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**Dr. Anthony Tricoli,
Recognized for
Creating a Culture of
Excellence Through
Collaborative
Governance and
Respected Leadership**

September 3, 2015



Dr. Anthony Tricoli: Trusted, Strategic & Authentic Leadership

In the last ten years many educational leaders have come and gone from Georgia's colleges and universities, secondary and primary institutions. However, one in particular, stands out from among all others as an outstanding leader.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Anthony Tricoli helped students get into college, helped them to stay in college, and assured they would graduate from college successfully and on time. He built two new campuses during his tenure and populated those campuses with thousands of new students. He created a three-year college degree enabling students to earn both an AA degree and a BA degree in a shorter period of time than ever before in Georgia. He created Transfer Admission Guarantees with 50 college and universities across the nation which helped the students he graduated to secure a seat at some of the best 4-year institutions in the nation.

He led the development of the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning which earned Georgia Perimeter College a top five national ranking in student and faculty engagement by the US Department of Education.

He led the development of a Strategic Plan that linked the college's work with the goals and vision of the University System of Georgia. He led the growth of the college's budget from \$104M to \$180M in five years, and increased the college's enrollment from 13,400 in 2006 to over 27,000 in 2012. With a keen eye on economic development in the Atlanta-metro area he strategically grew the college's economic impact on the Atlanta area from \$212M to over \$715M annually.

RECOGNIZED NATIONAL LEADER

In addition to all of this he was recognized with National Pacesetter Awards from The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR), and The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)

continued on page 2

Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Former President
Jimmy Carter & Dr.
Anthony Tricoli



In 2006, GPC's economic impact was \$212 million. In 2012, it was \$715 million.

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in 2011, an international leadership award from the Chair Academy in 2012, and the Ralph S. Brown Award by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in 2011 for Outstanding Leadership and for creating a shared governance and collegial culture at Georgia Perimeter College.

Regarding the hiring of Dr. Anthony Tricoli in 2006 to lead GPC, former Chancellor, Erroll Davis said "Anthony's successes in governance and collaboration, student recruiting, teambuilding, and community outreach were the strengths we desired in the next president to lead metropolitan-Atlanta's five campus, Georgia Perimeter College. In addition, Campus Compact had honored Dr. Tricoli and his college with five national best practices in 'Engagement' and 'Leadership' during his last year as the president of West Hills College-Coalinga."

Chancellor Davis continued, "In the five years under his leadership, the image of the institution was unquestionably transformed for the better, locally, nationally, and internationally. The college's international composition has grown to nearly 160 different countries. It became one of, if not the, most diverse colleges in the University System, and it graduates more students of color than any in the USG." From a base of 6,000 new students per semester when Dr. Tricoli arrived in 2006, GPC continued to grow to a new base of 17,000 new students per semester by 2011, and ultimately to a total enrollment of 27,000 students in the spring of 2012, which was up from 13,000 in 2006.

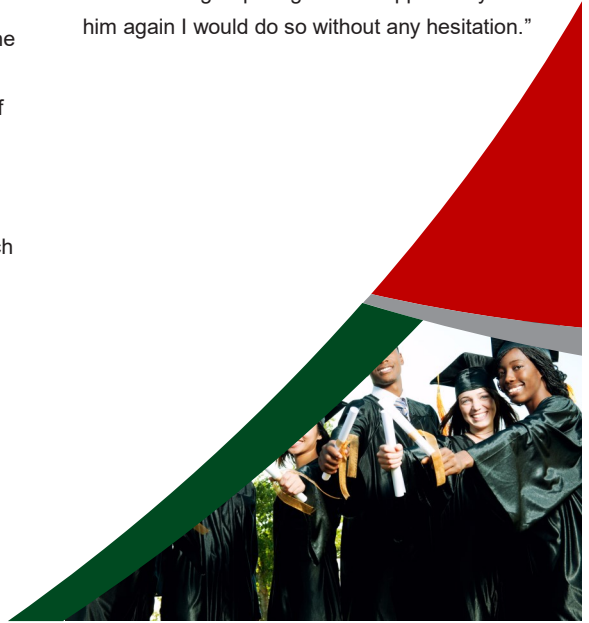
Chancellor Davis concluded, "Anthony Tricoli is a president who is not afraid to lead. He's not one who requires any pushing into hard work. It is this type of work ethic which has earned him a leadership spot at the front table with national organizations such as The American Council on Education (ACE), Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), as well as his appointment to international boards, academic and workforce commissions, Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) & the select President's Trust group. If given the opportunity to hire him again I would do so without any hesitation."

