



Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium

**Developing State Alliances  
to Speak as One Voice:  
*The Georgia Story***

Presentation by

*Susanna Miller-Raines*

GAIPSEC Statewide Coordinator

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# GAIPSEC Team Members

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CENTER FOR  
LEADERSHIP IN  
DISABILITY

**GAIPSEC**  
Georgia Inclusive Post-secondary  
Education Consortium

## MISSION

*The Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium ensures students with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to attend college and participate in university life. The consortium provides information, funding, training, and technical assistance to individuals, families, secondary education programs, colleges, and universities.*

# GAIPSEC FAST FACTS

- **9** Inclusive PSE programs in Georgia
- **1** Inclusive PSE programs in planning process
- **139** Inclusive PSE students in Georgia
- **\$500,000** a year for 5 years TPSID Grant from US Department of Education to increase IPSE programs in Georgia. We are finishing year 2 of the grant.
- **\$500,000** from GA Legislature to be used in collaboration with Ga Council on Developmental Disabilities to work with programs at a college/university & provide scholarships to students in Georgia

# In the beginning...



# Think College mini-grant

## \$15,000

- Enhance the identity and effectiveness of the GAIPSEC for students with IDD
- Conduct two statewide meetings on PSE options
- Provide technical assistance to at least four college teams
- Evaluate program effectiveness in terms of feasibility, inclusiveness, and sustainability of proposed models

# Think College mini-grant

1. Hired a Statewide Coordinator
2. Hosted a statewide meeting with all stakeholders
3. Hosted a statewide meeting for all interested colleges and universities
4. Provided technical assistance to interested colleges and universities
5. Social Media networking
  1. Facebook Group
  2. Facebook Page
  3. Twitter profile



