CHOICE PROGRAM
for inclusive learning
Letter from the President

President Bob Boehmer of East Georgia State College (EGSC).

I’m Bob Bomer and it’s my honor to serve as the president of East Georgia State College. Today I get the chance to talk with you for just a few minutes about the CHOICE program at East Georgia State College. The CHOICE program is an inclusive post-secondary education program at the college. Simply put, it’s one of our points of pride. Several years ago, some leaders in post-secondary inclusion in the state of Georgia reached out to East Georgia State College and asked to talk with us about the need for programs of this type in Georgia.

After this discussion, we were, quite frankly, deeply disturbed about the lack of opportunities in the state for deserving students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We looked at that really big need and compared it with our mission and our mission is to be the most direct and affordable point of access to higher education in the state of Georgia. It was, simply put, right within our mission to provide programs of this type and we were frankly shocked by the lost opportunity in our region in preparing promising students with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the workforce in the state of Georgia.

All of this led to East Georgia offering a CHOICE program, and we are really honored to be one of the pioneers in the state of Georgia in providing programs of this type. One of my favorite evenings each year is the evening when the CHOICE students along with their student mentors, the staff of the CHOICE Program, other student leaders from the college come to our home and join us for an evening of dinner, and conversations. It’s amazing to see how fully these CHOICE students have integrated into every aspect of our college community.

When you spend an evening together with these students, you realize that it’s really hard to tell which students are the CHOICE students and which students are the mentors and who is the staff. They have simply fully integrated into our academic community. And, you know, it’s not just these CHOICE students that are benefiting from this program. One of the most common things that I hear from student mentors from the faculty who teach these students in their academic classes from the housing professionals who work with these students in our BOBCAT villas residence halls is that they get more out of this program than the CHOICE students.

So this is a program that not only serves the CHOICE students and serves the community but it also serves every aspect of our academic community who learn from these amazing students every day. I’d like to conclude with a quick story. It’s my favorite story about our CHOICE program. I had the opportunity to meet with the choice students one day and I asked all of them, “what is your best day at East Georgia State College?” And one of the students, a young woman in the first year of her CHOICE program at East Georgia State College, responded and she told me that her best day was the day when Theresa Davis, the director of our program, had called her to tell her that she was admitted to the program.

She went on to say that she had been feeling pretty badly because all of the students in her high school had been receiving college acceptance letters and talking with excitement about the future that was ahead of them. And when she got that call from Theresa Davis, she knew that she now had that same opportunity for a college experience and the same opportunity to grow and become a contributing member of the workforce and giving these deserving students that opportunity is what the CHOICE program is all about.

I hope to see you one day at East Georgia State College.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE CHOICE PROGRAM?

EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

Ayden Jackson - Mentor
I chose to work with the CHOICE Program at East Georgia State College because they have great staff members and instructors. Being able to live in the dorms also helps me meet new friends.

Johnique Davis - Program Student
I chose to come to the CHOICE Program because the staff is really helpful in helping me discover which career path I want to take. The instructors are awesome.

Martavious Carroll - Program Student
I chose the CHOICE Program at East Georgia State College because I wanted to further my education and make myself and my family proud. It was the perfect size school for me. The CHOICE program has help me obtain skills for the working world and live independently one day.

Zoie Harrell - Program Student
I chose to attend East Georgia State College CHOICE Program because I wanted to learn new things. I love the staff they help me a lot. The instructors will help you if you want the help.

Mckay Franks - Alumni
The CHOICE Program gave me so many opportunities to achieve my goals. I graduated and immediately started working in the education field and I love it! I loved my college experience and I’m so grateful for the CHOICE Program.

Tyasia Littles - Program Student
I picked East Georgia State College CHOICE Program because they have great staff members and instructors. Being able to live in the dorms also helps me meet new friends.

Skyler Adams - Alumni
I chose East Georgia State College’s CHOICE Program because the first time I meet the staff and other students I knew this was the right place for me. I learned a lot about myself like my weakness and strengths. I realize the dorm life wasn’t for me but my hometown wasn’t so far away to drive back and forth. I discovered that I really love working with people.

Antonio Smith - Program Student
I chose to attend the CHOICE Program because it is close to home and the program helps students with subjects that may be having problems with. The program also hires mentors to help students with classwork. These mentors are my age and we even take classes together. It was super fun and exciting. This is one journey that I would forever be grateful for. I made the right CHOICE!

Gwenique Rountree - Program Student
The CHOICE Program gave me the opportunity to take college classes and work on my Criminal Justice major. CHOICE means creating higher education opportunities to increase college experiences and I got a whole college experience.

Johnique Davis - Program Student
I chose to come to the CHOICE Program because the staff is really helpful in helping me discover which career path I want to take. The instructors are awesome.