USG LEADER, STANDOUT, AND RISING STAR

Continuing his praise of the success earned by Dr. Tricoli by 2012, former Chancellor Erroll Davis said, "He is a man of integrity, strong moral conviction and ethical character and behavior. I was pleased to have him as a member of the leadership team while I was the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia. It was under Dr. Tricoli's leadership that the image and culture of GPC positively changed. It was no longer seen as a last chance college, but a college of first choice, a gateway into the University System of Georgia, transferring thousands of students each year into the USG's senior institutions.



DR. ANTHONY TRICOLI



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Dr. Tricoli and
Georgia Governor
Sonny Perdue



In 2006, GPC's enrollment was 13,400 students. In 2012, it was over 27,000.

OUTSTANDING ON COLLABORATION WITH FACULTY

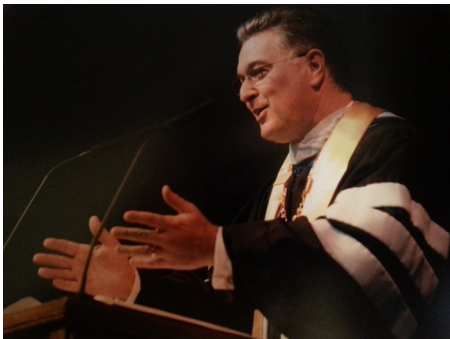
Dr. Tricoli was focused on continual improvement for GPC; he worked hard to remove barriers for students, faculty and staff alike. Former Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Alan Jackson said, "Anthony is an outstanding listener, and often met with faculty, staff, and students in small and large groups as well as individually. His goal was to continually assess what the college could do better to improve its academic and student support programs. He also focused on improving the working environment for the faculty and staff at the college. In short, Anthony Tricoli was an outstanding college president." Dr. Jackson continued, "Anthony's leadership for 6 years at GPC made a significant difference in the lives of the students who study at that institution and for those of us who worked at that institution."

In reviewing the nomination that was sent to the AAUP by the GPC faculty chapter of the AAUP, several faculty and staff leaders summed up Dr. Tricoli's work. "Dr. Tricoli has united our once divided multi-campus college into one college, reinvigorating our sense of community and mission. With the president's emphasis on "One College," we work more and more as a cohesive, unified whole," wrote Margee Bright Ragland, Faculty Senate Chair at GPC and associate professor of art.

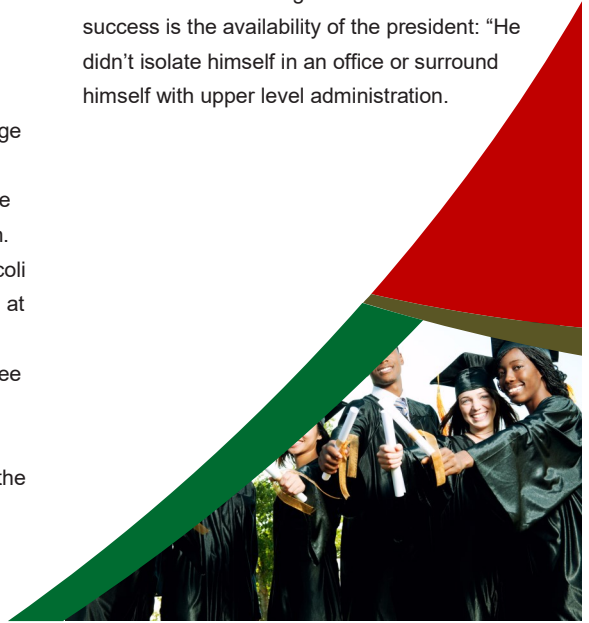
Dr. Julia Rux, professor of psychology and president of the GPC chapter of the Georgia Association of Educators, also emphasized the president's desire to include all constituencies: "Within weeks of arriving, Dr. Tricoli began convening open forums on each campus on a series of critical topics: from values, to future goals, to shared governance, to faculty evaluation systems." Rux was pleased that "under Dr. Tricoli's administration, our requests for transparency and representation have been met after years of faculty and students being left behind."

Faculty members were also pleased with the president's accessibility. Assistant professor of biology Dr. Jonathan Lochamy noted that one reason GPC's shared governance model was a success is the availability of the president: "He didn't isolate himself in an office or surround himself with upper level administration.

