



- 2009 ANNUAL REPORT -

STAYING **FOCUSED**

MOVING **FORWARD**



GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

STAYING FOCUSED

MOVING FORWARD

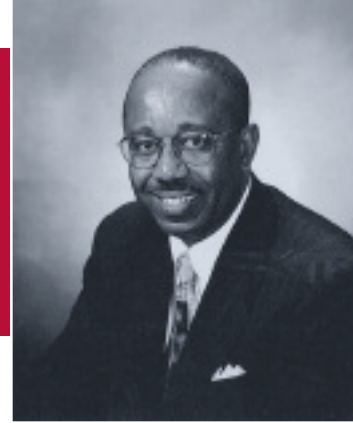
DISTRACTIONS. *If you were asked for one word to describe 2009, this would be a contender.*

We saw leadership changes at all levels of government. The economy sputtered while the jobless rate moved higher. Tax revenues crept ever lower. Education budgets were slashed and educators tested their best creative skills in protecting classroom learning. “Furlough” became a new dirty word.

Through it all, the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education stayed focused on what it has been doing for almost 20 years - working to improve student achievement. We realized, more than ever, the importance of our work and the stature the delivery of that work has earned us. With that comes the responsibility to maintain a visible leadership role through new ideas, programs, and partnerships. We did that in 2009.

The past year presented new and diverse challenges and more await. But the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education is time-tested. 2009 was another year of staying focused and moving forward. It is what we do.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



I have been privileged to serve as the Partnership's chair since 2006.

As I look back, I'm both amazed at what we have accomplished and excited about the impact we are poised yet to make.

Our nation, state, and individual citizens in 2009 were faced with economic challenges not seen in years. It was not a time for the weak of heart.

The Georgia Partnership was not removed from the turbulence and disruptions. We too faced the challenges of shrinking revenues and prioritization of programs to ensure we were as efficient as possible and realized the best return on our investment. Did we pass last year's test? Yes! Through organizational dedication, commitment, and a constant focus on mission, we excelled - a Partnership trademark through the years.

I invite you to revisit 2009 through the following pages: Top Ten and Achieving Excellence in Secondary Education reports, media symposium, Economics of Education, community planning, public meetings, the annual Bus Trip Across Georgia. This is an organization that only knows one speed (max) and is guided by a precise mission: Inform and influence Georgia leaders...for the improvement of student achievement. Our chosen theme for 2009 is on the mark: Staying Focused, Moving Forward.

As I turn over the reins of leadership I am filled with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment. Georgia is making progress, and our organization has been and continues to be a key player in this unfolding success story. I thank each of you who has joined and strengthened us, and I welcome new members to our ranks. Our success is in our name. When it comes to working tirelessly for the betterment of public education in our state, we truly are a *Partnership!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Brown, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Robert L. Brown, Jr.
President and CEO
R L Brown & Associates, Inc.

Two reports grabbed attention across the state underlining the Partnership's expertise and influence while focusing on key issues facing Georgia.

TOP TEN ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2009

The phones start ringing in December, "When will the new Top Ten report be available?" Each year the report gains in popularity and notoriety. Almost 5,000 hard copies of the report were distributed and more than 4,400 downloads were pulled from the web site.

The publication has become a favorite of a variety of audiences from legislators, business leaders, teachers, and administrators to education-college professors and education minded citizens. Media attention also increases each year.

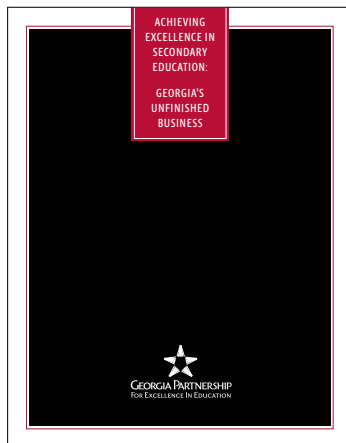
2009 Top Ten Issues

1. Federal Education Landscape: Is Change Coming?
2. In Dire Straits: Education Funding and Economic Crisis
3. The Resurfacing Debate on School Vouchers
4. Growing Our Supply of Effective Teachers
5. Striving for School Board Excellence
6. Early Learning: Our Work Must Continue
7. The Vanishing Middle
8. Grave Disparities in Student Achievement
9. Five Georgias: Connecting Education and Community
10. The Future of Public Education



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION: GEORGIA'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS

This report focused on another area largely missing education radar screens. As stated in the report's introduction: "By taking a close look at data and assessing multiple measures of performance and outcomes of our middle and high schools, this report assesses where our secondary system currently stands and where it needs to improve." Five recommendations were made.



