

Inviting Applications and Nominations

Vice President for University Advancement and Foundation Executive Director

MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY



Middle Georgia State University, a multi-campus, public institution, seeks an experienced advancement professional to serve as the next **Vice President for University Advancement** and **Executive Director of the Middle Georgia State University Foundation**.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Middle Georgia State University (MGA) is a public state university in Georgia and one of 26 institutions in the University System of Georgia (USG). MGA has a student body of 7,600, and primarily serves Central Georgia. Recently, the university was recognized as the top-ranking institution for Best Value in Georgia.

MGA consists of five campuses extending across the Middle Georgia region: Macon, Cochran, Dublin,

Eastman, and Warner Robins. The University offers extensive outreach through its fully-online campus.

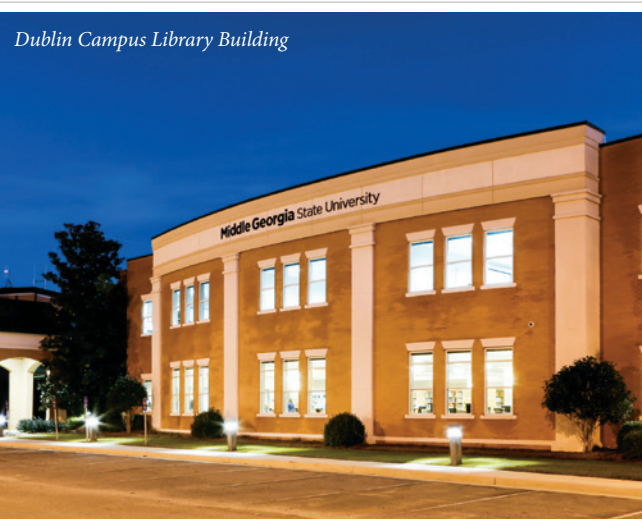
The **Macon Campus** is located near I-475 in Bibb County. The 413-acre campus features modern architecture, a lake, two residence halls, and an enrollment center that opened in 2021. Located only a one-hour's drive south of Atlanta, the campus continues to thrive as a regional hub of learning. ▶

VISIT [MGA.EDU](https://www.mga.edu) TO LEARN MORE.

Aerial view of the Macon Campus



An aerial view of MGA's Cochran Campus



Dublin Campus Library Building



Nursing students at the Warner Robins Campus

MGA's 182-acre historic **Cochran Campus** in Bleckley County has a traditional quad, stately oaks, and a scenic lake. With MGA's largest concentration of student housing, the University's intercollegiate athletic program is based here, which includes men's baseball, basketball, soccer, and tennis; and women's basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball.

The **Dublin Campus** extends the reach of the University into Laurens County and surrounding areas. The campus is a focal point for growth of health programs, particularly nursing.

The 22-acre **Eastman Campus**, a residential campus, is home to Georgia's flagship School of Aviation. Adjacent to the Heart of Georgia Regional airport, it offers flight training and aviation management programs. A fleet of 52 fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft support flight education here and at the Macon satellite location. ►

PEYTON T. ANDERSON ENROLLMENT CENTER

The Enrollment Center, located on the Macon Campus, serves students in the region as the enrollment hub for all five Middle Georgia State University campuses, providing concierge-style guidance for prospective students and their families.





MGA's fixed-wing fleet at the Eastman Campus

The fifth MGA campus is located in **Warner Robins**. This 72-acre campus is just a half mile from the main gate of Robins Air Force Base in Houston County. The campus instruction supports bachelor's degrees in Nursing, IT, Business, and Early Childhood Education.

The University has six academic schools: Arts & Letters, Aviation, Business, Computing, Education & Behavioral Sciences, and Health & Natural Sciences.

An area of continued growth is graduate programs, which currently include online master's degrees in information technology, management, teaching-secondary education, technical and professional writing, and nursing with emphasis on adult/gerontology acute care. In Spring 2023 the first cohort of the doctoral program in information technology graduated.

A member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the MGA Knights compete in the Southern States Athletic Conference. The University fields teams in men's baseball, basketball, soccer, and tennis, and women's basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. The University also has an IHSA equestrian club.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved the University's pursuit of potential membership in NCAA Division II. This new athletic affiliation will more closely align with the strategic direction of MGA as a state University within the USG.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Vice President for University Advancement has a major role in positioning the institution for growth through highly effective fundraising and alumni relations. Reporting directly to the President, this senior officer is a member of the President's leadership team. The Vice President also serves as the Executive Director of Middle Georgia State University Foundation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vice President for Advancement is responsible for directing an effective and cohesive division that currently has eight staff members, with the likelihood of expansion. The Vice President is the senior administrator for the Middle Georgia State University Foundation and the areas of Development and Alumni.

The Vice President interacts with all of the University's constituencies to implement and achieve the goals of the University's advancement efforts and serves the Foundation Board and the Alumni Association. Using best practices in development, this senior officer coordinates closely with the President, Foundation Board members, Vice Presidents, Deans, and the Athletic Director, as well as works with the faculty, staff, and volunteers to ensure an organized approach to accomplishing the University's top strategic priorities.