In 2011, Dr. Tricoli was recognized by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) as the top college governance leader in the nation. The national AAUP presents the award only when an individual's accomplishments in the area of shared governance are identified as "outstanding." The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong commitment to shared governance and an ability to work with multiple constituencies to implement effective change. The AAUP has honored only five college presidents with the award since its inception in 1998. Dr. Tricoli is only the sixth president in the nation to be honored with this award recognition. The AAUP expressed its appreciation to Dr. Tricoli for his "accomplishments in making governance at George Perimeter College a collegial and collaborative endeavor." The selection committee was impressed both by "the substance and the spirit of the governance system in place at the college" as confirmed by those who nominated the president.



Dr. Tricoli speaking to 2,000 faculty and staff at GPC's Convocation



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Between 2006 and 2009, Dr. Tricoli built the college's budget reserve to \$19 million.

Dr. Anthony Tricoli and Fran Mohr accept the USG's award from Chancellor Erroll Davis for "Top College" in Georgia



To say he was "accessible" is an understatement." Lochamy e-mailed the president with a concern and, within ten minutes, received a response: "In my e-mail, I explained that a faculty decision had been lost in an administrative committee. He immediately contacted all parties involved to authorize the faculty's decision. The next day, he called me to confirm that the situation had been resolved. Why is this important? Because we had a president who cared about the faculty voice. And it didn't matter if the faculty was tenured, non-tenured, full-time, or part-time."

Accordingly, as Professor Bright Ragland noted, at GPC "those who will be impacted by a decision participated in making the decision." Tricoli was "honored and humbled by the award." He stated, however, that "although I am being acknowledged by the AAUP, I believe that all of our faculty, staff, administrators, and students should be recognized for their willingness to participate in a genuine shared governance model."

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Shared governance is only one way that Dr. Tricoli helped lead the creation of a new culture at GPC. It was his authentic leadership style and understanding of outstanding service to students that would ultimately help earn GPC "Top College" honors in the University System of Georgia, and also placed him at the top of all leaders in the 44,000 employee USG.

Fran Mohr said in her nomination of Dr. Tricoli for the Gold Award for Individual Leadership in Customer Service "Dr. Tricoli is inspiring and passionate, yet, he quickly acknowledges that achievements result from the collaborative effort of many."

Dede Weber, the Staff Chair of the newly formed Staff Senate, quickly asserted that it was not just the faculty who captured the president's attention. Weber was thrilled when the president requested the formation of a Staff Senate to participate in the college's governance model. She noted that Dr. Tricoli's commitment to inclusivity reflects his enthusiasm for Shared Governance: "Without his leadership style, how else would a non-exempt, Clerk IV, support staff member be formally representing GPC staff concerns at the Executive Team level?" Weber and Faculty Senate Chair Margee Bright Ragland served with the college's five vice presidents and president as voting members on both the President's Cabinet and the President's Policy Advisory Board.

ENCOURAGES TRUST AS THE FOUNDATION TO RELATIONSHIPS

President Tricoli communicated that "trust is the essential foundation upon which a collaborative model is built." He also focused on inclusivity as an integral component. Rather than having numerous permanent standing committees, Tricoli created temporary, targeted, transparent, and timely Think Tanks and Task Teams to address short-term issues and to allow more individuals to participate in GPC's governance. He also held Open Forums at each campus on topics such as governance, diversity, trust, and strategic planning.



Dr. Tricoli receiving the AAUP's Ralph S. Brown Award for Outstanding Shared Governance Leadership



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Dr. Anthony Tricoli, students and Jaggy



Between 2006 and 2012, Dr. Tricoli led the development of two full-service campuses in Newton County and in Alpharetta.

She continued, "GPC is thriving due to Dr. Anthony Tricoli's dynamic, visionary leadership of a dedicated workforce. Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli's unwavering leadership has been Georgia Perimeter College's catalyst to move the college to greatness."

Finally, GPC had a college president and a college faculty and staff that were on the same page, and all were working to pull the boat in the same direction. "Work teams of employees examined and streamlined many college processes, such as slow admissions and registration, in order to meet the challenges of attracting, retaining, graduating and ultimately transferring students to upper division institutions or sending students on their way with a new career. Dr. Tricoli facilitated more than 50 Voices, Values and Vision [strategic planning] listening sessions with staff, faculty and community leaders that led to the development of a new strategic plan that, with student success as the focus. A new Office of Customer Service was established to ensure that services to students and other customers were provided in a professional, efficient, consistent, and effective manner. GPC established a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) agreement program with a growing list of four-year institutions. TAGs allow students to complete core courses at GPC and receive a guarantee to begin upper division work immediately at their chosen four-year institution." Said Mohr.

