



GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (GWI)

Program Title: Georgia International Workforce Development Initiative

- Program Components
 - Georgia International Internship Program
 - Georgia Language Academy
 - Georgia Dual-Immersion Program
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In support of Georgia House Bill 400: Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act (BRIDGE Act), the Governor's Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) and the Go Build Georgia Campaign, and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Career Pathways Initiative (HB 186), we propose funding for the International Workforce Development Initiative to be developed in partnership with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), the University System of Georgia (USG), and the GaDOE.

Under the leadership of Governor Nathan Deal, State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge, University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby, and Technical College System of Georgia Chancellor Ron Jackson, Georgia schools have made meaningful connections with partners abroad to provide International, career-focused learning opportunities for students. The purpose of this initiative is to provide seamless integration of this work from elementary through higher education. In addition this initiative will ensure statewide equity and access for K-12 and post-secondary students to advanced-level, proficiency-based language study in world languages deemed vital to national security and economic development by the Department of Defense and the Georgia business and economic communities. This broad initiative will link and expand major initiatives currently in development by these three agencies and provide funding to ensure efficient program delivery and access throughout the State of Georgia. The initiative will be made up of three program components that will be supported by each agency.

Component One: Georgia International Internship Program

To provide students in Georgia with meaningful career-based experiences working for international companies as well as promote the learning of world language and cultures, the GaDOE has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with states in France and Germany and is currently in negotiation with states in Costa Rica and Ghana; by the end of 2013, it is our intention to have seven such signed agreements. Pilot partnerships between schools and career-based exchange opportunities for students and teachers at all levels are already underway in Georgia. Funding of this program would expand these highly successful pilots statewide.

To expand these pilots, we have identified partners and schools in our MOU partner regions that support International connections within the seventeen State of Georgia Career Clusters including: agriculture, food, and natural resources; architecture and construction; arts, audio/visual technology and communications; business, management and administration; education and training; finance; government and public administration; health science; hospitality and tourism; human services; information technology; law, public

safety, corrections, and security; manufacturing; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); transportation, distribution, and logistics; and energy. Schools (K-12 and post-secondary) in Georgia will be paired with career-focused partner schools abroad and class partners will be required to communicate via Skype or other electronic means and to complete research projects that support the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and industry standards in multiple curricular areas. Funding for this program will provide transportation for high school students and teachers from Georgia to take part in exchanges with technical and career-based high school programs abroad. The GaDOE will develop a competitive scholarship program and will select pairs of teachers and students from Georgia schools to take part in 2-3 week job-shadowing opportunities abroad. Eventually, these partnerships will also include university and technical school partners abroad who can provide longer-term semester or year-long internships with international corporate partners.

The result of this program will be development of international career awareness, soft/workforce skills, and increased student awareness of the global aspect of all career fields. Georgia students taking part in these International, career-focused exchanges and internships will possess skills deemed vital by multi-national corporations, defense industries, and military partners throughout the State of Georgia, and will support economic development and innovation in diverse regions throughout the state.

Component Two: Georgia Language Academy

North Georgia College and State University currently supports summer learning opportunities for Georgia's high school students by providing the only immersion-based summer camp currently offered in our state. Along with languages deemed critical by the Department of Defense (Arabic, Chinese, Korean and Russian), French and German courses will also be included in this year's program based on an expressed need by our business partners and reflecting international investment in Georgia.

In order to ensure equity and access to all Georgia students, we request funding for the development of needs-based scholarships to comprise twenty-five percent of all summer attendees to this institute. Currently, study of the languages listed above is limited to only a few communities in Georgia, these scholarships will ensure that all Georgia students have an opportunity to study the languages and cultures that will be vital for future economic growth and national security. This institute has met the seat-time and proficiency requirements of the GaDOE, and Georgia's school districts may offer credit to students who take part in the study of these languages. In addition, through partnerships with Georgia Virtual Schools and other online partners, students can continue language study and take part in career-focused international internships while in high school or post-secondary school.

Component Three: Georgia Dual-Immersion Program

To ensure a Georgia workforce fluent in languages and adept at cultural interactions deemed vital to national security by the U.S. Department of Defense and to economic national and state economic development by businesses in Georgia, the GaDOE will oversee a pilot program of six elementary school dual-immersion

programs. The focus of this program will be to support acquisition of skills in foreign languages in order for students to successfully compete in an International society, to develop the academic, societal, and economic development benefits of the acquisition of these critical languages, and to ensure proper oversight of research-based principles of dual-immersion language development. Site selection for these programs will be determined by school application and will take into account a desire for statewide regional diversity. Funding will cover development of school materials and training of school teachers and administrative staff. The GaDOE, TCSG, and USG will work with colleges of education to ensure training and access to bilingual and biliterate teachers.

Students who complete dual-immersion programs will be prepared to continue higher-level study of language through middle and high school, will have the language capability to take the Advanced Placement test in ninth grade, and will be able to take college-level language courses through area universities or through university programs online. Many of these students will be able to complete a college minor in their language prior to graduating from high school. In addition, these students will have the language expertise to study and work abroad, even selecting entire university or technical college programs overseas (many of these programs will be available to students free of cost).

In conclusion, for our students to succeed in the global economy they will need to possess a new set of skills that were not necessary for success in a more centralized economic environment. Regional expertise, cross-cultural competence, and language proficiency beyond the intermediate-mid (or operational) level are no longer skills reserved only for those who plan for a career overseas - they are skills that can enhance all careers, encourage international investment to our state, and develop a workforce that is successful working on diverse international teams. Providing international perspective, particularly as it relates to career-focused learning, has become a vital need for national security and economic development nationwide and in our state. Our students, parents, and business leaders across Georgia are telling us that these skills are the fastest route to success in a global job market.