

# 44 BECONE BACKE



WENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY
BAGWELL COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION



The Contents		Clayton County School District	\$53,309
		Cobb County School District	\$60,604
		Decatur City Schools	\$57,700
		DeKalb County Schools	\$60,000
6-7	Educators of Tomorrow	Forsyth County Schools	\$56,784
8-9 10-11	Black Teachers Matter Pláticas con Maestr@s Call Me Mister Student Ambassadors	Fulton County Schools	\$59,030
12-13		Gwinnett County Public Schools	\$59,146
14-15		Marietta City Schools	\$58,117
16-17 18-19	Bloom Bagwell Labs	Paulding County Schools	\$53,997
10-19	Daywell Labs		

Each starting salary listed was obtained from the website of the school system.

#### THE TOP 5 CAREERS











Ramsey Solutions. (2018). *The national study of millionaires* [White Paper]. Ramsey Press. https://ramseysolutions.com/search/results?q=nationalstudyofmillionaires&size=n\_10\_n

#### Did You Know...

The National Study of Millionaires done by Ramsey Solutions\* in 2017-2018 revealed that teaching is one of the top five professions that produces millionaires! The research study of more than 10,000 millionaires was done to gain an understanding of personal finance behaviors and attitudes that factored into financial success.





# WE CALL IT THE BAGWELL ADVANTAGE.

It's that EXTRA dose of innovation, preparation, and celebration that combine to make our graduates sought after by school districts. In addition to being a leader in teacher preparation and innovation, we believe in the value of the "fun/relationship" aspects of education in which a sense of belonging is as important as the learning.

The Bagwell Advantage is about building community and relationships that result in lifelong friendships and professional networks. Our student organizations are essential to the overall college experience. Educators of Tomorrow is the nucleus for all special interest groups within the college including Black Teachers Matter, Student Ambassadors, Pláticas con Maestr@s, Call Me Mister, and Bloom.



#### **EDUCATORS OF TOMORROW**

Bagwell College of Education student Munawar Sheikh was looking for a way to get involved and feel at home in his first year at Kennesaw State. He found it in the student organization Educators of Tomorrow.

EOT is open to all education majors and education-interest students at KSU, connecting them with each other and with education professionals. The future educators develop applicable skills and build their education network through on-campus events, quest speakers, and monthly meetings.



I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and make an effort to meet other education majors," said Sheikh, who plans to be a middle school math teacher. "Educators of Tomorrow is that perfect place.".

Now a sophomore, Sheikh already is in a leadership role with EOT as its treasurer. He is active in the organization's events to promote education as "one of the best possible careers you can have," he said.

"Educators of Tomorrow gives students a chance to be leaders," said Dr. Raynice Jean-Sigur, an early childhood education professor and the EOT faculty advisor. "It's also a great avenue for students to have a voice, because a lot of times they're trying to find their voice."



Through EOT, Sheikh connects with students from all the majors in Bagwell College and even students from other education programs, like art or history education. He also meets students who are undecided on their career paths and helps spark an interest in education for some of them.

"People tell me, 'This program is amazing," Shiekh said.

"I'm able to help future educators feel that Bagwell is where they should be."

Educators of Tomorrow aligns with key elements of KSU's mission – chief among them, providing an inclusive environment and keeping students engaged and enrolled until they graduate.

"EOT exemplifies education being a lifelong process that can influence lives in profound ways," said Adrian Epps, dean of the Bagwell College of Education. "Our vision is to maintain a community of teachers and teacher candidates who are a lifelong support network for our graduates."

Sheikh summed it best: "The Bagwell College really feels like a family."







#### **Black Teachers Matter**



Black Teachers Matter [BTM] is a local KSU student organization that was inspired by Dr. Jillian Ford in the fall of 2018, and now, is championed by six African American professors who meet with and mentor members of this very active group.

The BTM vision is "a world where Black education is acknowledged, explored and celebrated."

The group's mission is "to help educators navigate and center a variety of Black perspectives in the field of education as well as challenge system norms. BTM strives to provide opportunities to build community, engage in productive dialogue, and conduct research while examining critical issues pertaining to Black Education."

Since its inception, BTM has sponsored fundraisers; supported student success through book clubs, study sessions, and career coaching; and won a national award for their "Rosa Parks: Activist, Advocate, Advisor" two-day event that was inspired by the Zinn Education Project's Rosa Parks teaching guide.

