



**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**

THE SEARCH

Augusta University, a public research university and academic medical center located in Augusta, GA, announces a search for a Chair of the Department of Mathematics. The Chair reports to the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) and is responsible for the efficient functioning of the department, which provides instruction leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics and other disciplines. We welcome applications and nominations.

The Chair will join Augusta University at a time of rapid changes at Augusta University and across the city of Augusta, Georgia. A new state-of-the-art building to house the College of Science and Mathematics is under construction. It is located on the University's Health Sciences Campus and is expected to open in 2021. The proximity of the new building to colleagues on the Health Sciences Campus will provide ample opportunities for the Department to initiate and participate in cross-disciplinary collaboration and scientific discovery in applied mathematics, and applications related to biomedical science and health care. Among the many potential collaborators on that campus are faculty and research scientists in the Medical College of Georgia, the Dental College of Georgia, the Georgia Cancer Center, the College of Nursing, the College of Allied Health Sciences, the Department of Population Health Sciences, and the Institute of Public and Preventive Health.

The Augusta area is becoming a focus for cybersecurity, due in part to proximity to Fort Gordon, home of NSA-Georgia, the Army Cyber Center of Excellence and the Army Cyber Command. Augusta University has responded by establishing the School of Computer and Cyber Sciences, housed in the Georgia Cyber Center, which opened in summer 2018 and is located on the University's Riverfront Campus.

Augusta University is one of the four designated research universities in the University System of Georgia, and the state's only public academic medical center. It was formed through the consolidation of Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University (formerly the Medical College of Georgia) in 2013. We are dedicated to training the next generation of innovators, leaders, and health care providers on our four campuses in Augusta and satellite locations across Georgia, offering undergraduate programs in the sciences, computer and cyber science, business, the liberal arts, and education, as well as a range of graduate and professional programs and hands-on clinical research opportunities. With the state's only public medical school and only dental school, nationally ranked business and nursing schools, Augusta

University a destination of choice for students seeking careers in the health sciences and STEM disciplines. Students hail from 45 states and 67 countries.

Governed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, AU has over 9,000 students across its 10 colleges and schools and offers 45 undergraduate programs, 37 graduate programs, 18 doctoral and professional programs, and 60 certificate programs. The University and AU Health System employ approximately 12,000 people, including over 1,700 faculty members, with an operating budget of \$9.017 million in fiscal year 2020.

Augusta University seeks a Chair who will apply innovative leadership to program development and to mentoring and supporting students and faculty. The successful candidate will work with the faculty to promote excellence in teaching, research, and service, facilitate faculty efforts at seeking external grant support, demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, strategically manage the allocation of the department's resources and facilities, and effectively represent the Department's interests to the Dean and upper administration. The Chair will work closely with other departments and divisions within the College of Science and Mathematics and the broader AU community to ensure an atmosphere of collaboration, shared knowledge and cooperation in both its teaching and research missions.

Candidates for Chair must have a doctoral degree in mathematics or a closely related field, have earned tenure, and have a record of professional achievements supporting appointment at the rank of professor. Previous leadership/administrative experience is highly desirable as is a strong record of teaching, scholarship, and external funding. Area of specialization is open.

For more on Augusta University and Augusta, Georgia, please see the Appendix at the end of this document.

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY TODAY

The University traces its roots to the founding of the Academy of Richmond County in 1783 as a high school which opened in 1785 and offered collegiate-level classes, and to the establishment of the Medical Academy of Georgia in 1828. What is now Augusta University was formed on January 8, 2013, by the consolidation of Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University. It is a public research university with the primary mission of providing leadership and excellence in teaching, discovery, clinical care, and service as a comprehensive research university and academic health center. The University provides a wide range of programs including undergraduate, graduate and professional programs as well as postdoctoral studies. With four campuses in the city of Augusta and satellite campuses in Athens, Albany, Rome, Savannah, and Warm Springs, the University's 10 colleges and schools and the AU Health System have a statewide impact.

Over the past six years, as Augusta University successfully managed its consolidation, the University has forged a new identity that capitalizes on the opportunities this merger presents for broader state-wide impact. Dr. Brooks A. Keel, President of Augusta University and CEO of the AU Health System since July 2015, leads this dynamic journey. Having earned both his graduate and undergraduate degrees from two of Augusta University's founding colleges – a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry from Augusta College and a doctorate in reproductive endocrinology from the Medical College of Georgia – President Keel's connections to the founding elements of Augusta University and to the city of Augusta further drive his commitment to advancing the University.

