

Government Matters



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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Community branding program wins national award



The UGA Institute of Government's Community Branding program, led by faculty member Kaitlin Messich, was awarded top honors in the Place category at the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) Awards of Excellence in October. This national award recognizes the institute's tireless work in guiding communities across Georgia through a brand identity process, creating unique identities that help them prosper and grow. [MORE >](#)

UGA launches workforce academy for school superintendents



Nineteen school superintendents from across Georgia have been named to the first cohort of the Georgia Superintendents' Workforce Leadership Academy, a collaboration between the UGA Institute of Government and Georgia Power. The program will build leaders' abilities to develop and implement strategies enhancing workforce development efforts in their districts and communities by introducing key concepts, trends, programs and approaches. Participants will learn from workforce leaders, collaborate with other superintendents and receive expert coaching. For more about the institute's leadership training programs for government professionals, visit [here](#).

UGA students imagine a new vision for historic Fort Benning



University of Georgia students are vital to the Institute of Government's partnership with military installations, providing fresh takes on existing infrastructure that will help guide future use. This past spring, 15 interior design students in the UGA Lamar Dodd School of Art were tasked with re-imagining a historic gas station at Fort Benning into a workspace for architects and an archaeology lab. The collaboration was made possible through the institute's Defense Community Resilience Program. [MORE >](#)

IN THE NEWS

Buena Vista lands \$500K grant using Institute of Government designs



The City of Buena Vista was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources based on renderings created by the UGA Institute of Government (shown above). The Land and Water Conservation Fund grant will support a \$1 million project called Josh Gibson Park. Plans for the park include a sports court, playground and amphitheater that will serve as an important centerpiece for community engagement. The design plans are a result of the institute's engagement with communities surrounding Fort Benning through the [River Valley Community Compatible Development](#) plan.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



Developing Data Analytics Capabilities Conference now open

The 2026 Developing Data Analytics Capabilities Conference is slated for March 25-26 in Athens. Join us for a two-day conference to learn innovative practices and core skills for effective data governance, best practices in data strategy, building data analytics skills and creative practices in data storytelling. For a deeper dive into all things data, pre-conference workshops are available. [REGISTER HERE >](#)

HONORS & AWARDS



**Jimmy
Nolan**

**Lifetime
Achievement Award**

Georgia Geospatial
Association

Nolan receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The institute's **Jimmy Nolan** was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Geospatial Association at the organization's annual conference in September. The award, the highest honor bestowed by GGA, recognizes an individual who has made significant, lasting contributions to the field of geospatial science and technology over the course of their career. It celebrates excellence in the profession as well as leadership, mentorship, and a commitment to advancing the geospatial community. Nolan, local government project manager for the institute's Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) division, has been involved in GIS-related work since 1994. His primary responsibilities include educating local government officials on how GIS can help operate their agencies more efficiently and coordinating GIS data creation projects.

DID YOU KNOW?

Institute of Government leads Georgia workforce efforts



Did you know the UGA Institute of Government is home to the **Georgia Workforce and Economic Resilience Center**? In addition to hosting the annual Georgia's Workforce Conference, scheduled for Nov. 18-19, the program produces many resources on workforce and economic development, including reports, case studies and videos. Topics include experiential learning for high school students and teacher externships, community workforce planning and alignment, economic development resources and more. For more information, visit [here](#).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us at the UGA Institute of Government!

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