



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 5, 2003

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SSU Offers Degree Programs in Majority of Projected Job Growth Areas

SAVANNAH – Job opening projections cited in a new report on the value of a University System of Georgia (USG) degree show that Savannah State University is poised to continue as a major contributor to the local, state and federal economies.

The report, commissioned by the USG's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program, includes projections for job openings from 2000 to 2010. Of the top 10 occupations by numerical growth, in both Georgia and the nation, Savannah State offers degree programs that prepare graduates to enter six of the 10 occupations.

"Savannah State University has positioned itself to positively impact the state of Georgia both economically and in terms of human resources," said Savannah State President Carlton E. Brown. "Through constant evaluation of degree programs to discern that each is meeting market and employer demands, and providing a curriculum that offers students a liberal arts education that is global in scope, we are making great strides for the USG in its mission of creating a better educated Georgia."

Savannah State degree programs will prepare students to compete for six of the top 10 occupations by growth, including: computer systems analysts, computer support specialist, accountants and auditors, computer software engineers/applications, network and computer systems administrators and computer software engineers/systems software.

Employment in computer and data processing services is projected to grow by 86 percent between 2000 and 2010, ranking as the fastest growing industry in the economy, according to the U. S. Department of Labor *Occupational Handbook, 2002-2003 Edition*. Job openings stem from both employment growth and replacement needs.

The College of Business Administration (COBA) offers programs of study leading to the Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Major programs include accounting, computer information systems, management, and marketing. In response to current business needs, the College offers several emphases within these majors. A business education emphasis leads to teaching certification and is offered through a cooperative program. Non-business students can take a minor in business.

The Computer Information Systems program, part of the COBA, is one of the university's Centers of Excellence. It has become a popular program of study that offers students a strong liberal arts education and many opportunities to hone their skills out of the classroom.

The report includes a listing of the economic impact of each USG institution. Based on the earnings of 543 Savannah State graduates working in Georgia between 1993 and 1997, Savannah State is listed as having an "educational value" of more than \$4.9 million - the portion of graduates' wages that is attributable to their higher education. SSU's average wage – or the total income made by the average graduate in 1998 - is \$26,813. SSU's average educational value – the amount of the average wage that can be attributed to higher education – is \$9,208. While those figures show that Savannah State University is contributing greatly to the economy, and that earning a degree does increase graduates' earnings significantly, the study's results do not take into account the wage gap that exists between different races when used to rank the value of a degree from each of the USG institutions.

On average, African-Americans earn 83 cents to every dollar earned by their white counterparts. The study's authors analyzed the earnings of nearly 90,000 students in the USG from 1993 to 1997. In 1997, Savannah State had the highest percentage - 96.3 - of African-Americans enrolled. From 1993-1996, Savannah State had the second highest percentage of African-American students in the USG. Only Fort Valley State University, also a historically black college and university, had a slightly higher percentage of African-American students in those years. To view the study, go to www.icapp.org/publications.htm.