Recommendations

1. Improve teaching and learning by ensuring that all students in Georgia experience rigorous instruction that is relevant to their surrounding world.
2. Allow schools and systems the flexibility to design school structures and interventions that fit the needs of students of the 21st century.
3. Ensure that adequate resources and supports are made available at the state level to support effective teaching and learning in all classrooms across Georgia.
4. Bring visionary leadership to every school and system and to the state to initiate, manage, and sustain effective educational reform.
5. Engage local communities in their education system and build public will for change.

COMMUNICATIONS

The first word of the Georgia Partnership's mission – Inform – underlines the importance of effectively communicating with our many audiences.

Using a combination of time tested communications practices and new approaches such as those found in the ever-evolving social media world, the Partnership continued to keep stakeholders informed.

Media outreach - Reporters consistently turn to the education expertise available here. Whether it is for direct attribution on specific stories or just to help gain a better understanding of a variety of issues, we are always available.

Web site - More than 17,000 visitors browsed pages during the year and downloads of Partnership products - research, reports, topic evaluations - almost doubled over 2008 numbers. The web capability was also used to directly communicate with Board and Council members, media representatives as well as the "Friends" mailing list.

Twitter - 2009 saw the Partnership's introduction to the social media world via its Twitter account. More than 50 "tweets" provided organization news and updates as well as topical news clips and commentary. Check us out and follow along: www.twitter.com/GAPartnership.

Facebook - Late in the year saw this social media tool come on-line and start growing with all sorts of newsy items. To find us, go to www.facebook.com, enter your password information (or request an account), then search for Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.

THE PARTNERSHIP "GOLD RUSH OF 2009"

Five gold awards were presented by the Georgia School Public Relations Association during the annual Publications and Electronic Media competition. It was a clean sweep with five entries earning top awards:

- Annual Report
- Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2009
- Web Site
- Bus Trip XVI - two awards for long and short promotional versions. These awards were shared with Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Two high profile media events had the Georgia Partnership mark. Business to Business Magazine annually hosts a community meeting to discuss relevant education issues and invites the organization to help plan the event and play an integral part in its execution. Partnership President Steve Dolinger moderated the 2009 program that brought several key education and business leaders together to join in spirited discussion.



Later in the year the Partnership's expertise was again called upon, this time to help plan and present a special Georgia Public Broadcasting program. The nationally produced "Principal Story" focused on the leadership position that means so much to a school's ability to succeed. That national story was localized by conducting two panel discussions of educational leaders including Georgia principals and superintendents. Steve Dolinger also moderated the panels that looked closely at school leadership in Georgia. The program ran on the state-wide GPB network.

PROGRAMS

The Partnership's sterling reputation revolves around the many unique education programs it annually offers to a variety of audiences across Georgia. Bottom line: Making a difference!

MEDIA SYMPOSIUM

In just three years this has become another Georgia Partnership signature event that not only brands the organization as an educational leader but informs and influences a wide audience.

The 2009 edition of the symposium competed for media attention with the inauguration of President Barack Obama but still pulled an impressive array of Georgia journalists. Once again it was co-sponsored by Cox Communications, Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) and Turner and held at the GPB headquarters.

Agenda

- Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2009 presentation
- View from the Top - Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
- The State of Education Funding in Georgia - Herb Garrett, Executive Director, Georgia School Superintendents Association
- School Board Governance - The Impact of Local Boards - Mark Elgart, President, AdvancED
- Two Sides of the Issue: A Debate on Education Legislation - Eric Johnson, State Senator and Andrew Broy, Associate Superintendent, Policy, External Affairs, and Charter Schools, Georgia Department of Education

BOARD MEETINGS

The Partnership Board meetings have dual purposes. First, the organization's business is reviewed and appropriately handled by the Board chair. Second, the meetings always present informative looks at topical education issues. Three meetings in 2009 shined the spotlight on key subjects:



February - The Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) presented the program: "Evidence of Impact; Seeing Bottom Line Results; Success Case Methodology." Three school systems - Dade, Hancock, and Jones Counties - reported on their successes after participating in the GLISI programs.