Augusta University has ten colleges and schools, listed in order of their founding, although many of the degree programs existed prior to the founding of the present university.

- Medical College of Georgia, 1828
- College of Nursing, 1956
- Katherine Reese Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, 1963
- The Graduate School, 1965
- The Dental College of Georgia, 1965
- College of Education, 1968
- College of Allied Health Sciences, 1968
- James M. Hull College of Business, 1971
- College of Science and Mathematics, 2012
- School of Computer and Cyber Sciences, 2017

Augusta University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) toward one-year and advanced certificates and degrees at the bachelor's, master's, specialist, first professional and doctoral levels.

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Founded in 2012 by separation from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) provides students with strong foundations in the sciences as well as preparation for careers, citizenship and a life-long love of learning. Led by Dr. John C. Sutherland, Dean and Professor of Physics, the College is committed to providing experiences promoting scientific inquiry and discovery and dedicated to creating opportunities for intellectual growth and community involvement.

The College of Science and Mathematics consists of five departments (Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics, Mathematics, Military Science, and Psychological Sciences) offering eight bachelor's degrees and three master's degrees. Undergraduate students in CSM have opportunities for research application through the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURS), which supports faculty-led research and scholarly activity with AU undergraduates by offering grants for student research and disseminating information learned through that research.

The College has developed Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) designed to provide a supportive residential learning opportunity to freshmen students who live on campus and declare their major in the College of Science and Mathematics. The primary focus of these LLCs is helping students succeed academically in the critical first year of college. The LLCs provide a supportive network of like-minded people with the common goal of excelling academically. Mentoring by faculty and student peers in their sophomore, junior and senior years ensures the development of strong study habits and time management while group study halls provide quiet study space with tutors nearby.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

The Department of Mathematics is committed to excellence in the teaching of logical, numerical, and analytical skills; to the advancement of knowledge; and to the enrichment of the community in a climate which fosters empowerment, humane values, and a life-long love of learning within our disciplines. The vision is to serve as a premier Department of Mathematics in both teaching and

research domains while encouraging personal growth in students and significantly impacting their contribution to society.

The department consists of 20 full-time faculty, among whom are 15 tenured and tenure-track faculty and 5 non-tenure-track faculty. Teaching effort among the faculty ranges from 40 per cent to 90 percent (lecturers). Among tenured/tenure-track faculty, research span a wide range of interests in pure and applied mathematics, statistics, and mathematics education. A number of faculty have research interests in biological, medical, and epidemiological applications.

Undergraduate Programs

The department offers a Bachelor of Science with three concentrations: mathematics, biostatistics, and secondary education, as well as a minor in mathematics.

Accelerated B.S./M.S. Dual Degree Program in Mathematics and Biostatistics

Students enroll in the Mathematics B.S. program with a Concentration in Biostatistics. During their junior year, they apply for entrance into the M.S. program in Biostatistics, and begin the M.S. program, housed in the Department of Population Sciences in the Medical College of Georgia, in their fourth year. Nine credit hours of coursework are counted toward both degrees. At the end of the spring of fourth year, the B.S. is completed. Students will then complete the M.S. in the spring of the fifth year. Students finish both a B.S. degree and an M.S. in only five years (instead of the usual six years). Graduates find high quality jobs or enter in the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics, if admitted, upon completion of the program. Graduates of the M.S. program have 100% job placement at the time of graduation, typically working as biostatisticians in government agencies, biotech companies, pharmaceutical companies or insurance companies.

Graduate Programs

The M.S. program in Biological and Computational Mathematics is admitting its first cohort of students in fall 2020. The M.S. program is a two-year program consisting of 36 hours of courses. Graduates of the program will be well-equipped to use a variety of methods to construct mathematical models in order to solve real-world problems, especially those problems of an interdisciplinary nature. The expertise of the faculty involved includes many applications in the biomedical fields. The nature and breadth of the curriculum allows students to enter jobs in industry or to enter Ph.D. programs in Applied Mathematics. The program includes a strong experiential component in the form of seminars as well as a graduate project course where students have the opportunity to conduct original research in applied mathematics.

An Integrated Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics is offered in collaboration with the College of Education.

