



September 24, 2008

Contact: Elizabeth K. Weatherly
Office of Institutional Advancement
912.279.5701

(For Immediate Release)

College of Coastal Georgia Launches Master Planning Process
A New Beginning for College of Coastal Georgia

The College of Coastal Georgia launched its comprehensive campus master plan initiative, with the convening of the master plan steering committee. Chaired by retired Coastal Resources chief and past chair of the College Foundation Duane Harris, the steering committee is comprised of 20 members representing community and campus interests. The committee will meet over the next nine months to construct the roadmap for the development and refinement of the campus, targeting the present and future needs of the college. The process will analyze current capacity and resources and plan for future infrastructure and environmental design needs. The goal will be a comprehensive design that creates the future identity for the College, anchored firmly in the academic mission and goals, historic development and traditions, physical setting, and regional and community values.

The College has selected Eva Klein & Associates (EKA) to serve as the master plan consultants. Based in Washington, DC, EKA is one of the nation's most respected strategic planning firms in higher education. The EKA team has worked across the globe with many of the finest small and large colleges and universities, from Columbia University to Smith College. Recently, the team spearheaded the comprehensive higher education planning process for the University of North Carolina system. The Coastal Georgia master plan will be their first Georgia engagement.

Dr. Valerie A. Hepburn, Interim President of College of Coastal Georgia, is enthusiastic about this selection. "We had tremendous talent to select from in our search for a firm to create our master plan. Eva Klein & Associates presented a vision that was truly extraordinary and garnered committee enthusiasm for their innovative and creative track record. Combined with our tremendous campus and community leadership, we have an ideal partnership to help drive the transformation and new beginning of College of Coastal Georgia."

--MORE--

During the academic year 2008-2009, the College of Coastal Georgia will transition to become a baccalaureate degree granting institution. The College of Coastal Georgia continues to offer associate degree programs and transfer credit options. Over the course of the next year, the College is planning a wide range of campus improvements and mission enhancements. These initiatives, guided by the master planning process, will be designed to improve academic offerings and develop improved student life. The College will be exploring options for food service, residential facilities, health services, and expanded social offerings.

The College of Coastal Georgia is a state college located in Brunswick, Georgia and positioned midway between Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida. The main campus is conveniently located in the center of the Golden Isles, a growing community of more than 74,000 people. With the beaches of St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island just minutes away, the College of Coastal Georgia provides a serious learning environment in a beautiful location.

###

Master Planning Steering Committee Members

Committee Chair: Duane Harris, past Chair, College of Coastal Georgia

College Representatives: Andrea Wallace, College Faculty; Tony Wege, College Faculty; Rodney Clements, College Staff; Ray Calvert, College Staff; Jessica Ramirez, student; Ashton Stripling, student.

Community Representatives: Honorable Bryan Thompson; Mayor of Brunswick; Diana Murphy; Community Leader; LaVerne Cooper, Community Leader; Derrick Heck, Architect & President of 14 Black Men of Glynn; Pat Hodnett-Cooper, Chamber of Commerce Chair.

College of Coastal Georgia Foundation: Mike Hodges, Real Estate Committee Chair; David Zimmerman, Finance Committee.

Ex-Officio: Regent James A. Bishop; Gary Colberg, Southeast Georgia Health Systems CEO; Dr. Michael Bull, Superintendent of Glynn County Schools; Dr. Valerie A. Hepburn, Interim President of College of Coastal Georgia; Tom Saunders, Vice-President of Business Services at College of Coastal Georgia.

FLETC Liaison: Director Connie Patrick

###