



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **REACH Georgia Scholars Participate in Virtual College Information Day Hosted by the University of North Georgia**

**TUCKER (March 2, 2021) |** In collaboration with the University of North Georgia (UNG), representatives from Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia and the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) participated in a virtual interactive seminar earlier this morning aimed at providing current REACH scholars and their families with information about college admissions and the financial aid process.

Organized and streamed by the University of North Georgia, the three-hour seminar highlighted a variety of topics relevant to students preparing to enter college and featured current REACH scholars enrolled at the university. Special Assistant to the Vice President of UNG's Gainesville Campus and REACH Program Advisor Jennifer Herring spearheaded the event and emphasized the critical role REACH has played in ensuring Georgia students have access to postsecondary education.

"With Georgia leading the nation in economic expansion, the opportunities for degree-holding individuals are endless as the state works to meet the growing demand for an educated workforce," **said REACH Program Advisor Jennifer Herring.** "As Georgia's first needs-based financial aid program, REACH Georgia plays a vital role in ensuring students are able to access these opportunities through higher education. I applaud the Georgia Student Finance Commission for continuing to grow REACH through their administration of this remarkable program and I appreciate their involvement in making this event a success."

GSFC President Lynne Riley and REACH Georgia Foundation Board Chair Michael Patrick were among the speakers who presented to viewers.



“The state of Georgia offers a wide variety of financial resources for students preparing to enter college,” **said GSFC President Lynne Riley.** “With over 3,000 students served statewide, our agency is proud to provide financial and academic support through the REACH Scholarship Program. It is critical that individuals preparing to enter college have a thorough understanding of the available financial resources for Georgia students, as well as academics and student life. We appreciate our partners at the University of North Georgia for providing this incredible opportunity for our REACH scholars and their peers.”

Established as the state’s first needs-based financial aid program, the REACH Scholarship Program partners with Georgia middle schools, high schools and postsecondary institutions to provide financial assistance and mentorship to students beginning in the ninth grade.

“As a public-private partnership, the REACH Program takes a cross-collaborative approach to accomplishing REACH’s mission of championing Georgia’s children in need and moving the state forward,” **said REACH Georgia Foundation Board Chair Michael Patrick.** “With 60% of Georgia’s K-12 students identifying as homeless, living in foster care or coming from a low-income household, the REACH Program is actively working to provide these students with the financial and academic support necessary to obtain education beyond high school. This would not be possible without partners like the University of North Georgia, and I commend their efforts aimed at expanding opportunities for Georgia’s REACH scholars.”

To view the full seminar, visit [go.ung.edu/reachday](http://go.ung.edu/reachday).

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**About the REACH Georgia Program:** The REACH Georgia Program is a needs-based scholarship and mentorship program administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority and is designed to assist academically promising students with the extra mentoring, academic coaching, and support they need to be successful in high school and to access and complete a postsecondary credential. Upon high school graduation, eligible REACH Scholars receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Established in 2012, today the program serves more than 150 school systems and over 3,000 students across Georgia. Additional information about REACH is available at [reachga.org](http://reachga.org) or 800.505.4732 (GSFC).