THE ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The Chair of the Department of Mathematics reports to the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics and is supported by an assistant chair who works closely with the Chair in overseeing the undergraduate program, and a director of graduate studies. The Chair is responsible for improving and promoting the overall quality and effectiveness of the department's programmatic, teaching and research objectives and for effecting growth in strategic directions that are of benefit to the department. Charged with contributing to Augusta University's focus on becoming a comprehensive

research university, the Chair will find ample opportunities to achieve success, from forging mutually productive relationships with the Medical College, the Department of Population Health Sciences, the Institute of Public and Preventive Health and Augusta University's growing cybersecurity program to the potential opportunities presented by the university's commitment to providing care in both the state's prison system and the juvenile justice system.

The Chair will provide highly collaborative leadership in applying a vision that promotes and advocates for the strengths of the department, fosters a rich student experience, develops, mentors and supports faculty and staff through professional career advancement, fosters a culture of creative and innovative research and creativity and manages the department's fiscal and physical resources. The Chair will develop and maintain the necessary campus and community relationships to ensure that the department is at the forefront of new knowledge generation and curriculum development.

More specifically, the Chair will address the following opportunities and challenges:

Lead the department in setting a vision and strategy through inclusion and transparency

The Chair will be a strategic and thoughtful leader. Making difficult decisions about resource allocations in a pragmatic, comprehensive and transparent fashion, the Chair will seek to balance strategic initiatives on growing research and promoting excellent teaching with operational needs based on programmatic revenue generation. The Chair will act strategically around key issues related to research support, an evolving enrollment landscape, faculty line allocation and teaching loads. Engaging faculty, staff and students in the creation of strategic plans that complement and amplify the institutional strategic plan and lead the institution toward higher levels of academic achievement, the Chair will carefully allocate the use of the department's physical and financial resources. The Chair will be an adept communicator who is able to articulate a vision that connects to clear goals and who recognizes the importance of gaining consensus among the faculty. As a dynamic advocate for the department's faculty, staff and students, the Chair will have a proactive and productive relationship with upper administration.

Develop, recruit and retain excellent faculty

The Chair will be attuned to academic and research trends in order to make competitive offers to strong faculty in strategic areas of growth for the department. The Chair will appropriately manage resources for new faculty hires and leverage university-wide initiatives that support and encourage existing faculty. In order to better promote a clear and supportive promotion and tenure process, the Chair will communicate regularly with faculty to develop a nuanced understanding of how scholarship and research varies across disciplines and contributes to the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge and its application.

Embrace and foster a culture to improve student success

The Chair must engage students, faculty and support services in developing achievable goals to increase student satisfaction. To do so, the Chair will work with faculty to enhance research and honors opportunities for students. Relatedly, the Chair will enhance the department's current efforts in advising students and will continue to foster the culture of faculty-student mentorships.

Students must also feel confident in entering the job market post-graduation. To that end, the Chair has to enhance the focus on career preparation, including working with the Office of Career Services to leverage the power of alumni in mentoring students. Most importantly, the Chair will be visible and make students aware of the department's commitment to providing practical resources where possible. The Chair will

promote the importance of academic excellence and hold faculty accountable for assessing student learning and acting on results in order to improve students' educational experiences and outcomes.

The Chair must work with faculty and support staff in ensuring the success of the students, measured not only in retention and graduation figures but in overall student satisfaction as well. Given the fact that every undergraduate student is required to take mathematics coursework, the Chair plays a critical role in the University's overall effort to maximize this success in retaining its students, and further, to link AU graduates to successful careers or graduate study.

Ensure excellence in graduate education and broaden program offerings

Augusta University seeks to launch an ambitious strategic plan to become a premier research institution. The Department of Mathematics has a promising opportunity to play a significant role in developing interdisciplinary research connections at AU. The Chair will advocate for and develop resources to support and grow graduate education and capitalize on existing strengths in interdisciplinary, diversity-oriented, and transformative graduate education while being mindful of opportunities for new programs.

With this evolving emphasis on growing the research enterprise within the Department and across the University, the Chair will need to develop and present a finely tuned strategy that supports and enables both scientific discovery and champions student-centric teaching and mentoring.

Demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit for collaboration

While the Chair's central responsibility is the health and success of the Department of Mathematics, the Chair is also a leader within the CSM and on the AU campus as a whole, welcoming and seeking out ways to collaborate with other units at the University for their mutual benefit and to advance the priorities of the University. The Chair will encourage interdisciplinary connections and be an open and innovative partner with other department chairs, the Dean, and interdisciplinary collaborators, working to further research and programmatic initiatives that cross traditional boundaries and have the potential to have a transformational impact.

The Chair must be passionate about mathematics and how it integrates with all disciplines, building a culture in which the department's strengths meld with and enhance those of synergistic and complementary collaborators. Under the Chair's guidance, the department will produce novel research, create visionary education programs, and value and promote excellence in education and teaching, thereby enhancing the perspectives of its students and the department's reach and reputation.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

The position of the Chair of the Department of Mathematics provides a rare opportunity for an academic leader to amplify the momentum at Augusta University and significantly impact the future of the institution. The ideal candidate will possess the following personal and professional qualifications:

- An earned doctorate in mathematics or a closely aligned discipline and a record of distinguished scholarship and teaching appropriate for appointment as a tenured full professor;
- A record of leadership and academic administration experience with a proven ability to communicate effectively;

- Strong interpersonal skills and an appreciation for the value of multiple perspectives;
- An energetic, entrepreneurial and collaborative leadership style that inspires faculty, students and staff and builds pride in, and commitment to, the AU vision;
- An uncompromising appreciation for high academic standards and an ability to identify and nurture excellence within programs, departments and schools based on guiding principles that stress academic quality, experiential learning, technology and global perspectives;
- A commitment to helping the department develop strong graduate programs;
- A proven ability to recruit, develop and retain superb and diverse faculty members;
- Leadership by example by maintenance of high personal standards and self-accountability;
- A respect for all disciplines and a desire to work collaboratively with faculty and administrators to promote the collective goals of the institution;
- An impeccable record of integrity with strong commitment to high ethical standards conducive to earning the trust of the community;
- Strong financial management skills including the ability to manage departmental finances, communicate the relationships between academic priorities and budgeting and transparently align strategic initiatives with long-term budget planning;
- The fortitude and confidence to make leadership decisions when faced both with exciting opportunities and significant challenges while operating within a state-funded budget model;
- An appreciation for the importance of balancing outstanding scholarship and high-quality teaching with a faculty comprising tenure-track and non-tenure-track members;
- A commitment to diversity, relying on individual action and institutional leadership to advance diversity and inclusion;
- A commitment to furthering the strength of the AU community through participating in campus-wide initiatives and actively engaging with students;
- Experience and determination in leading the development and implementation of a strategic plan, establishing metrics, measuring progress and adapting as necessary;
- The ability to think strategically and tactically at both the macro and micro levels with keen attention to detail;
- The ability to build bridges between academic disciplines and a commitment to facilitating collaborative activities across institutional and disciplinary boundaries;
- The ability to describe and to garner both engagement and support for academic priorities as part of a university capital campaign;
- A record of mentorship and capacity-building to cultivate the next generation of academic leadership;
- Creativity, passion, openness and flexibility.

TO APPLY

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Applicants should apply online at “[Add link here](#)” and upload a letter of interest, *curriculum vitae*, and names of three references in one PDF document. Questions and nominations may be sent to executivesearch@augusta.edu.

All candidates are required to pass a background check review. For specific positions, the final candidate may be subject to a (pre-employment) physical, drug screen, and/or credit check.

The final candidate will be required to provide proof of completed academic degree in the form of an original transcript. Those candidates trained by a foreign institution will also be required to provide an educational/credential evaluation.

Augusta University is an AA/EEO/Equal Access/ADA Employer

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY: LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT BROOKS A. KEEL

Brooks A. Keel, PhD, was named President of Augusta University on July 8, 2015.

Dr. Keel, a native of Augusta, earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from ~~two~~ of Augusta University’s predecessor institutions: Bachelor of Sciences in both biology and chemistry from Augusta College in 1978 and a doctorate in reproductive endocrinology from the Medical College of Georgia in 1982. After completing postdoctoral work at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Dr. Keel spent 20 years as a professor and researcher before moving into administration.

Immediately prior to his arrival at Augusta University, Dr. Keel served as the 12th President of Georgia Southern University (2010-2015), where he led a student-centric administration and cemented his reputation as an accessible and engaged leader who genuinely enjoys interacting with students and faculty. Prior to that, Dr. Keel served in the top ranks of academia, research and economic development in successive appointments at Louisiana State University, where he was Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development; Florida State University; and the University of Kansas–Wichita.