May - "Building Strong Communities with Strong Schools" featured keynote speaker Martin J. Blank, President, Institute for Educational Leadership and Director, Coalition for Community Schools. Following the presentation a panel discussion focused on two Georgia community school models: Troup County and East Lake in Atlanta.

November - The annual "Policymakers Panel" discussion brought several education leaders together to candidly discuss current and coming issues. Andre Jackson, editorial editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, moderated the event. Panelists included Andrew Broy, Associate Superintendent, Policy, External Affairs, and Charter Schools, Georgia Department of Education; Sally Fitzgerald, Director for Education, League of Women Voters of Georgia; Cindy Loe, Superintendent, Fulton County Schools; Kelly McCutchen, President, Georgia Public Policy Foundation; and Danny Shoy, Jr., Senior Program Officer, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

Each meeting had more than 100 attendees and was taped for later availability on the Partnership's web site by Georgia Public Broadcasting. They are available on the "Programs Page" for viewing.



SYMPOSIUM EVALUATION QUESTION:

Will the information presented today help you in your work?

Yes! It provided ideas and pointers on topics to research and follow throughout the year...

It gave me a better understanding of the education issues facing the state overall... It gave me story ideas, background information and resources.

Thank you!

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2009

This proved to be a real crowd pleaser that gave audiences a chance to delve into the key education issues facing the state. Four formal presentations were delivered to civic and education audiences. On two occasions, arrangements were made to meet after business hours for smaller discussion groups with current education students at Bainbridge College, South Georgia College, the University of West Georgia, and Piedmont College. Interest was always high for the meetings but especially so for the smaller, informal settings with future Georgia teachers.

Economics of Education

This has been a signature program since the first briefing was delivered in late 2003. Six years later the popularity is still very much alive.

The Partnership and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce hit the bulls-eye with this idea that has left several thousand influencers across the state with this key message: Education is economics, and they must do all they can to

promote the healthiest public education system possible. The Georgia Academy for Economic Development has even institutionalized it as part of their training program for community leaders.

2009: 30 briefings, 23 different cities, 1,200 attendees

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The Georgia Partnership was invited to present at the U.S. Chamber's Business LEADS Institute in Washington, D.C. This institute brings together chamber executives and business leaders from across the country to learn about the key issues related to education reform and to develop ideas on local advocacy efforts.

The series of 3-day cohort programs are organized by regions of the country which helps to address national issues on a regional level. The U.S. Chamber also adopted the Georgia Partnership's Policy Primer as a template to provide research and policy information to other states as they tackle local reform efforts.

EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (EPFP)

The inaugural class of 20 Fellows celebrated the program's first graduation in June. The Partnership brought the national program to the state in the fall of 2008 with the objective of building education policy expertise.

EPFP is a professional development program that provides potential leaders with the knowledge and networks to advance the core issues of education policy. Ultimately, the program seeks to improve the chances of children and youth to succeed.

The second cohort of 21 Fellows - representing business, non-profit, K-12 and higher education, government, foundation and media communities - began their 10-month program in September.

The program is co-sponsored by the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach at the University of Georgia.

This is a Good Thing!

Judging by comments from the Fellows, the inaugural class was a success and set the stage for the program that promises to increase Georgia education policy capacity well into the future.

"As a Fellow in the inaugural class, I experienced professional development that crossed sectors, professions, and geographic boundaries."

"The program not only provided me with a comprehensive understanding of education policy, but it helped me to assess my leadership skills and abilities in a meaningful way."

EPFP Fellows:

- Develop a broadened understanding of the policy process within the multi-faceted context of education and related issues
- Hone their communication and advocacy skills
- Strengthen their potential for leadership
- Expand their network of professional colleagues

PARTNERING

This is the beauty of the organization: Building and serving in partnerships with a focus on continuous improvement in our state's public education system. Teamwork is the Partnership's core.

