



**GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

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**GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES ELEVENTH
EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CLASS**

23 Fellows to Spend Several Months Exploring Public Education

ATLANTA -- The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education has announced the names of its eleventh Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) class. The 23 selectees will spend nine months deepening their understanding of the policy process within the multifaceted context of education.

EPFP is a 16-state national program that provides leaders and potential leaders with the knowledge and networks to advance the core issues of education policy. Participating fellows increase their expertise needed to make tough policy decisions. The organizations and businesses they represent benefit from their enhanced expertise.

Georgia Partnership President Dr. Steve Dolinger noted that Georgia is one of the program's greatest beneficiaries, as the state's capacity to make sound, education policy decisions is expanded and improved. Ultimately, the goal of EPFP is to "improve educational access and opportunities for all students in Georgia and increase the chances of children and youth to succeed," he explained.

"We're entering our second decade offering this program, and there's no doubt in my mind that it's still one of the most valuable leadership development experiences available in Georgia," he added. "The level of instruction and networking provides an unmatched opportunity to build professional educational policy expertise that will long-serve the state."

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EPFP Program Director and Georgia Partnership Vice President, Dr. Dana Rickman, said, “EPFP is a critical component in Georgia’s on-going commitment to becoming a national leader in education. As our state continues making great strides to improve its public education system, the Partnership is confident that the growing network of EPFP Fellows will be contributors to key educational policy decisions in the years ahead.” In the end, Dr. Rickman stressed, “the true beneficiaries of sound education programs and policies are the students who fill our Georgia classrooms.”

Participants will attend monthly colloquiums that will be led by education experts. These sessions will cover a variety of subjects such as “Political and Demographic Landscape of Georgia: Strategic Leadership in a Dynamic Policy Environment,” and “Why Public Education: How Does the U.S. Educational System Compare to that of Other Countries?” Fellows will also attend a national policy seminar in Washington, DC.

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Founded in 1992 by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Economic Developers Association, the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education consists of business, education, community and government leaders who share a vision of education excellence. Working to be Georgia’s foremost change agent in education, the independent non-profit, non-partisan organization takes lead roles in efforts to shape policy and reform education.