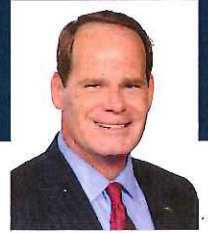


# GEORGIA'S PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

## A Decade of Growth

by Bryan Ginn



**A** little more than a decade ago the Georgia Campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM) welcomed its first class of 75 osteopathic medical students. Today the campus, a not-for-profit institution of higher education, celebrates this milestone by reflecting on its impact to Georgia.

Established in Suwanee in 2005 as the only branch campus of the century-old Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine based in Pennsylvania, the Georgia site is home to more than 1,000 students and close to 140 faculty and staff members. The campus offers doctoral degrees in osteopathic medicine and pharmacy and the master's degree in biomedical sciences. This June, the campus will welcome its first

cohort of students who will earn the master's degree in physician assistant studies.

In its 10 years, GA-PCOM has conferred more than 900 doctorate and masters' degrees and more than 300 certificates, including 584 doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees, 149 doctor of pharmacy degrees, 176 master of science in biomedical sciences degrees, and 14 master of science in organizational development and leadership degrees. The college has also granted 340 certificates in biomedical sciences.

With a college focus on meeting the needs of the state in producing primary care physicians, 57 percent of our 2015 doctor of osteopathic medicine graduates matched to residencies in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics or obstetrics/gynecology.

With more than 7,000 student volunteer hours contributed last year, the college's impact is felt statewide. Our students are focused, motivated and fully committed to service, as are our partners across Georgia. Hundreds of practitioners who allow our students to work with them to gain clinical skills, along with hospitals and health systems which actively engage in teaching future healthcare providers, deserve our thanks.

Based on a study commissioned by Tripp Umbach, a national leader in independent economic analysis, it was found that in 2014 the Georgia Campus directly and indirectly generated \$107.7 million of economic impact in the state. An additional 800 jobs are created or supported indirectly as a result of GA-PCOM's operational, employee and student spending across Georgia, the report noted. Georgia Campus is a great example of the adaptive reuse of old warehouse space turned into a high-tech educational center.



"The establishment of Georgia Campus PCOM 10 years ago was a critical development in the face of Georgia's extreme physician shortages," Denise Kornegay, Executive Director of the Georgia Statewide Area Health Education Network, said. "Each year, large numbers of GA-PCOM graduates are choosing both residency opportunities and practice opportunities in our state. GA-PCOM is truly a part of our state's solutions," she added.

The 20-acre campus, located at 625 Old Peachtree Road in Suwanee, includes the 150,000-square-foot Old Peachtree building which features large and small classrooms, conference areas and study spaces. The Old Peachtree building also includes pharmacy research and teaching laboratories, a high-tech anatomy laboratory, clinical learning laboratories, research and multi-use basic science laboratories, three pharmacy practice labs and a large osteopathic manipulative medicine practice suite.

A second campus building, the 21,000-square-foot Northlake building, houses offices for administrative personnel, admissions, marketing and communications, human resources, alumni relations and the department of physician assistant studies. The campus is also home to the Georgia Osteopathic Care Center, an osteopathic

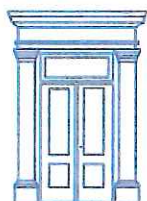


manipulative medicine clinic, which is open to the public by appointment.

State Senate President Pro Tem David Shafer says, "GA-PCOM has fulfilled a critical need to educate talented medical professionals in our state. I look forward to seeing the campus grow, both in student population and programs, over the next several years to better serve the medical needs of all Georgians."

On that note, it is especially gratifying that both chambers of the 2015 Georgia General Assembly passed resolutions honoring GA-PCOM and its 10 years of service.

*Bryan Ginn is the chief campus officer of GA-PCOM in Suwanee.*



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