

SECTION 1. ABSTRACT

Describe the proposed change, the location, the projected date of implementation and factors affecting the final date, and the organizational structure of the current institution. The date of implementation listed in the prospectus shall be the official effective date of change approved by the Commission on Colleges' Board of Trustees. This date should take into consideration the proposed date of approval by the Commission's Board, the date of approval by the institution's governing board, and U.S. Department of Education reporting timelines affecting Title IV funding. The date may not exceed 30 days beyond approval by SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

This proposal is to consolidate North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) and Gainesville State College (GSC), both of which are SACSCOC-accredited institutions, effective January 8, 2013. NGCSU is a Level V institution of 6,500 students and GSC is Level II with 8,700 students; the consolidated institution will be Level V. Degree overlap between the institutions is minimal, and occurs for the BS in psychology and biology.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) is the governing board for both institutions, and approved this consolidation at its January 10, 2012 meeting. Notification to SACSCOC was provided in a letter dated January 18, 2012. Pending approval by SACSCOC Board of Trustees at their December 2012 meeting, the USG Board of Regents will vote on January 8, 2013 to issue final approval for the consolidation with Dr. Bonita Jacobs as President. The effective date of January, rather than July, 2013 was chosen primarily to avoid disruptive delays to federal financial aid to students. The July option would likely lead to federal financial aid not being available to students in August for fall 2013 registration. Such federal funding delays are less likely if the U.S. Department of Education and the consolidated institution have more time between January and August to process the paperwork required to shift accounts and allocate FY 2013-14 funds to the new institution in a timely manner and ensure a smooth transition for students.

The main campus of Gainesville State College is located in Oakwood, GA with an additional campus in Watkinsville, GA. North Georgia College & State University is located in Dahlonega, GA. An instructional site, which is shared by the two institutions, opened August 2012 in Cumming, GA. All four locations will be part of the consolidated institution, and are in relatively close proximity to one another within a 40-mile radius in the northern region of the state. The name of the consolidated institution will be University of North Georgia, and will have administrative headquarters in Dahlonega.

Dr. Bonita Jacobs, President of North Georgia College & State University, will be the President of the University of North Georgia. Dr. Jacobs chairs the Consolidation Implementation Committee (CIC), which consists of a broad array of representatives from each institution. The CIC provides overall guidance for the consolidation process and makes recommendations to the Board of Regents as needed. To direct the day-to-day planning of NGCSU and GSC consolidation, Dr. Jacobs appointed the Executive Planning Team (EPT), which is composed of the current vice presidents, SACSCOC liaisons, and chief information officers of each institution. The EPT guides more than 70 detailed work teams of faculty, staff, and students for their areas of operation.

In consolidating these two institutions, the enrollments, operating budgets, number of faculty and staff, and inventory of facilities and physical assets will be combined. The consolidation is not expected to result in notable increases or decreases on any of these key dimensions;

however, there are selective staffing revisions for the new institution's administrative structure that will go into effect in January 2013 following SACSCOC approval for the consolidation. We anticipate that we will be authorized to reinvest cost savings from the collapsing of two administrative structures into the new institution's operation.

Current organizational charts for Gainesville State College and North Georgia College & State University are shown in Appendices [1.1](#) and [1.2](#). Organizational structure for the University of North Georgia is discussed in Section 4 of this prospectus.

Links to Section 1 Appendices

[Appendix 1.1 Current Organizational Chart for Gainesville State College](#)

[Appendix 1.2 Current Organizational Chart for North Georgia College & State University](#)

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