THE TEACHER QUALITY PROJECT (TQP)

For several years the Georgia Partnership joined several state agencies to provide a survey of working conditions which is a reliable assessment that shores up a school's strategic plan. It provides concrete evidence to support recommended changes in the working environment for teachers.

In 2009 through a partnership with the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Partnership offered the successful strategy to seven school systems that are part of GLISI's Power of 100™. Schools in Baldwin, Bibb, Clayton, Greene, Hancock, Pike, and Washington Counties are participating in the TQP.

They received reliable data regarding their own teachers' perspectives on their working conditions and through strategic planning will provide community and school leaders with valuable information about what teachers and students need to optimize their work.

COLLEGE ACCESS INITIATIVE

A cross-agency team which included the Georgia Partnership worked over the year to implement Georgia's College Access Plan which aims to grow the number of underrepresented students who graduate from Georgia high schools and move on to technical, two and four-year colleges academically ready.

Through a well-coordinated communications effort, the Partnership highlighted the potential economic gains of college access to communities through presentations and news articles in the Georgia Chamber's Profile publication, the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (GACCE) newsletter, and James magazine. The Partnership also engaged local chambers of commerce and other community leaders in a variety of college access strategies including volunteering for Apply to College Week and organizing Friday Night/College Lights events for the distribution of GACollege411 flyers and speaking to youth about the importance of postsecondary education in reaching their goals.



COMMISSION FOR SCHOOL BOARD EXCELLENCE

At the request of the State Board of Education in 2008, the Georgia Partnership, Georgia and Metro Atlanta Chambers of Commerce, and AdvancED joined forces to study school board governance and processes and look for ways to improve them.

This advisory panel with the aid of consulting experts from the North Highland Group spent considerable time researching the issue and crafting a set of specific recommendations that were accepted by the State Board. Five of the 12 recommendations require legislation.

The recommendations received bi-partisan legislative support and Senate Bill 84 was born when introduced during the 2009 legislative session. When the session closed in April, the bill had not passed. The effort was not wasted as it both increased awareness and underlined the need for change.

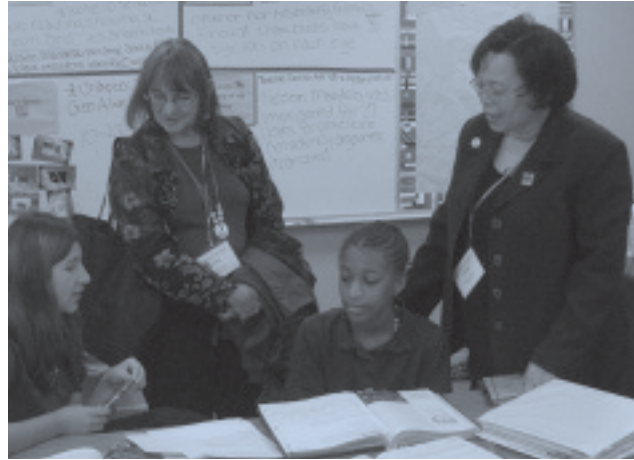
Continuing school board issues in 2009 kept the need for reform alive and as the 2010 legislative session approached, both the governor and key lawmakers pledged their support to see SB 84 reintroduced and enacted.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Partnership began an initiative in 2008 with the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) designed to work with communities that needed a helping hand with their school systems' continuous improvement plans. Three counties, Murray, Greene, and Wayne, requested assistance. Working with GSBA and the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement, a community engagement component was designed to fit with each system's continuous improvement model. The work continued into 2009 and was completed later in the year.

Additionally, the Georgia Partnership teamed with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to assist more communities in designing plans for supporting their public schools. Working together, the two organizations

melded their planning processes and began assisting several communities. The focus of the planning is to address persistent poverty through at least one education goal and more if selected by the assisted community. Work will continue in 2010.



RESEARCH

Commonalities of 85-10 Schools - Sustained Graduation Success

One of the best ways to measure the success of a K-12 education system is to monitor the quality and the quantity of its end product: high school graduates. Georgia has reason to be proud that state high school completion rates have made an impressive jump from 65 percent in 2004 to 79 percent in 2009, a 14 percentage point increase in a comparatively short six years.