FROM TEAMWORK TO TOP COLLEGE

It was apparent that Dr. Tricoli clearly understood the underpinnings and value of team work, trust and collaboration, as well as the need for a collectively designed strategic agenda and roadmap to move the college forward.

It was Dr. Tricoli's relentless work to create an outstanding college experience for students and an outstanding environment in which faculty and staff could work that ultimately gained the combined interest and attention of Chancellor Davis and Georgia's Governor Sonny Purdue. At the awards ceremony for the Top College recognition, Governor Purdue said, "I came here today to say that I am proud of you. Think about this vital role you play in changing someone's life. What you're doing is saying come on in, we're faster, friendlier ... and we want to help you reach your goal of earning a higher education. Customer service is not rocket science; it's caring and helping, and that's the culture we're trying to build in our state." The previous year, Governor Purdue named Dr. Anthony Tricoli as one of Georgia's top three customer service leaders in the state.

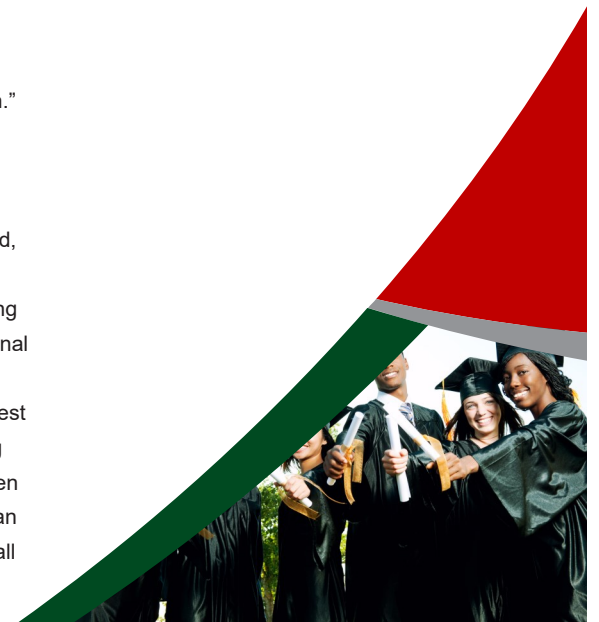


Dr. Tricoli delivering Keynote Address at annual Newton County Chamber of Commerce fundraising event



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At the time of this recognition for outstanding leadership in customer service, Dr. Tricoli stated, "There is a contagious pride in the institution. Georgia Perimeter College is growing in recognition as the first choice for an exceptional education because we remained focused on student success." Dr. Tricoli continued, "The best way to reach your destination is to start walking together now. Work hard to build and strengthen trust in every step of the way. Together, you can accomplish anything...and remember, you are all working for the same goal, that of student success."



Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Dr. Anthony Tricoli and Ambassador Andrew Young



Between 2006 and 2012, Dr. Tricoli led GPC in the development of over \$80 million in fundraising.

“People around the state tell me what you have done,” Perdue said. “Nothing gives me more satisfaction than to be known as the customer service state. People won’t remember what you said or even what you did, but they will remember how you made them feel. You have changed how we do business in Georgia. You’ve led a cultural change to a large organization. Thank you for making customer service not just a buzz word.” Said Mohr, “Because of Dr. Tricoli’s enthusiastic leadership and vision, Georgia Perimeter College was the first University System of Georgia institution selected by the Governor’s Office of Customer Service to participate in their Rapid Process Improvement Initiative to improve academic advising. Recently, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) asked to highlight GPC in its 2008 National Report, and its other publications, as one of the colleges that has demonstrated outstanding performance.”

BRING HOME THE GOLD: GPC NAMED TOP COLLEGE IN GEORGIA

The USG Chancellor’s Gold Medal recognized a list of innovative services GPC provides to students, employees and the community. According to Linda Hansel, customer relations specialist at the Governor’s Office of Customer Service, “GPC was recognized in part because the college established a new Customer Service Department and an Office of Civic Engagement and Service-Learning to provide opportunities for students to apply classroom learning to service to their community. Both offices are the only ones of their kind on any USG campus. GPC’s Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) agreements also were cited. GPC also instituted cross-training of admissions staff, resulting in faster application processing and improved financial aid processing”, Hansel said. “Web-based services for students and employees were developed and implemented in-house to provide innovative and improved communication.”