BTM members have shared that this group has had a positive impact on their college experience. One member, who never had an African American teacher growing up, said she joined BTM because "I felt like I can relate to it because it promotes Black educators." Another member said "I like that BTM is very inclusive. I definitely felt heard, which made me keep showing up, because I didn't feel ignored anymore. So that was probably the greatest thing that BTM gave me."

BTM holds a Sankofa Celebration every year to honor graduating seniors and revere African traditions that honor ancestors and commemorate the triumphs and achievements of our Black teacher candidates.



#### Pláticas con Maestr@s

(Informal Conversations with Teachers)

More than five years ago, a student reached out to Dr. Sanjuana Rodriguez with an interest in creating a group that would focus on supporting Latinx students in the college as they progressed through teacher education programs. At that time, more than 150 students in the <u>Bagwell College of Education were enrolled as Latinx.</u>

Pláticas con Maestr@s has become an important community within the college. As reflected in their goals, the group has created a space in which the experiential knowledge of Latinx students is honored and valued. Whether engaging in monthly meetings; undergraduate research; forming mentoring relationships with Latinx teachers; presenting at professional conferences; planning events and retreats; or providing culturally relevant support through book studies, workshops, scholarship information, etc., the Pláticas con Maestr@s community has experienced significant growth and is establishing traditions that the members enjoy.



Every semester, the members plan a Saturday retreat that focuses on various areas of interest. The spring 2024 theme was *Telling Our Stories*, and the topics were "Where Do I Want My Path to Take Me" and "How Will I Make It There?" Guest speakers included Dr. Carla España, one of the authors of *En Comunidad: Lessons for Centering the Voices and Experiences of Bilingual Latinx Students*. She is a New-York based, bilingual education expert, educator, researcher, writer, and co-founder of the En Comunidad Collective.

In the spring of 2023, a Graduation Ceremony was held that has become an annual event. The families of Latinx graduates are invited to attend, and several parents and grandparents have been asked to speak at this event, which is now an established tradition.





MISTER

# Call Me MISTER® at KSU

As schools continue to grow culturally and linguistically diverse, it is imperative that educator preparation programs take meaningful steps to grow a more diverse population of teachers. Currently, males of color account for approximately 2% of the teacher workforce. While school systems throughout the country recognize the importance of male teachers of color, they struggle to recruit and retain them. Considerable efforts have been directed toward improving this issue at the educator preparation level. In the Bagwell College of Education, we are committed to cultivating a broader, more diverse field of teachers by enhancing our recruitment efforts. To that end, we have launched the Call Me MISTER® (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program.

Originally founded at Clemson University in 2000, Call Me MISTER® is an educator mentorship and development program that aims to place more males of color into elementary and middle schools. This dynamic program has proven to be effective as Clemson reports 98% of the students that complete the CMM program remain in the field of education.

The mission of the Call Me MISTER® National Initiative is to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader, more diverse background particularly among the State's lowest performing elementary schools. Student participants, known as MISTERs, are required to attend a four-year institution to complete their program of study in teacher education and baccalaureate degree.

The CMM program provides tuition assistance, an academic support system, and a cohort system for social and cultural growth. For information on how to become a MISTER, please go to https://bagwell.kennesaw.edu/units/callmemister/become-mister.php.

The CMM program at KSU is made possible through the generosity of the Georgia Power Foundation, the Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation, and PNC Bank.







Each year, outstanding undergraduates are chosen to be the primary student communicators for the college. The mission of the Student Ambassadors program is to develop student leaders who serve as official hosts of the Bagwell College of Education facilitating events, promoting student engagement, and supporting student success through community outreach and recruitment.

Students selected to represent the Bagwell College of Education as Student Ambassadors serve as hosts at a variety of college and university-sponsored events, such as career days, recruiting activities, alumni functions, special visitation days, high school student activities, seminars, and receptions. Student Ambassadors engage with potential students, alumni, donors, and community members and play a key role in fostering relationships and promoting a positive, caring, diverse, and inclusive culture in the Bagwell College of Education.