The Vice President participates in the identification, solicitation, and stewardship of major gifts and is responsible for coordinating all athletic fundraising. ►

The Vice President sets ambitious, clear, and achievable goals, and inspires the Advancement staff to meet and exceed expectations.

The Vice President is active in the University and the surrounding communities and serves as one of the institution's representatives.

REQUIREMENTS

A bachelor's degree is required; a master's degree is preferred. Qualified candidates will have at least eight years of progressive development experience in higher education or a related area. The Vice President also will have:

- Significant leadership experience managing staffs and multiple responsibilities and projects through a collegial, team-building approach
- A thorough understanding of best practices in advancement services and fundraising, with demonstrated success with annual funds, major gifts, alumni relations, estate and planned gifts, corporate and foundation fundraising, and the management of volunteers
- A familiarity with IRS 990 Reporting
- The ability and confidence to develop and cultivate relationships with established and prospective donors, including the solicitation of seven-figure gifts
- A track record in planning and executing successful fundraising activities and campaign management, including goal setting, implementation of strategies, and identification of new donors
- The ability to develop a comprehensive and engaging alumni program that includes events, resources and services, publications, social media, and networking
- An in-depth understanding of budgets and financial records associated with a comprehensive advancement program, including marketing and communications
- Excellent communication skills, oral and written
- The willingness and ability to travel as needed



Christopher Blake, Ph.D.
MGA President

President Christopher Blake, Ph.D., has led Middle Georgia State University since 2014 and is the institution's first permanent president.

Under Blake's leadership, the University has expanded its academic offerings and transitioned from a baccalaureate granting Institution into to a graduate degree granting university in a wide range of disciplines. In addition, Dr. Blake guided MGA in the development of its first Doctor of Science in information Technology (DSclT) program. By identifying and focusing on strategic priorities and student success, Blake has driven the university through incremental changes that have resulted in a significant transformation of the University.

Prior to joining Middle Georgia State, President Blake advanced across multiple leadership roles in higher education including serving as president at Mount Mercy University and provost at Mount St. Mary's University. Blake holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from the University of Oxford, Keble College, a postgraduate certificate in education from Westminster College (Oxford), and a Ph.D. in education from King's College of the University of London.

Dr. Blake serves on the board of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the American Association of University Administrators (AAUA), and the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC). In 2022, President Blake was nominated for author of the year by the Georgia Writer's Association for his second book, *Reckless Misfortune: The Century we inherited from the First World War*.

THE MGA FOUNDATION

Middle Georgia State University Foundation, Inc, is a non-profit corporation committed to stewardship, integrity, excellence, philanthropy, education, and advocacy on behalf of the University. The Foundation supports Middle Georgia State's mission by raising, investing, and distributing private dollars to help fund scholarships, classroom and campus enhancements, faculty programs, staff initiatives, capital needs, and collaborative community projects. As the cooperative partner of the University and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Foundation is managed by a separate 19-volunteer member governing board.





Macon-Bibb County, Georgia

MGA's largest campus and administrative hub is located in Macon-Bibb County. Offering large-city amenities and true Southern charm, Macon-Bibb has a population of approximately 155,000, with the metropolitan area totaling almost 230,000.

Located 70 miles south of Atlanta, Macon is a popular tourist destination. Macon-Bibb is rich with cultural assets such as the Hay House, Tubman Museum, and Ocmulgee

Mounds National Historical Park, a lively arts scene, annual festivals, including the International Cherry Blossom Festival, and a well-versed music heritage, playing home to such greats as Otis Redding, Little Richard, and the Allman Brothers Band.

Most recently, Macon has become a go-to location for movie/TV filmmaking. Served by three hospitals, Macon is one of Georgia's major medical service centers. Just 16 miles south of Macon-Bibb is Robins Air Force Base, the largest single-site industrial complex in Georgia.

APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS

Confidential inquiries are welcomed, and nominations are invited.

Applications

- 1) Application packet must include:
 - a) A letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications of the position
 - b) Current resume
 - c) At least five references with full contact information including e-mails (References will not be contacted without consent from applicant.)
- 2) Submit application packet (preferably as PDFs) to: **MGA-VPAdv@myersmcrae.com**. Additional information will be requested upon receipt of application.

Review of applications begins immediately. For best consideration, submit applications by **October 2, 2023**. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Nominations

Submit nominations to:

MGA-VPAdv-nominate@myersmcrae.com, with complete contact and e-mail information for the individual being nominated.

Kenny Daugherty, President, and **Jennifer Barfield**, Executive Vice President, **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting** are assisting Middle Georgia State University with this search. Request a conversation by e-mailing **JenniferBarfield@myersmcrae.com**.



Middle Georgia State University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer, and strongly encourages the applications and nominations of women and minorities. Middle Georgia State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or veteran status, political affiliation, or the presence of a non-job related condition or handicap under Federal or State law.