Dr. Anthony Tricoli led his college team to many firsts during his tenure, and all of them were focused on creating excellence for students, faculty, staff, and community.

At the time this award was given by the Governor and Chancellor, Dr. Tricoli said, “I was humbled by the individual top leadership award last year, however, receiving the award for the top institution in Georgia’s higher educational system is most rewarding of all. This gold award indicates that all of us who work at GPC are being recognized for providing outstanding service to our students; and since service is a key ingredient needed for the success of our students, it is our most valuable action every day in the classroom, in our offices and on our playing fields. There is no greater satisfaction than GPC receiving the USG’s top billing for service to students. Our faculty and our support and professional staff deserve all of the credit for this outstanding recognition.”

Dr. Tricoli recognized by the American Association of Community College’s publication for governance and leadership



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Dr. Anthony Tricoli upon being inducted into President's Trust Group



In 2010 and again in 2012, Dr. Tricoli was recognized by the Georgia State Legislature for his outstanding leadership success at GPC.

IMPACTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During Dr. Anthony Tricoli's tenure, Georgia Perimeter College's economic impact on the region grew from \$212M per year to over \$715M per year. Dr. Tricoli's goal was to exceed the \$1 billion dollar mark by his seventh year in office. By 2010, Georgia Perimeter College was well on its way to achieving that goal. The college provided 6,822 jobs that resulted in almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in total annual economic impact. That's an increase of 38 percent over 2009 alone. By 2012, not only did GPC's output impact on the region increase nearly 400%, but its overall employment impact increased substantially, reflecting higher enrollments, more spending by students in labor-intensive economic sectors, and higher overall employment multipliers.

And projections, said Dr. Tricoli for the fall enrollment in 2012 called for yet another record in the USG. "Our ability to become a vital factor in the economy rested directly with our commitment to offer students an outstanding education from award-winning faculty. We continued our mission to be affordable and accessible as well as staying on the edge and continuing to deliver a dynamic and relevant education," said Dr. Tricoli. During Dr. Tricoli's tenure GPC's enrollment doubled. In the fall of 2007, the USG Sector Head, Rob Watts communicated to the BOR and Chancellor that GPC's enrollment would be 13,400 students due to the planned closure of GPC's largest campus in Lawrenceville. The closing of that campus was anticipated by Mr. Watts to result in a loss of 7,000 students, 250 jobs, and \$30 million lost in revenue. One week after Dr. Tricoli's arrival at GPC in 2006, Dr. Tricoli was informed about the plan to close GPC's largest campus. He didn't turn tail and run home, instead, he pulled the college team together, opened the floor for discussion, and created and implemented a plan in one week. The end result nine months later was an actual gain in student enrollment, no loss of jobs, and averting the \$30 million lost in revenue. Dr. Tricoli did what the BOR and Chancellor was told was impossible. During his tenure, Dr. Tricoli continued to increase access and raise the enrollment with each succeeding semester (virtually unheard of anywhere in the nation today). The enrollment of GPC doubled from 13,400 in 2007 to over 27,000 in 2012 under Dr. Tricoli's Tenure.

"Even during these tough economic times, Georgia Perimeter College's ability to act as a key driver for the economy was clearly visible," said GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli. "Colleges and universities educate the workforce, innovate through basic and applied research, and collaborate with employers to help them become more competitive. At GPC we worked to continually offer a meaningful education that meets the demands of today's workforce."

INCREASING ACCESS TO COLLEGE AND DRIVING ENROLLMENT IN THE USG

While the country was wracked by a recession, GPC continued to focus on student success, and their outcomes showed they were achieving their goals as not only the largest transfer engine in the USG, but by far the largest economic impacting institution among all two-year colleges in the state, and one of the top economic impact drivers of all colleges in the southeast. GPC's summer enrollment hit an historic high nearing 20,000 with almost half of those students taking online classes.