The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education began closely examining these data in 2009 to determine which schools made these extraordinary gains and the reason for their improvements. Fifteen high schools met the criteria:

- (1) Graduated at least 85 percent of their students and
- (2) Improved the graduation rate by at least 10 percentage points over the last six years.

Because this is an exceptional accomplishment for a widely diverse group of schools - different in size, student demographics, and geographic location - the organization partnered with the 15 schools to conduct a study to determine if they shared common characteristics and conditions that allowed them to lead the way in ultimately preparing students for college and career.

Results of the research will be available in early 2010.

ANNUAL **BUS TRIP**
ACROSS **GEORGIA**

Bus Trip 17: Georgia's



When the buses once again rolled out of the Georgia Power parking lot in October, participants in the annual popular event were on their way to see six schools that are finding success by using a combination of forward thinking and old-fashioned dynamic leadership.

There was only one tour this year but the results were the same as in previous trips: It was a festive celebration of achievement and the sharing of best practices that are enabling these schools to stand out.

This annual event just keeps on giving and giving. Who benefits most? Is it the participants who meet winning schools, administrators, teachers, students, and proud community members? Could it be the schools that proudly showcase their winning formulas and achieving spirits? Or is it the Georgia public education system that prospers both when best practices are shared and when achievement is celebrated? Many would argue a simple answer, "All!"

Bus Trip 17 Chair:

Mike G. Worley, Manager, Non-Metro Community Development, Georgia Power



Public Schools: Achieving Results Through Innovation

Celebrating achievement and sharing best practices.



THREE DAYS, SIX CELEBRATIONS!

Riders and site participants were treated to an exciting array of winning strategies all along the education pipeline. What stood out at each school? Who better to answer that than the visitors who shared their thoughts on evaluation sheets:

- **Unity Elementary School, LaGrange, Troup County Schools** - The shared mission across the board is impressive... Enthusiasm of teachers and students is infectious... Share "parallel blocking" with others... This school exemplifies a village raising their children to their children's potential.
- **W.L. Parks Middle School, Atlanta Public Schools** - Very impressed with the Cinderella-turn around... The school is located in such a depressed, impoverished area, and yet the kids were so dedicated and serious about their education... I saw hope in the eyes of Parks' students... Inspiring!
- **Amana Academy, Alpharetta, Fulton County Schools** - The second language program is amazing. Parent involvement... expeditionary learning... wow... Civic engagement is at the core of the curriculum; this model varies greatly from what most schools use. This should be the norm not the exception... Fantastic!
- **Centennial Arts Academy, Gainesville City Schools** - Fun, vibrant! It is amazing to see how the arts are used as tools to teach rather than gimmicks... Kids were learning by creating... I now want to go back to my school and implement art, music, and drama into my curriculum.
- **Morgan County High School, Monroe, Morgan County Schools** - I love the idea of all students being able to take AP courses. It gives all kids a chance to advance... Very impressed with how hard school works to reach kids "falling through the cracks" ... I loved the unity of the school, "One Morgan"... Very impressed with college classes offered at the school.
- **Georgia College Early College, Milledgeville, serving Baldwin and Putnam County Schools** - This model should be put into action in all districts housing colleges... The rigor was very evident and the principal's passion was like no other I have seen... This certainly must be the ultimate learning experience for children who see college as an impossible dream... Students buy into the program and talk about it as "family."

FUNDERS

We take great pride in listing the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that supported the Partnership financially in 2009. We thank you for your commitment to education and for your generosity to the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.

\$100,000 and Greater

Georgia Power Foundation
Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation

\$20,000 to \$99,999

AT&T Georgia
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Citi Foundation
Georgia Public Broadcasting
The Pittuloch Foundation
SunTrust Directed Funds:
 Harriet McDaniel Marshall Trust
UPS Foundation
Verizon
Rockdale Fund for Social Investments
Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
Zeist Foundation

\$5,000 to \$19,999

Atlanta Foundation
Cousins Properties
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation
Ernst & Young
Georgia Pacific Foundation
IBM
Newell Rubbermaid
Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust
Publix Super Markets Charities
Scientific Atlanta Foundation
The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation

Gifts up to \$4,999

AGL Resources
The Coca-Cola Company
The Erroll & Elaine Davis Charitable
 Gift Foundation
Equifax
Georgia Ports Authority
Georgia School Boards Association
Junior Achievement
Kroger
Ray M. & Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation
Oglethorpe Power Company
Southstar Energy
Joseph Bankoff

Andrew Broy
Taifa Butler
Steve Dolinger
Sally FitzGerald
Herb Garrett
Stephen Green
Jack Harris
Sis Henry
Lucy and Gary Lee
Atiba Mbiwan
Julie Moore
Angela Palm
Rene Pennington
Bill Rainwater
David Ratcliffe
Cerrice Sanders
Neil Shorthouse
Tom and Patsy Upchurch
Shannon Wilder

Restricted Gifts

Wallace Foundation
 Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement
Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation
 Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement
 Teach For America
Wachovia Foundation
 Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement
Verizon
 Georgia Teacher of the Year and Schools of Excellence
 Programs



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GOVERNANCE RESTRUCTURING

In response to numerous comments from stakeholders, the Georgia Partnership undertook and completed a thorough review of its governance structure. The Nominating Committee charged the organization with the task of consulting with nonprofit leaders and attorneys so that we could bring the organization into alignment with its articles of incorporation and maximize its effectiveness. As a result of this work, the Board leadership made changes to the Partnership's governance that will enhance its capacity and efficiency.

New Partnership Governance:

- 1. Board of Directors, which is comprised of members who have the decision-making authority, fiduciary oversight, and assume the ultimate accountability for Partnership activities.***
- 2. Executive Committee, which lists members from the Board of Directors who will make expedient decisions under certain circumstances on behalf of the full board.***
- 3. Partnership Council, which includes many of the former board members who have moved into an advisory position. The Council will be actively engaged in their communities, fulfilling the Partnership's mission across the state.***

Stuart Bennett
Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

Robert Brown
R L Brown & Associates

Brooks Coleman
Georgia House of Representatives

Kathy Cox
State Superintendent of Schools

Sheila Cornelius
Georgia PTA

Ann Cramer
IBM Corporation

Erroll B. Davis
Board of Regents University System of Georgia

Gwen Desselle
2010 Teacher of the Year, Colquitt County High School

Art Dunning
University of Georgia

Sally FitzGerald
League of Women Voters of Georgia

Herb Garrett
Georgia School Superintendents Association

Mike Garrett
Georgia Power Corporation

Erin Hames
Office of the Governor

Sis Henry
Georgia School Boards Association

Ed Heys
Deloitte

George Israel
Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Ronald Jackson
Technical College System of Georgia

Phil Jacobs
Pendleton Consulting Group

Otis Johnson
Mayor, City of Savannah

Allene Magill
Professional Association of Georgia Educators

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Massey & Bowers LLC

Reuben McDaniel
Jackson Securities

Milford McGuirt
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Newell Rubbermaid

Holly Robinson
Bright from the Start

Sylvia Russell
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Beheruz Sethna
University of West Georgia

Charles Tarbutton
Sandersville Railroad

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Georgia House of Representatives

Michael Thurmond
Georgia Department of Labor

Linda Torrence
Girl Friends Health Guide

Chris Turner
Georgia Association of Educators

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Georgia State Senate

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Voices for Georgia's Children

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Retired

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Communities in Schools

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Fayette County School System

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Georgia House of Representatives

Laura Dobbs
Georgia PTA

Karen Doty
Langston Chapel Elementary

Elaine Draeger
Sheltering Arms



Leroy Ervin
100 Black Men of America

L.C. (Buster) Evans
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Kwame Griffith
Teach for America, Atlanta

Nancy Hall
Kennesaw State University

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Joon Heo
Korean-American Education Foundation

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Mitchell County School System

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Junior Achievement of Georgia

Sharon Hill
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Mallard Holliday
Cox Communications

Andy Horne
University of Georgia

Jeff Hubbard
Georgia Association of Educators

Cheri Husney
KPMG

David Jenkins
Georgia Department of Economic Development

Emily Jennette
Georgia Department of Education

David Johnson
United Community Bank

Emmett Johnson
Atlanta Board of Education

Larry Johnson
Retired

Mable Jones
The Jones Connection

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KIPP Metro Atlanta Collaborative

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Democratic Party of Georgia

Emily Lembeck
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Andy Macke
Comcast Cable Communications