Marquaveous Williams - Alumni
The CHOICE Program gave me the opportunity to take college classes and work on my Criminal Justice major. CHOICE means creating higher education opportunities to increase college experiences and I got a whole college experience.

Cole Norsworthy - Alumni
The Choice program not only set me on the right career path but it helped me develop both leadership and study skills, and pushed me to become independent and more self-confident.

Skyler Adams - Alumni
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WHAT IS CHOICE?

STUDENTS IN THE CHOICE PROGRAM ATTEND COLLEGE FOR THE SAME REASONS OTHER STUDENTS ATTEND:

- to further their education
- to develop lifelong friendships
- to develop career opportunities
- to gain independence
- to create life enriching experience

The CHOICE Program for inclusive learning at East Georgia State College (EGSC) has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP). The DOE recognizes such programs that meet specific criteria and provide postsecondary learning opportunities for students with disabilities. One benefit of the CTP designation is that students are eligible to apply for financial aid.

CTP was defined by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. CTPs at career schools and colleges serve students with intellectual disabilities who receive instruction in academics, career preparation, and independent living with goal of gainful employment. CTPs must advise students academically and provide well-defined programs of study. Students must spend at least half of their time in the program in activities with nondisabled students in inclusive courses and work-based training.

We invite you to take the time to learn more about how to get started at EGSC by reviewing the information on our website as you make a CHOICE about your education.
The CHOICE program provides instruction in the following areas: career development and employment, academic enrichment, campus and community engagement, self-determination, and independent living.

The CHOICE Program staff creates a unique and customized plan for achievement using a person-centered planning approach. Student participants audit traditional courses, complete specialized CHOICE courses, and participate in job shadowing/internship experiences on and off campus to support career exploration and development of employment skills.

In addition to the academic program, CHOICE students have access to the Jean Anderson Morgan Student Activities Center, recreation and exercise activities, sporting and entertainment events, and student clubs and organizations.

Upon successful completion of the program requirements, participants will receive a CHOICE Certificate of Career Development and will also have the opportunity to qualify for a Georgia Work Readiness Certificate.
We are excited to know that you have expressed an interest in attending our institution. East Georgia State College is a member of the University System of Georgia, gaining State College status in 2012, and offers a two-year college inclusion certificate program. The East Georgia State College inclusion program is designed for students with disabilities who desire to pursue a complete college immersion experience.

Welcome to Residence Life at East Georgia State College (EGSC). Housing provides so much more for residents than a warm place to lay their heads at night. Our dedicated staff team strives to ensure that residential students are connected to the resources that will help them be successful EGSC graduates. From life skills based programming that will prepare residents for the “real world” to academic support and enrichment activities, we ensure that our students have the tools they need to succeed.

East Georgia State College (EGSC) provides housing newsletters that are sent to all residential students on a weekly basis to inform them of important events, business related activities, and to provide reminders of housing related deadlines. We feel that parents and family play a critical role in their student’s success, and as such, will be archiving these emails here so that parents and students will remain up to date and informed.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life creates a safe living environment which promotes holistic learning and personal growth among residents. This environment fosters independent thinking and accountable personal decision making. Through our programs and services, we challenge students to be engaged, community-minded and academically successful.

The East Georgia State College Physical Education Complex is designed to provide health and recreational services to students, faculty, staff, and community residents of Emanuel County. The recreation center serves as a supportive and active service to the diverse college community. Through our programs and facilities, which are recreational, educational, and sporting in nature, we promote and develop healthy lifestyle choices and activities. Our goal is to provide all participants with the opportunity to enjoy recreational activities in a clean, safe environment that encourages challenge and growth.
Get Involved with Student Life!

There’s something for everyone at East Georgia State College! Student Life encompasses the Student Government Association, the EGSC Ambassadors Program, Bobcat Cheerleading, the Recreation and Game Room, Intramural Sports. We also sponsor special events such as the Mr. and Miss East Georgia State College Pageant, Student Publications and multiple student activities held throughout the year. Refer to the Student Life Calendar to find out what’s happening and Get Involved!

Student Clubs and Organizations

For the best college experience possible, we encourage you to get involved in a student club or organization. Not only will you have fun and make life-long friends, you’ll learn leadership and teambuilding skills that will prepare you for your future career. There are a variety of student clubs and organizations where you’ll be able to connect with other students who share similar interests. Make the most of your time at East Georgia State College!

East Georgia State College staff and faculty strive to help students succeed by approaching education with a personal touch. The staff of the CHOICE Program for Inclusive Learning embraces this approach and strives to provide participants with a rewarding college experience filled with student activities and small classes with faculty who are dedicated to teaching and preparing them for whatever challenges they wish to pursue beyond the CHOICE experience.

The EGSC Library also houses the Learning Commons including the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and Academic Advising Center. All of these services work together to offer instructional and learning support services to EGSC students, striving to foster academic excellence and student success.

