

College President Poised for Long, Successful Tenure

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College of Coastal Georgia is welcoming a new president this summer. We are looking forward to meeting her and hearing about her vision for the future of our local college.

She has given us a glimpse at her outlook already.

“The College of Coastal Georgia is a special place with a clear focus on student success,” Michelle Johnston said this week in a statement after officially being named to the position. “I am eager to join the faculty, staff and students and to further the commitment to academic excellence, student development and our partnership with the community.”

Those are three cornerstones at College of Coastal Georgia that Johnston must keep in her sights. Since becoming a four-year college offering bachelor’s degrees 10 years ago, CCGA has steadily improved in academic excellence and student development. It has been wonderful to watch and we feel confident with the stellar resume Johnston brings to Brunswick it will continue.

What may be a little different here than at her previous stop at University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College in Ohio is the dedication CCGA has made to community service. The Service Learning program at Coastal has grown into one of the college’s premiere features for students. Rather than relying solely on classic book and classroom learning, Coastal has made a commitment to plugging its students into the community through service projects that give them a taste of the real world and instill in them what we hope will be a heart for bettering their communities wherever they go.

We encourage Johnston to support the program and continue its growth. Teaching our next generation of leaders what it truly means to be a community servant is a valuable lesson we are proud is taught at CCGA.

We also encourage her to explore other partnerships that will continue to spread the mission of the college to all areas of the Brunswick and the Golden Isles. Downtown Brunswick, for example, is ripe for an injection of college life and would be a great location for future programs that we are sure will develop in the years to come.

Johnston has come to CCGA at the perfect time. It has been established as a destination college for students throughout the Southeast and has room to grow, which means the possibility for new degree programs tailored to the needs of the next generation. We are excited to see what Johnston has in store through her leadership and are anticipating a long and successful tenure.