

# Greater Atlanta Coalition for Global Education and Research

Position Statement 2020

## Why is global competence more important than ever before?

Recent events, including a pandemic, worldwide economic volatility, widening gaps and vulnerabilities in healthcare, not to mention the persistent problems of climate change and threats to humanity, have affected or will affect the vast majority of people on this earth.

The next generation of leaders is demanding education that integrates global perspectives. Students are learning foreign languages and cross-cultural skills to address complex issues and global events. This is a resource for all Atlanta-region stakeholders in both private and public sectors. Multilingual and cross-culturally skilled students are equipped to solve problems and to ensure a successful and sustainable future. Global awareness and advanced foreign language skills are critical in every field, integrated into science, technology, and business as well as into healthcare, the arts, and humanities. Inclusive and equitable perspectives are central to fulfilling this mission and meeting the needs of the greater Atlanta region.

## Preparing the Workforce through Cross-Sector Collaboration

The challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century require a global outlook, one that understands interrelated factors and that values diversity of opinions, people, and ideas. All students deserve the chance to develop global, cross-cultural, and multilingual skills to become the problem-solvers and innovators of the future. Working together, civic, private, and educational sectors can cultivate a globally-competitive workforce, propel the individual success of graduates, and ensure economic prosperity for the Greater Atlanta region.



# #1

**Metro Atlanta is rated number one:**

**Metro Area for Economic Growth Potential** (among large metro areas) (Source: Business Facilities, "2019 Metro Rankings Report," July 24, 2019)

**City for Availability of Internships** (tie) (Source: WalletHub, 2019)

**Georgia is rated number one:**

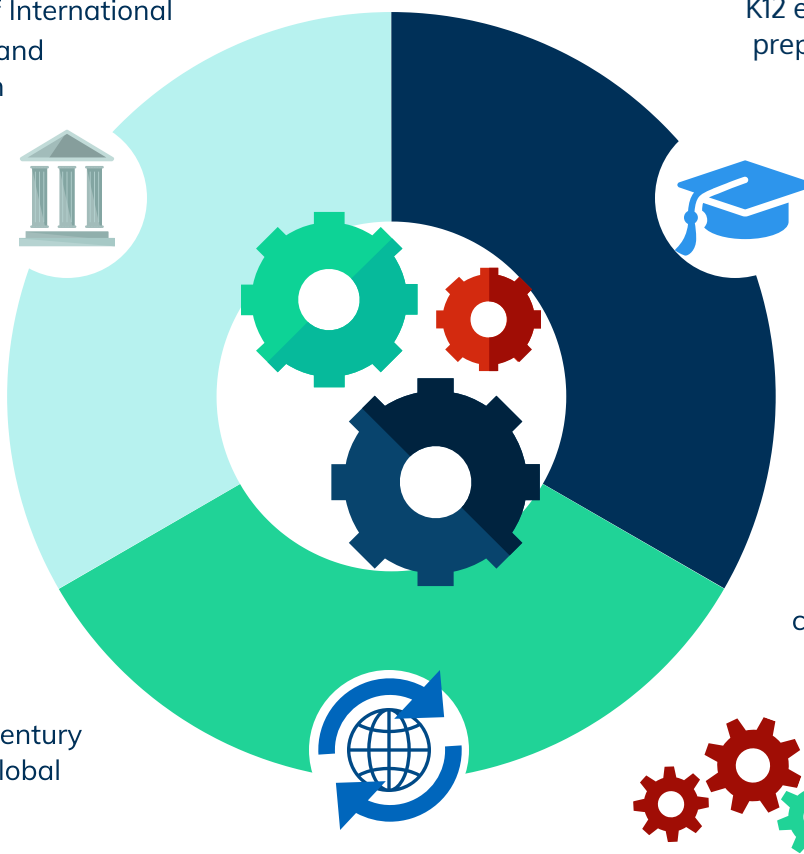
**State for Doing Business** (for the sixth consecutive year) (Source: Area Development, "Top States for Doing Business 2019," September 2019)

**State for Leading Workforce Development Programs** (Source: Area Development, "Top States for Doing Business 2019," September 2019)



# Greater Atlanta Coalition for Global Education and Research Collaboration

**The Civic Sector:** Nearly 800,000 residents in the region are foreign-born; millions have close ties to other countries and are bi- or multilingual. Metro-Atlanta boasts 70 foreign consular and foreign trade offices and more than 30 bi-national chambers of commerce. The City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) develops and fosters relationships with Atlanta's international community and foreign partners to position Atlanta as a global hub for commerce, innovation, education, culture, and diplomacy. MOIA supports opportunities for international education and youth engagement by working with Atlanta-based academic institutions and international partners to support programming that develops global competencies and 21st century skills in an increasingly global economy.