During Dr. Keel’s years as a basic science and clinical researcher, he served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on externally funded grants and contracts totaling more than \$26 million. He is the

author of 65 peer-reviewed scientific publications, 78 peer-reviewed abstracts and 19 book chapters; and has edited four books in the area of reproductive medicine and biology.

He is a member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the Society for Gynecologic Investigation, among others. Dr. Keel has served on numerous boards, including the American Board of Bioanalysis, the American Association of Bioanalysts Board of Registry, the Oak Ridge Associated Universities, the Southeastern Universities Research Association, and the Executive Committee of the Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education of APLU.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Gretchen B. Caughman

Gretchen B. Caughman, PhD, is the university's Chief Academic Officer. She is responsible for advancing all aspects of the academic mission of the University, ensuring excellence and innovation in the delivery of existing knowledge and the discovery of new knowledge. In addition, she is a Professor in the Dental College of Georgia, the Medical College of Georgia, and The Graduate School at Augusta University. Dr. Caughman earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry with highest honors from Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. and her Doctor of Philosophy degree in basic and clinical immunology and microbiology as a National Science Foundation Individual Predoctoral Fellow from the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C. She completed a 3-year National Cancer Institute Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship in herpesvirology at the University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS under the mentorship of Dr. Dennis O'Callaghan. Dr. Caughman came to the Medical College of Georgia in 1985 as an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology, School of Dentistry, and subsequently rose through the ranks to professor in the School of Dentistry, as well as in joint appointments in the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Medicine. Her NIH-funded research focused on the molecular mechanisms of herpesviral persistent infections, and her teaching areas to dental, medical and graduate students included immunology and virology. She is a member of a number of scientific and honorary societies, including the American Society for Virology, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society.

In 1999, Dr. Caughman was appointed Associate Dean of the MCG School of Graduate Studies, and in 2005 became Dean. She was appointed Interim Provost of the Medical College of Georgia in September 2010, and became Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Georgia Health Sciences University in June 2011. In January 2013, upon the consolidation of Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University, she became Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Georgia Regents University (now Augusta University). Major institutional initiatives during her tenure as Provost include establishment of the enterprise-wide Office of Diversity and Inclusion, creation of the Division of Institutional Effectiveness, the launch of the Institute of Public and Preventive Health, the launch of the enterprise-wide Leadership Academy, and the successful accreditation and subsequent reaffirmation of the newly consolidated Augusta University by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Caughman recently led the successful launch of the Augusta University Cyber Institute, and served as chair of the University System of Georgia System-wide Cybersecurity Initiative Consortium, co-chair of the USG-TCSG Health Informatics Initiative Taskforce, and as a member of the SREB Commission on Computer Science, Information Technology and Related Career Fields. Current initiatives include the creation and launch of the School of Computer and Cyber Sciences and expansion of educational offerings and services through collaboration with the US Department of Defense and under formal affiliations with US Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon US Army Garrison Command.

DEAN JOHN C. SUTHERLAND

John Sutherland, PhD, currently serves as the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. He holds the appointment of Professor of Physics. His research interests focus on biological applications of physics, particularly the damages done to DNA by ultraviolet and ionizing radiations, post-irradiation effects on cells and biophysical spectroscopy.

Prior to coming to Augusta University, Dr. Sutherland served as the Chair of the Department of Physics and Interim Dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University. His previous faculty appointments include Senior Biophysicist in the Biology Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory and Assistant/Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the College of Medicine of the University of California, Irvine.

Dr. Sutherland earned his BS, MS, and PhD in Physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and performed most of his dissertation research at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. After graduate school, he served two years on active duty as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. He was stationed at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. He then completed a NIH postdoctoral fellowship in Prof. Melvin Calvin's laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He is the author of over 170 scientific publications, a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Institute of Physics (U.K.), and a member of the Biophysical Society, the American Society for Photobiology, the Radiation Research Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY: HISTORY AND MISSION

