



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Carl Vinson
Institute of Government



PROPEL Rural Scholars

UGA students from across disciplines are working with Public Service and Outreach mentors and community leaders to help increase opportunities for economic success in rural counties through PROPEL (Planning Rural Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Leadership). [Read more here](#)



Branding the Sweet Onion City

Communities are increasingly using brand strategy to attract talent and compete for new residents, jobs, industry and funding. The Institute of Government's Kaitlin Messich led Vidalia through a yearlong branding process that captures its status as The Sweet Onion City. "The biggest challenge was getting the onion right. People are passionate about it," she said. [Read more here](#)



Byars wins PSO Staff Award

James Byars, interim manager of the Institute of Government's data analysis and visualization unit, received the 2023 Public Service and Outreach Staff Award for his work creating reliable, accessible data to support projections and plans for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the University System of Georgia (USG) and other clients. [Read more here](#)

Cities United Summit features Institute of Government training

City officials from across the state received professional training from Institute of Government faculty at the Cities United Summit earlier this year in Atlanta. Held in partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), Institute of Government faculty taught 29 classes to 1,311 registrants, including mayors, council members, city staff and other officials. Classes were offered through the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute, a continuing education program developed by the Institute of Government and GMA. Participants also received state government updates at the Capitol Connection Breakfast, and 133 municipal officials were recognized with certificates at an awards luncheon.

University System hosts Georgia Degrees Pay website



The University System of Georgia has launched Georgia Degrees Pay, a website featuring tools developed by the Institute of Government in collaboration with members of the USG Research and Policy Analysis and Communications teams. Designed to help students and families work through critical decisions about college affordability and value, the website provides an array of public data on Georgia's 26 public colleges

and universities and allows comparisons about the overall cost to attend college, majors and fields of study, average student borrowing and average career earnings of USG graduates.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES

Developing Data Analytics Capabilities Conference

April 26-27
Athens

Georgia Government Management Information Sciences (GA GMIS) Conference

April 29-May 4
Athens

Georgia Association of Tax Officials (GATO)

May 8-11
Athens

[More events here](#)

Financial Training opportunities



The Institute of Government collaborates with the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association to offer certification for local government workers. John Hulseley, faculty and program director, describes the multilevel training [here](#).

AROUND THE INSTITUTE

USDA and UGA Foundation provide support for rural Georgia



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