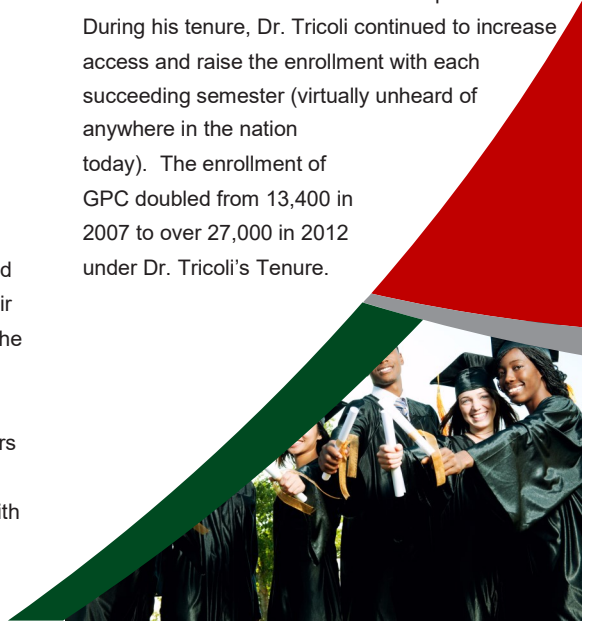


Photo by Stephanie Alce

Dr. Tricoli speaking with students during graduation 2011



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

In 2010, former President Jimmy Carter joined Dr. Tricoli on stage to Open the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning



Dr. Anthony Tricoli and award recipients

BREAKING DOWN FENCES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

National leaders echoed the higher education community's concern that only about 50 percent of Hispanic students graduate from high school on time and only about 13 percent attend college. Compared to any group in the United States, Hispanics are the fastest growing population; nonetheless they suffer from the highest high school dropout rates and the lowest college graduation rates. Dr. Tricoli was bound and determined to change that for students who attended GPC. The Georgia Perimeter College Educational Achievement Program or "GEAP" as it is affectionately called at Georgia Perimeter College is Dr. Tricoli's contribution to changing these staggering statistics. GEAP is the college's Hispanic scholarship and retention pilot program, serving 120 "GEAP Scholars" on all five GPC locations. Scholars in the program receive enhanced and specialized services as well as scholarships to support and fund their path through higher education.

Dr. Tricoli said, "I believe the success of our Hispanic/Latino student population is vital to the overall success of the community-at-large in America. A little known fact about GPC is that it is under the direction of its first Hispanic President! I hail from Spanish, Portuguese and Sicilian descendants; I guess that makes me a half-breed!" Anthony has said....."If my mother (Elizabeth Barbosa) was my father, and my father (Samuel Tricoli) was my mother, instead of being named Anthony Tricoli I'd be named Antonio Barbosa! I am here to help all students to get an education regardless of their background, the color of their skin, or their socio-economic status." Unfortunately, Anthony Tricoli's thinking about an open access college was not necessarily the same as those who worked on the top floors of the USG's high rise in downtown Atlanta.

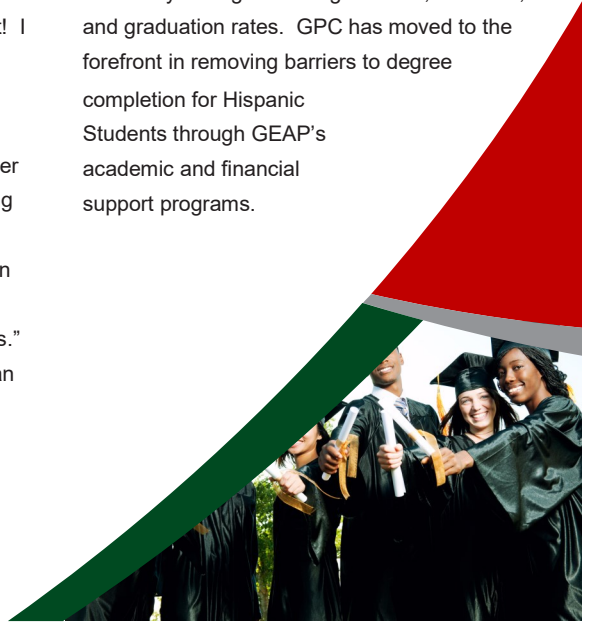
As of start of the fall 2011 semester, Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) had more Hispanic and Latino students enrolled and taking courses than any other institution in the state. With a total enrollment of just under 27,000 students, GPC was the largest two-year college, and the third largest institution of the 35 institutions of higher learning in the State of Georgia. The College's Hispanic enrollment topped out at that time at roughly 2,000 students. One out of every nine Hispanics in the University System of Georgia took courses on one of GPC five campuses. GPC also enjoyed the fastest growing Hispanic student enrollment in Georgia. Dr. Tricoli attributed a great deal of the college's success on that front to the leadership of the GEAP Program Director, Eric Cuevas.