Augusta State University

Augusta State University traces its roots to the founding of the Academy of Richmond County in 1783 as a high school which opened in 1785 and offered collegiate-level classes. In 1925, the Junior College of Augusta was established. In 1957, the junior college separated from the academy and moved to its present location on the Summerville Campus, to become the Junior College of Augusta. In 1958, the college became a part of the University System of Georgia and its name was formally changed to Augusta College, which remained a two-year institution until 1963 when it attained four-year status. In 1996, Augusta College was renamed Augusta State University. Augusta State was organized into three undergraduate colleges: Katherine Reese Pamplin College of Arts and Sciences; James M. Hull College of Business; and the College of Education. In 2012, the Pamplin College of Arts and Sciences was divided to form the College of Science and Mathematics and the Katherine Reese Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Georgia Health Sciences University

Georgia Health Sciences University was formed from the renaming of the Medical College of Georgia in 2011. The Medical Academy of Georgia was chartered in 1828 by the state to offer a single course of lectures leading to a bachelor's degree. In December 1829, the Georgia General Assembly changed the name to the Medical Institute of Georgia, and again to the Medical College of Georgia in December 1833. The College of Nursing offered its first classes in the 1940s, and master's and doctoral programs were first offered in the 1960s. The additions of the Colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Dental Medicine and the Graduate Studies during the next decade brought to five the number of schools that made up the Georgia Health Sciences University until the 2013 consolidation. The most recent facilities expansions include the Cancer Research Building opened in 2003; the Health Sciences Building in 2006; and a new dental school building in 2011.

In 2011, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents officially changed the name from the Medical College of Georgia to Georgia Health Sciences University, to reflect the university having more than just a medical school. Medical College of Georgia became the name of the medical school within the Georgia Health Sciences University, alongside the other three colleges.

Consolidation

On January 8, 2012, the Georgia Board of Regents unanimously approved the consolidation of Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University. The Board of Regents described the advantages and goals of the "bold move to create a new university that builds on the strength of two institutions with distinct missions," creating a 21st-century research institution that provides high-quality and comprehensive undergraduate programs and top-tier health education and research that meets regional and statewide needs; continues to support the access mission which is vital to regional needs; allows for growth of research efforts to spur economic development and facilitate knowledge transfer; offers a wide array of undergraduate programs in liberal arts and professional fields; recognizes the geographic proximity of the two universities (approximately 2 miles apart); and builds on the strong community support that both enjoyed.

The consolidated institution was initially named Georgia Regents University, but on September 15, 2015, the Board of Regents voted to change the name to "Augusta University." Board of Regents Chairman Neil

Pruitt said the decision was made to "support the long-term strategic direction of the institution and build on our partnership with the Augusta community."

LOCATION

Known as the "Garden City" of the South, Augusta is situated on the banks of the Savannah River. Augusta is Georgia's second-oldest and second-largest city, with a population of close to 196,000 residents. Serving as a halfway point between the Appalachian Mountains to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and east, Augusta is a thriving community built on a solid foundation of local pride and artistic eccentricity. While other places have undergone cultural revolutions, Augusta underwent a cultural evolution instead. Spearheaded by the next generation of entrepreneurs, musicians, foodies, artists and young professionals, the old city comes to life at night, offering live music, theater shows, art galleries and a wealth of exciting new eateries.

Augusta is on its way to becoming a major hub for cybersecurity in the U.S., located at the center of a number of academic, governmental and corporate partnerships that are critical to enhancing the nation's cyber security, including U.S. Army Cyber Command, the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence, and the National Security Agency at Fort Gordon, located just outside the southwestern edge of the city. The \$100 million Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center, located on Augusta University's Riverfront Campus, is home to a new statewide effort to develop the workforce and infrastructure needed to protect our nation from cyber threats. Several national publications have identified Augusta as a burgeoning technological hub, and Fortune magazine has identified Augusta as one of the top seven cities of the future for the cybersecurity industry.

In addition to serving as a haven of technology and the arts, Augusta is also home to some of the nation's most beautiful lakes and trails, offering year-round outdoor adventures. Several annual sporting events take place in and around Augusta, including the [Ironman 70.3 Augusta](#) triathlon and the [Augusta Futurity](#). The city proper is home to a professional baseball franchise affiliated with the San Francisco Giants. Augusta is also world-renowned as the home of The Masters—an annual golf tournament often referred to as the "Super Bowl" of golf. Every year during the first full week in April, Augusta becomes the golf capital of the globe, welcoming local legends and long-time favorites back to the Augusta National, one of most beautiful golf courses in the world.