

**Gordon State College**

**Rivers to Reef**

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Gordon State College and Henry County Schools (LEA) in partnership with the Georgia Aquarium, The Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SkIO) and NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) will present a Rivers to Reefs Educator Workshop (R2R) during the summer of 2017, with follow-up sustained contact in the fall of 2017 and a meeting in January 2018. R2R is designed to equip science educators with tools, information and best practices to most effectively translate contemporary ocean and watershed issues to students and fellow colleagues, and empower science educators with the knowledge necessary to provide students with simple, practical actions that will highly impact the future of our local land, coastal and ocean habitats and overall environmental health.

Over the course of the six day workshop, sixteen teachers (16) will be immersed into the learning environment through exploration of the Altamaha River system from its headwaters in Atlanta to the ocean. Field experiences include water quality monitoring at various field sites statewide, a canoe trip through the convergence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers into the Altamaha River, a boat excursion through the brackish waters of the Altamaha River Delta to sample water, a trawling trip through the marsh, an excursion on Sapelo Island to explore Gray's Reef which is the ocean habitat the Altamaha watershed most directly influences. From these experiences, participants will successfully learn how to use the outdoors as a classroom to teach a wide range of subjects and to enable students to critically examine water conservation issues.

Since 2005, R2R has reached 264 teachers ranging from Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and from over 50 counties in Georgia. This is a continuation of a TQE grant funded program for 2016.

**Arts & Sciences Unit of Institute of Higher Education**  
Gordon State College—Biology Department

**Unit of Institute of Higher Education that prepares teachers & principals**  
Gordon College—School of Education

**High Need LEA(s)**  
Henry County