It is estimated that by the year 2050 one quarter (98.2 million) of the U.S. population will be Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census. Increasing the number of Hispanic students who graduate from college is vital to developing an educated, competitive, and globally savvy workforce and improving the current economic condition of the United States.

Dr. Tricoli said, "We recognize the need to support the Hispanic student population academically and financially through boosting success, retention, and graduation rates. GPC has moved to the forefront in removing barriers to degree completion for Hispanic Students through GEAP's academic and financial support programs.



Dr. Tricoli helping a wheelchair-bound student place the first vegetable plant in the GPC Community Garden



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

**Dr. Anthony Tricoli,
Vice President Dr.
Alan Jackson and
Jaggy sporting a red
Mohawk and showing
school spirit**



From 2006 to 2012, Dr. Tricoli led the growth of the college's budget from \$104 million to over \$180 million.

GEAP Scholars benefit from personalized advising and counseling, financial support, academic support, and most importantly, a family like community to foster each as an individual and student. GEAP Scholars stay active and in contact with each other and their advisor, Eric Cuevas, Director for GEAP, through Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, student clubs, civic engagement and outreach, group meetings, and peer mentorship."

"Our goal," said Dr. Tricoli, "in developing the our GEAP program was to create a supportive learning environment for GEAP Scholars, and increase the number of Hispanic students who graduate from GPC and complete undergraduate degrees. With exposure to the best academic support and resources, GEAP Scholars would successfully matriculate through GPC and continue their college career at a four-year partner institution using GPC's Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAG). To promote academic advisement and support, GEAP Scholars participate in workshops such as, Building a Rapport with Faculty, Getting Involved on Campus, Deciding on a Major, Positive Thinking, and Life after GPC. Since its inception in 2010, the GEAP program has provided immediate need-based financial assistance totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars. These scholarships remove identified financial barriers for Hispanic students."

Additionally, said Cuevas, "the supportive learning environment was enhanced with the development of a peer mentoring program designed to match current students with incoming freshmen based on common areas of studies. Through this collaborative approach students formulated small learning communities and shared academic and social experiences to support their overall growth and development." "GEAP has been a great way to start off my education by keeping me motivated, excited about my future, and has allowed me to make amazing friendships. The opportunities have been great and it is something that I will remember forever," says Samara Fuentes, a GEAP Scholar at GPC. "The relationships being built between and among Hispanic students and all students from different ethnicities and nationalities representing 150 different countries on this five-campus metropolitan college have turned the college into a literal melting pot for students from all around the world. We have been so fortunate to have received millions of dollars in funding support from one of Atlanta's leading Foundations. This was exactly the type of assistance we've needed to help our growing Hispanic community go to college. None of this, and I mean none of this, would have been possible without the leadership, support and action of Dr. Anthony Tricoli," said Cuevas.

Under the leadership of the new GEAP Program Director, Eric Cuevas and with the active support of Dr. Anthony Tricoli, the program quickly took on a more supportive and personal role for the students. A First Year Experience (FYE) Seminar was developed to enhance student learning and assist incoming freshmen with the transition to college.



**Dr. Tricoli in the Clarkston
Campus Library after a
meeting with students**



Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Dr. Anthony Tricoli
with members of the
Board of Regents



From 2006 to 2012, Dr. Tricoli led GPC's online enrollment from 1,000 students to over 10,000 students.

During his tenure, Dr. Tricoli worked with African American leaders in the community to provide the same type of support to African American students. Congressman Hank Johnson and Atlanta Mayor Shirley worked with Dr. Tricoli in the middle of his tenure to host conversations in the community on the barriers that were hindering young black men from access to an education in Georgia (and the University System of Georgia in particular). As a result of that work, and others led by Dr. Tricoli, the African American college going rate grew from a meager 32% to over 54% during the six years Dr. Tricoli led GPC.

PROMOTING STEM IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES NATIONALLY

Dr. Anthony Tricoli, President of Georgia Perimeter College was all about improving our communities through education. So when he was given an opportunity to speak at the University of Alabama about the impact that community college could have on STEM education, he jumped at the opportunity bringing recognition and notoriety to the USG and GPC.

