



For Immediate Release:
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GSFA Approves REACH Foundation, Inc. Board Members

Atlanta, GA – Today, the Georgia Student Finance Authority Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve three members for the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors who were recently nominated by Gov. Nathan Deal. Governor Deal launched REACH Georgia in 2012 as a key initiative of Complete College Georgia. School systems partner with REACH and identify academically promising, low-income eighth grade students to receive REACH Scholarships. These scholars are paired with a mentor and an academic coach through high school. Upon graduation from high school and successful completion of the program, scholars are awarded up to a \$10,000 scholarship to be used at a Georgia HOPE-eligible two- or four-year college.

“The REACH Georgia Scholarship is an innovative public/private model for how states can effectively deliver financial aid to deserving students who need it,” said Shawn Ryan, President of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). “These three new board members will help guide the program’s private fundraising efforts as we seek to expand REACH to all Georgia school districts. I welcome them and thank them for bringing their skills and expertise to so worthy a cause.”

The newly appointed members of the REACH Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors are: Charlie Sutlive, Joy Lampley-Fortson and Michael Patrick. The REACH Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit entity that supports the REACH program.



Charlie Sutlive - Sutlive is vice chancellor for Communications and Governmental Affairs of the University System of Georgia (USG) and serves as the chief communications officer for the USG. As part of the USG's leadership team, he is responsible for developing and executing the communications strategies for the university system's key initiatives. Prior to joining the USG, Sutlive served as the vice president of Public Affairs and Communications for Coca-Cola North America and in this position, he led strategy, engagement and communications with U.S. media, state and local government, employees and key stakeholders in local communities. He was a member of the 2011 class of Leadership Georgia, served on the board of Leadership Georgia from 2013 through 2015 and chaired the 2016 class selections process. He served as a volunteer assistant coach for the Murphey Candler Baseball League in metro Atlanta during the spring 2016 season and from 2011 to 2014, Sutlive held Board positions with the Jekyll Island Foundation and the Smithgall Woods Foundation. Sutlive earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Nell, have two children.



Joy Lampley-Fortson - Joy Lampley-Fortson is the Executive Director and Administrator of the Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity (GCEO). Governor Deal appointed her to serve the State of Georgia in this capacity in April 2017. Prior to her service at GCEO, Lampley-Fortson was an Assistant Chief Counsel with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Office of the Chief Counsel from 2001 until 2017. Prior to representing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, she was an Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Georgia from 2001 until 2007. Lampley-Fortson is the chair of the Leadership Georgia Board of Trustees. She serves on the Judicial Council of Georgia's Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee. She is a Past President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and Leadership Georgia. Lampley-Fortson earned a bachelor's degree in Public Relations and a law degree from the University of Florida. She and her husband, Reggie, reside in Fairburn.



Michael Patrick - Michael Patrick (BBA '03) is the Senior Consultant of Innovation & New Ventures with Chick-fil-A and Founder of the Atlanta-based startup Thanks Geoffrey, a home management company that helps people live their ideal lives by reinventing the way everyday tasks get done. Prior to starting the company, Patrick was vice president of capital markets for the Carroll Organization, a real estate investment company with a \$2.5 billion portfolio. His résumé also includes four years as an investment advisor at Goldman Sachs, where he worked for an advisory team with more than \$700 million in assets. He also spent four years as the head of business development for Anasteel & Supply Company, LLC. Patrick graduated from the University of Georgia, where he majored in marketing at the Terry College of Business, served as president of

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and was a member of the Georgia basketball team. He also holds an MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he served as president of the MBA Student Association. He is a trustee of Leadership Georgia and a past chairman of Terry's Young Alumni Board, which raised \$1 million on behalf of the college's new Business Learning Community. Patrick and his newlywed wife, Dr. Brittany Kaufman, a graduate of UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine, live in Atlanta.

About the REACH Georgia program

REACH Georgia is administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), a companion student finance entity of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). The REACH Georgia need-based scholarship program was designed to assist students who demonstrate true academic promise, but may not currently have the academic preparation or financial support they need to obtain a postsecondary degree, diploma or career certificate. Additional information about REACH is available at reachga.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732).

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

GSFC is the state agency that administers the HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program as well as other state- and lottery- funded financial aid programs. GSFC also manages the career and college preparation website, Gafutures.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC programs and services is available at gsfc.georgia.gov, gafutures.org or 1.800.505.GSFC (4732).