCH THE DUMPSTER MAY 2023**

**100%**

**OF FOOD WASTE FROM UGA DINING IS COMPOSTED**





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