In a UAB lecture hall filled with scientists, engineers and educators from across the nation, Tricoli laid out the realities of the STEM crisis to his audience, urging increased collaborations between two- and four-year colleges. "We want to widen the educational pipeline in general, but in STEM fields in particular," he said.

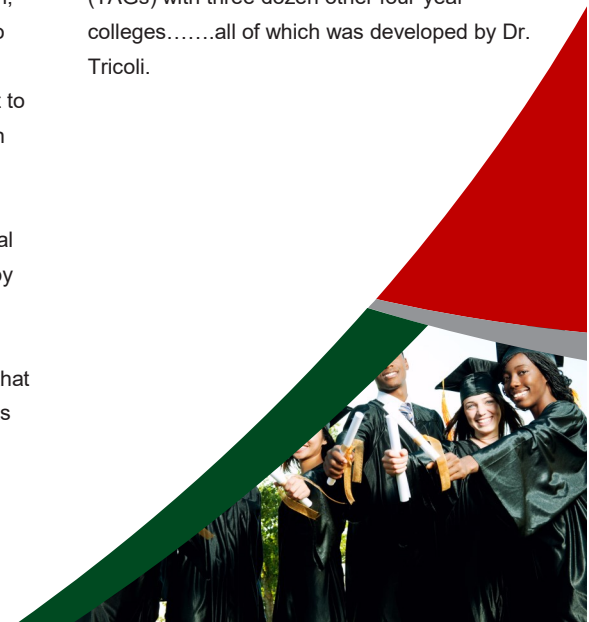
"Jobs requiring science, engineering or technical training will increase by more than 24 percent by 2014 to 6.3 million," he said. "Yet students' interest in these critical areas is either flat or declining. Those of us here today understand that we must do a better job of encouraging students to pursue careers in STEM fields in order to remain the best country in the world."

"We have found that certain activities are key components to successfully attract students to STEM fields, as well as retaining them in these majors and assisting them with transferring to a baccalaureate program," said Dr. Tricoli. He gave as examples GPC's two summer bridge programs: one for students during the summer between their high school graduation and entry into college and the other for GPC students preparing to transfer to major in a STEM field at a four-year college. Among other activities, students in both get first-hand looks at STEM careers, work on research projects and presentations, and receive mentoring, advising, tutoring and career counseling. Both programs are part of the Peach State LSAMP, which is funded by the National Science Foundation.

"Students have told us that this program boosted their self-confidence in their academic abilities and gave them the courage to consider pursuing a graduate degree," pointed out Tricoli. Other Georgia Perimeter STEM-related initiatives include science-specific study abroad courses, undergraduate research and internship opportunities, an Engineering transfer program to Georgia Tech, all of which were supported by Dr. Tricoli. And, Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs) with three dozen other four-year colleges.....all of which was developed by Dr. Tricoli.



Dr. Tricoli celebrating with a new graduate student and GPC's Jaggy



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Dr. Anthony Tricoli

Dr. Tricoli's marketing expertise and success led to him being named one of the top four Pacesetters Presidents in the nation in marketing, communications and public relations.

Dr. Anthony Tricoli and Former President Jimmy Carter



“Recruiting and retaining STEM students is one of the challenges facing two-year institutions—a challenge that goes to the heart of the difference between the educational missions of two-year versus four-year colleges,” said Tricoli. “We have two distinctly different missions, and they boil down to two words: access versus selection,” he said. “Community colleges ... welcome all studentsregardless of their starting point. Four-year institutions ... select from their applicant pool those students who appear most likely to succeed in higher education.” Despite the difference in the way students enter into the two types of colleges, Tricoli stressed how they both complement each other. “Two-year colleges are able to shape students who are not necessarily ready to start at a four-year-college, and we assist them with transferring later to our four-year college partners where they become success stories for both institutions.” Perhaps this is the very reason that Dr. Anthony Tricoli was not supportive of the merger proposed to and accepted by the BOR.

Because Dr. Anthony Tricoli never lost sight of the fact that the goal of higher education is to help students succeed, Georgia Watchdogs recognizes Dr. Tricoli for his selfless dedication to students, unsurpassed ethical behavior, and outstanding achievements in higher educational leadership.

Dr. Tricoli concluded by saying,

“Educational institutions are only here to support our students, and if we are not making decisions that will help them to succeed, then we are not doing our job.”



Dr. Anthony Tricoli supporting military employees



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