# Post mini-grant

## Strategic Planning

- 1 year
- 5 years

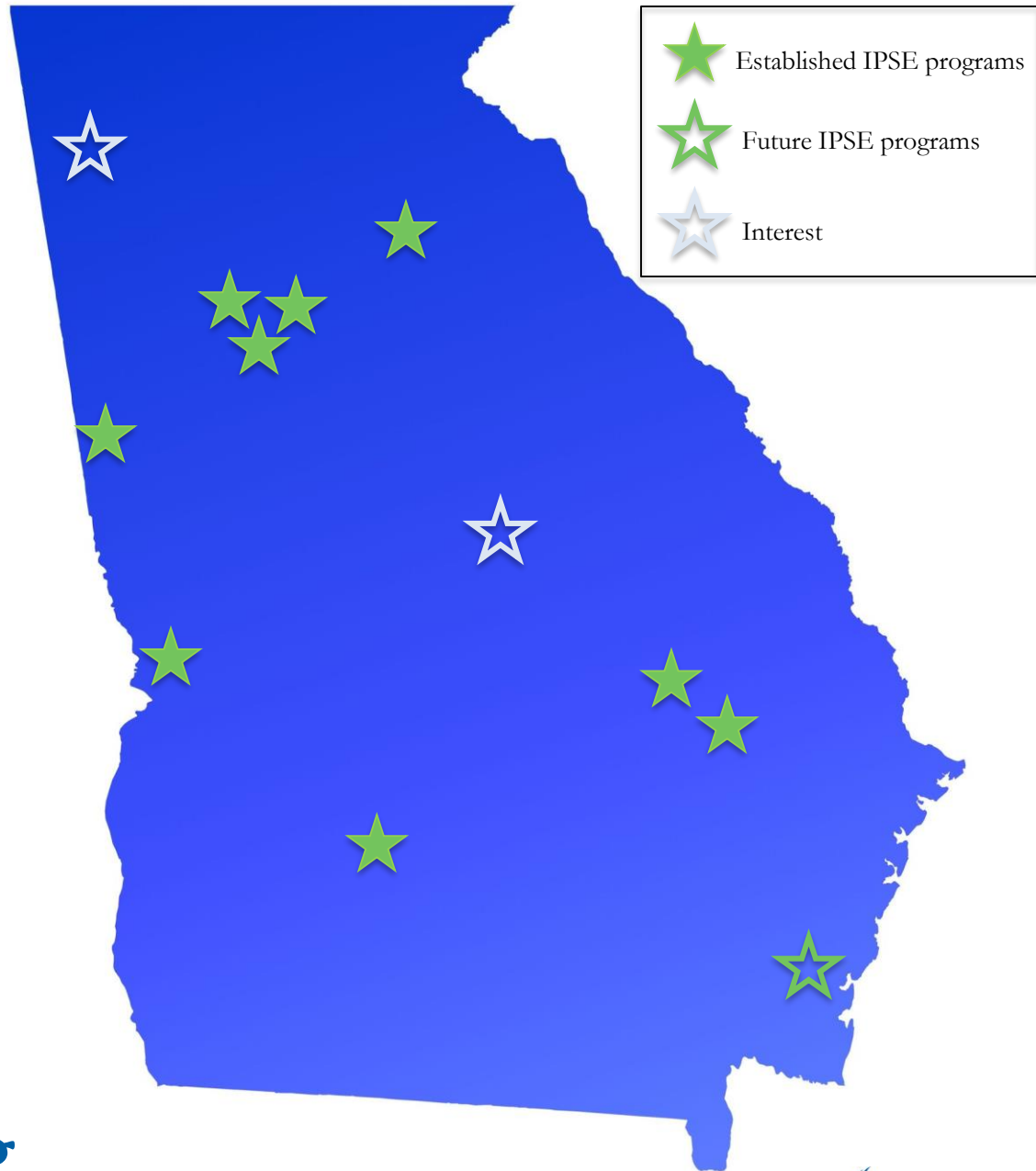


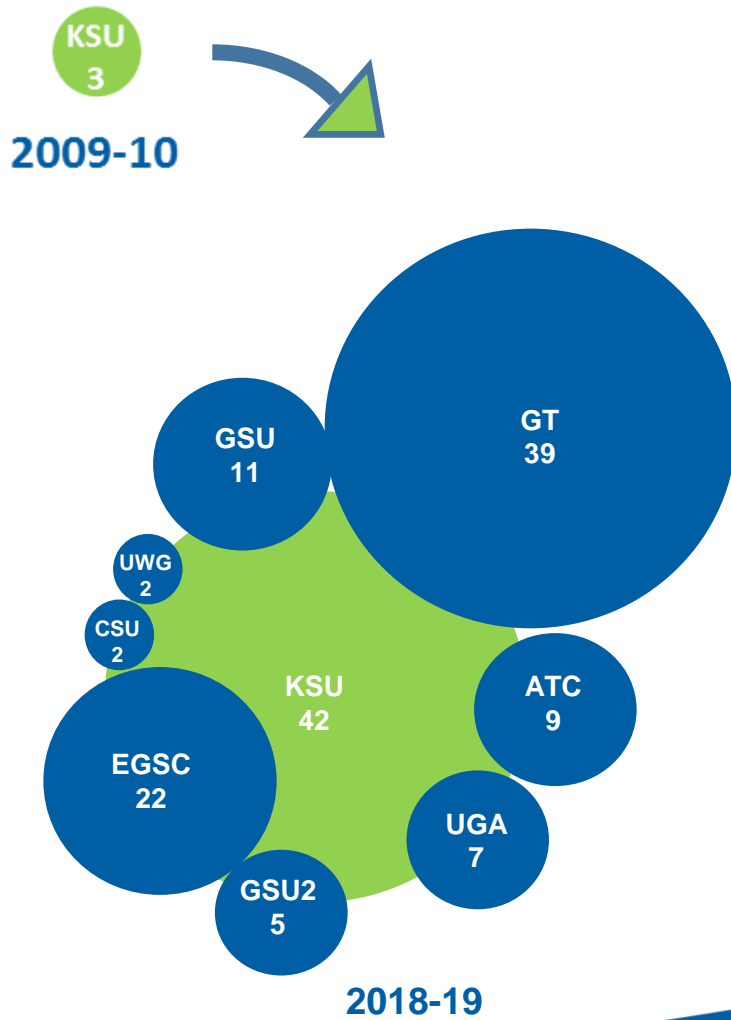
***Goal: Have 10 inclusive PSE programs in Georgia by 2018!***

**2018-19**

**School Year**

Georgia college options for  
students with intellectual and  
developmental disabilities





**88%**

*Graduation rate of IPSE students in Georgia*

**versus**



**48%**

*Graduation rate of traditional students who attend colleges where IPSE programs are located*

*Source: College Scorecard*

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



# Director Team

## *Quarterly Face to Face Meetings*

- Center for Leadership in Disability at GSU
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Senate Budget Office
- House Budget Office

# Leadership Team

## *Quarterly Face to Face Meetings*

- Center for Leadership in Disability at GSU
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Institute on Human Development and Disability at UGA
- Tools for Life, Georgia AT Act Program
- Parent Mentor Partnership
- IPSE program representatives

# GAIPSEC Meetings

- Quarterly Face to Face Meetings
  - IPSE Colleges & Universities
  - Leadership Team



# Building Capacity Across Georgia

- Statewide Consortium Meetings
- Educator Seminars
- Webinars
- Presentations at Transition Fairs
- Presentations at state conference
  - VR conference
  - DOE conferences
  - Other conferences
- Presentations to parent groups
- Legislative Advocacy





# Legislative Advocacy

- Recruit and organize champions
  - Engaged advocates
    - Partners in Policymaking
  - House & Senate members
- Build a case for IPSE
- Media attention
  - Local & state-wide



I want to commend Kennesaw State University for a program that they have initiated. They are allowing students with disabilities to participate in classes and in educational opportunities along with students who don't have disabilities. They are being a forerunner of this in our higher educational institutions, and I believe it is a program that we can replicate throughout our entire university system.



**Governor Nathan Deal**  
2013 Disability Day at the Capitol



**2013-14**  
***\$100,000***



**2014-15**  
***\$100,000***



**2015-16**  
***\$200,000***



**2016-17**  
***\$200,000***



**2017-18**  
***\$500,000***

# Legislative Support



# Legislative Advocacy

- House Study Committee
- Joint House/Senate Subcommittee Meetings
  - How to support the growth



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# VR Policy

## CERTIFIED COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION PROGRAMS

Effective August 12, 2015

Authority 34 CFR 361

### 451.1.00 POLICY:

451.1.01 GVRA may authorize and assist with Certified Comprehensive Transition Programs for a qualified individual provided at institutions of higher learning. These programs shall be required to meet the individual's needs in order to obtain competitive integrated employment.

451.1.02 GVRA may assist with tuition, required fees, books/supplies and, as appropriate, maintenance (housing and meals) only at an approved institution classified as a Certified Comprehensive Transition Program.

451.1.03 The client must apply for, and present proof of, a completed application for any available comparable benefits, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These comparable benefits must be utilized prior to the authorization of any GVRA funds. The client must provide a copy of his/her Student Aid Report (SAR), an award letter and a copy of their student account detail report before the GVRA shall authorize payment.

# Lessons Learned

- Need GAIPSEC Directors Team
- Operationalize Agreements
- Re-education
  - Boiler plate language & information
  - Information for all levels of organization
- Ask for handover, if changes are planned
- Find places to be valuable

# Tips for other states

- Build a network
- Work with partners
- Develop a compelling one-page case
- Engage advocates
- Be visible
- Keep partners, advocates & trusted advisors informed

# Contact Information

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