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Cartersville High School

James McCaffrey
Turner Broadcasting System

Bill McCargo
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David Poythress
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Social Circle City Schools

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Urban Realty Partners

Jennifer Rippner
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Patricia Rodewald
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Methodist Home for Children and Youth

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Communities In Schools of Georgia

Betty Siegel
Siegel Institute

Judy Sims
Rome City Board of Education

Freddie Powell Sims
Georgia State Senate

Gaye Smith
Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Steve Smith
Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau

Steve Smith
Lowndes County Schools

Trudy Sowar
Georgia School Boards Association

Saralyn Stafford
Georgia Academy for Economic Development

Pat Stokes
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David Trivino
Latino Institute for Excellence

Wilson Trivino
Latino Institute for Excellence

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Janeen Tucker
Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Catherine Turk
Ronald M. Simon Family Foundation

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Project GRAD

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Sally Whatley
Dougherty County Schools

Merchuria Chase Williams
Georgia Association of Educators

Renaë Willis
Commercial Bank & Trust Synovus

Wendy Wilson
Albany State University

Harold Wingfield
Polk County Board of Education

James Young
Citizens Trust Bank

Jamil Zainaldin
Georgia Humanities Council



AUDITED FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended December 31, 2008

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,096,751
Restricted cash	231,440
Unconditional promises to give, net	26,000
Other receivables	-
Prepaid expenses	16,151
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 3,370,342</u>

Property and Equipment (Net) 26,816

Other Assets

Unconditional promises to give,
net of current portion 20,000

TOTAL ASSETS \$3,417,158

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 109,297
Deferred revenue	40,100
Accrued expenses	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 149,397</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted - undesignated	3,032,606
Unrestricted - designated	103,768
	<u>3,136,374</u>

Temporarily restricted 131,387

Total Net Assets 3,267,761

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$3,417,158

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31, 2008

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, SUPPORT, REVENUES AND RECLASSIFICATIONS

Contributions	\$1,342,750
Donated assets and services	50,500
Meeting and registration fees	118,867
Program sponsors and publications	15,735
Contract services	-
Interest income	62,530
Loss on disposal of assets	-
Other income	1,345
	<u>1,345</u>

Total Support and Revenues 1,591,727

Net assets released from restrictions
Restrictions satisfied by payments 996,256

Total Support, Revenues, and Reclassifications \$2,587,983

EXPENSES

Program services	
General program operations	1,084,015
Next Generation School Project	55,674
Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement	<u>973,207</u>

Total Program Services \$2,112,896

Supporting services	
General and administrative	224,942
Fundraising	<u>100,804</u>

Total supporting services 325,746

Total Expenses 2,438,642

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets 149,341

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	750,000
Grants	11,672
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(996,256)</u>

Decrease in Temporarily Net Assets (234,584)

Decrease in Net Assets (85,243)

Net Assets, Beginning \$3,353,004

Net Assets, Ending \$3,267,761



WHAT'S AHEAD?

Last year in this space we outlined our many planned programs and projects. Did we fulfill those ambitious plans? Yes, it was another good year. But that was LAST year!

Here we are a year later, once again looking ahead at the challenges before us. What is in store not only for the Georgia Partnership but our state and nation as well?

We will be in another election year. It promises to be contentious as we replace our governor and observe hard fights at all levels of government. Just as we were able to do last year - stay focused and move forward - WE must do again this year and following years.

Note the emphasis on WE. The Georgia Partnership realizes that WE truly are in this continuous race to the top with many others. Our education system is progressing after years of loss or stagnation. We pledge to do our part to keep the ball rolling forward.

Look for a new Top Ten Issues to Watch report; an informative media symposium; a third Economics of Education edition; a new Bus Trip Across Georgia; Georgia Partnership Forums; a second Education Policy Fellowship Program graduation and third cohort; candidate forums and much more.

We are accustomed to a very fast pace. Like the academic and athletic champions our Georgia schools produce, we realize there's only one way to be number one – dedication, commitment and hard work. That's our pledge as we enter 2010.



GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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OUR MISSION

Inform and influence Georgia leaders through research and
non-partisan advocacy to impact education policies and practices
for the improvement of student achievement.