**The Education Sector:** Higher education produces global thinkers and equips graduates with transferable skills to work in global contexts. The Greater Atlanta region has one of the highest concentrations of institutions of higher education in the country. K12 education in Georgia also prepares students for future opportunities. Georgia is a regional leader in K-12 world language education with innovative programs focused on building linguistic and intercultural competencies for the workforce. Together, this region's schools and institutes of higher learning create a pipeline of educated, competent, competitive, and globally engaged graduates.

**The Private Sector:** The Greater Atlanta region plays a significant role in the global economy with flourishing high-tech, manufacturing, financial-tech services, health care, entertainment, and agricultural industries. Over 30 bi-national chambers of commerce actively promote and develop international commercial ties. Metro Atlanta is one of the most dynamic business hubs in North America, home to Fortune 500/1000 companies and the busiest international passenger airport for over 20 years. An increasing number of greater Atlanta business ventures operate internationally. With over 70% of the world's purchasing power outside the United States and a diverse international population at home, businesses in the greater Atlanta region are increasingly reliant on professionals who can think and act globally across multilingual and multicultural contexts at home and abroad. Many economic entities in Greater Atlanta actively work to promote the global expansion of industries abroad and to attract increased international investment into the economy and culture of the region.



# Greater Atlanta Coalition for Global Education and Research Priorities

1

## Strengthen Metro Atlanta's talent pipeline

- Share industry data on specific technical and critical 21st-century skills in demand; share expertise about workforce needs, challenges and opportunities within specific industries; outline mutual priorities
- Define global competence and determine benchmarks, achievable outcomes, and success markers
- Develop actionable plans to achieve goals
- Establish sustainable collaborations and working groups across sectors
- Serve as a national model for multi-sector cooperation across K12, Higher Ed, Civic and Private sectors, to gain a competitive advantage over other metro areas.
- Generate a strong and competitive talent pool from which local and international organizations can recruit by aligning sectors and creating a unified education and economic vision for global workforce development in the greater Atlanta region.



2

## Promote career-readiness for students

- Support programs that increase linguistic and intercultural proficiency, expand global perspectives, improve the ability to work collaboratively and across cultures, and integrate global learning into technical and field-specific skills training
- Provide opportunities to develop soft skills – teamwork, adaptability, communication
- Advise current students on viable global career paths
- Promote global experiences, including study abroad and virtual exchange
- Provide experiences that will improve student success in high-demand fields (e.g. job shadowing, job fairs, job tours, and internships)
- Connect new graduates and job seekers with openings for global positions
- Promote intercultural citizenship, service, and the commitment to sustainable development
- Prioritize diversity and inclusion



3

## Raise Metro Atlanta's profile as a global competitor

- Promote Greater Atlanta as a diverse and thriving international hub for education, research, business, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- Enhance the economic advantage of Georgia in relation to the surrounding states and expand the region's position in the global 21st century marketplace.
- Position Atlanta as a global hub for inclusive innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Help Atlanta attract and retain highly skilled talent by valuing diversity, by providing world class educational opportunities, and by cultivating a global culture.



4

## Advocate for policy

- Advocate for bi-partisan policies that support and strengthen global education and for policies that provide opportunities for global achievers in the metropolitan area and in the state of Georgia.
- Create a Global Ambassadors Scholarship program for Georgia students.





# Greater Atlanta Coalition for Global Education and Research

## Partners and Members

### GAcGEAR Partners

are the businesses and organizations committed to strengthening the bridge from education to employment in globally relevant careers and expanding Atlanta's reputation as an international city and a cultivator of globally competitive professionals. If you would like to become a partner of GAcGEAR, please contact [AGSC@gatech.edu](mailto:AGSC@gatech.edu) for more information.



Mayor's Office of  
**International Affairs**



### GAcGEAR Founding Members

are federally and state-supported entities that promote linguistic and global competence and share a commitment to elevating the region's role as a national leader in global education and research.

**Atlanta Global Studies Center - Georgia Institute of Technology & Georgia State University**

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**Center for Urban Language Teaching & Research - Georgia State University**

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**Centers for International Business Education and Research - Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia State University**

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**Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) World Languages & Global Workforce Division**

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**Language Flagship Programs - University of North Georgia and University of Georgia**

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**Latin American & Caribbean Studies Institute - University of Georgia**

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**STARTALK - Agnes Scott College and University of North Georgia**

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**Georgia State University Office of International Initiatives**

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**Kennesaw University Department of Foreign Languages**

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**Emory University Office of Global Strategy and Initiatives**



**Atlanta Global Studies Center**