### Student Ambassadors

- Facilitate Bagwell College of Education orientation activities
- Give building tours in the Bagwell College of Education
- Meet with prospective students
- Support outreach and recruitment initiatives
- Provide support at Bagwell events such as open houses, welcome-back events, and other honors and recognition ceremonies
- Engage in promotional social media projects

Student Ambassadors are required to attend monthly meetings during fall and spring semesters, attend a fall retreat in August to plan for the year, and assist with various events throughout the year. They develop leadership, communication, and networking skills that will serve them well throughout their careers. For information on how to apply, go to https://bagwell.kennesaw.edu/units/bassc/student-ambassadors.php.



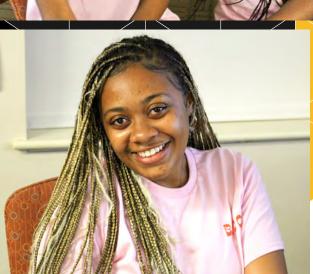




## BLOOM



**BLOOM** is open to all elementary education majors.







The mission of Bloom (Bagwell Ladies Organization collaboration, mentorship, and lifelong learning, the of Mentoring) is to promote sistership and connection among elementary education majors. The newest Registered Student Organization within the Bagwell College, Bloom was launched in the summer of 2024 to create a safe and welcoming community for teacher candidates to grow personally and professionally, share best practices, and advocate for educational equity and innovation.

Bloom is dedicated to empowering, inspiring, and supporting its members along the journey toward excellence in teaching and learning. Through

members of Bloom strive to elevate each other in sistership.

Active members of Bloom are required to attend meetings, and maintain a 2.75 grade point average. Active members may serve in leadership roles and have access to organization events, teaching materials and ideas, and study resources. While the "L" in the name of the group stands for "Ladies," Bloom is open to all students as stated in the KSU Non-Discrimination Statement, which is based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

#### **Bagwell Labs**

One of the reasons the Bagwell College of Education at KSU is at the forefront of educator preparation and workforce development is our use of innovative labs in preparing teachers and leaders.



#### AVATAR LAB

The AVATAR LAB uses state-of-the-art technology to create an immersive, mixed-reality environment that allows teacher candidates to practice and master skills. From classroom management to parent-teacher conferences and more, students have dozens of premade scenarios available, or they can create their own to practice specific situations. It is an environment that adapts easily toward other professions. Nursing students can practice caring for patients, and students in our business programs use the lab to improve their sales training, negotiating and interviewing skills, and customer service skills.



#### **INNOVATION LAB**

INNOVATIONLAB.KENNESAW.EDU

The INNOVATION LAB serves KSU faculty, staff, and students, as well as K-12 students, teachers, leaders, district personnel and other key strategic partners.

The lab helps us create a continuous culture of innovation in the Bagwell College of Education, and it supports faculty, staff, students, and administrators in developing an innovator's mindset. It allows us to test innovative, high-impact pedagogies; inspire new academic degree programs; create alternative teaching methods; improve processes; and facilitate a range of conversations with key stakeholders about drivers of change and transforming education. Whether your interest is in coding/robotics, Maker technologies, Technology Innovation Activities, virtual reality, or artificial intelligence, you can test your creative skills in the INNOVATION Lab.





#### INTERACTIVE RESEARCH METHODS LAB

IRML.KENNESAW.EDU

The award-winning INTERACTIVE RESEARCH METHODS LAB (IRML) offers an innovative space providing students, faculty and the public with personalized instruction and practical experience generating core qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research designs, using Augmented Reality interactive contents (ARC). The physical space provides an itinerary organized around the nine steps of Hopscotch research software. Each step is visualized on a dry-erase surface, where users can write down ideas and make decisions based on the information provided via original augmented reality contents. The IRML's virtual space includes a 360° virtual tour that replicates the physical space. Both spaces are intended to help users develop well-informed research designs.

#### UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING LAB

UDLAB.KENNESAW.EDU

The UNIVERSAL DESIGN for LEARNING LAB is an assistive technology model classroom where teacher candidates, educators, administrators, assistive technology specialists, and other interested parties are provided with an interactive experience in what it means to design and deliver instruction so that barriers to learning may be overcome. The Universal Design for Learning Lab blends technology with the philosophies of Universal Design for Learning, which is a scientifically based framework that guides the development of flexible learning environments that can accommodate individual learning styles. The lab provides educators with hands-on experiences as they explore the most current high-tech and low-tech technology to provide learners with voice and choice in educational environments.

# BECOME YOU AT BACWELL



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