The EGSC Library collection with more than 70,000 items and 500,000 e-books.

Technology such as brand new computer labs, printing in black and white as well as color, and a 3D Printer.
East Georgia State College provides students with a rich student experience that’s built upon a foundation of camaraderie, acceptance, and inclusion. Our CHOICE Program leadership works diligently to ensure each student enjoys a valuable experience that compliments their educational endeavors during their time with us.

Our student life consists of an array of clubs, groups, and extracurricular activities. East Georgia State College students are encouraged to engage with many different campus clubs and groups to find the best fit for them.

Creative-centered options like our Art Club allow students an outlet to freely express themselves through creating original artwork. Students with a keen love of literature will enjoy our campus book club, which aims to broaden the reading experience for students and to encourage them to read beyond their course assignments. Our chess club teaches students to play the game, then how to utilize strategy to gain an advantage over their opponents. The EGSC Creative Writing club is meant to give aspiring novelists, poets, playwrights, and other writers a venue in which to congregate and show their interests. Members are encouraged to engage in peer review and critique, and submit their work to the campus newspaper.
Nestled in the heart of Swainsboro, Georgia, the East Georgia State College campus is designed to comfortably accommodate our students who choose to reside in our dormitories. Our wide, tree-lined sidewalks connect our student buildings which are placed in close proximity which makes for an easy walk between classes. Surrounded by towering pines, our campus is a verdant landscape that inspires creativity and a love for the outdoors. With many ponds and green spaces throughout our property, there are ample opportunities for students to find a quiet place to read and relax. Wooded walking trails, butterfly gardens, and gazebos give students a unique appreciation for nature.

The EGSC residence halls are secure to provide our students and their families the peace of mind they desire in a residential college experience. Meals provided in our cafeterias offer balanced nutrition and delicious homestyle cooking. Daily essentials are available at our campus bookstore, in addition to required texts and school supplies. In the event of a minor illness, our on-campus clinic is available to help students feel better.
Upon receiving all required admissions documents, applicants selected for an interview will be notified by the Applications Screening Committee.

Student will also be required to participate in an interview (with the Applications Screening Committee). Students are encouraged to participate in this interview without a parent/support person present. If the student desires an interview with a parent/support person, a second interview may be scheduled.

The application Screening Committee’s rating of the applicant’s materials along with the results of the interviews will form the basis for admission to the CHOICE Program.

How much does it cost to participate in the CHOICE Program?

Cost will vary according to the number of classes and type of meal plan selected. Please refer to the fees menu on the CHOICE Program on the EGSC Website. Once you have been admitted to the program, CHOICE personnel will provide information on program cost.

How long do students participate in the CHOICE Program?

Participation in the program lasts two academic years or four semesters.

What does a day in the CHOICE Program look like?

Each CHOICE student receives a semester schedule of courses that is tailored to his or her specific needs and interests. Students audit East Georgia State College’s CHOICE Program for Inclusive Learning.
Georgia State College courses for institutional credit, including courses in career development, academic enrichment, self-determination, and independent living that were designed as part of the program and courses that are chosen based on the student’s own goals. Tutoring sessions are part of each student’s plan, often with a peer mentor. Job shadowing and internships, either paid or unpaid, are required for every CHOICE student. These may be on- or off-campus opportunities depending upon individual students’ person-centered plans. A minimum of 50% of students’ experiences are in inclusive settings.

Are there opportunities for job shadowing/internship in the program?

Yes. At the completion of the participant’s first semester making satisfactory progress, each participant will participate in job shadowing opportunities for a minimum of ten hours per week. While participating in job shadowing, participants will be supported by the CHOICE program director, program staff, mentors, or volunteers. Upon the completion of the first year, CHOICE students making satisfactory progress will transition to internship placements on campus or in the community.

Are CHOICE participants eligible for financial aid?

Currently the CHOICE program tuition is based on private pay; however students may be eligible to apply for scholarships offered through the CHOICE program as funds become available. Contact CHOICE Program Director, for more information at (478)289-2191.

Is integrating students into the college community a focus of the program?

Integration is a key to the success of our program. CHOICE students are treated like any other EGSC student. They participate by auditing general courses or taking them for nontransferable institutional credit, work typical jobs and socialize with nondisabled students. Allowing program participants to socialize, communicate, and learn in the same ways as their peers provides them with the academic, social and career development skills that prepare them to take/share responsibility for making decisions about their future.

What do CHOICE students do when they complete the program?

Upon completion of the program, CHOICE students can choose to transition back into the community where they apply knowledge and skills gained through the program to everyday living or transfer to another post-secondary inclusive program to continue their learning journey.

Is CHOICE a certificate program?

Yes. Students who complete the CHOICE Program receive the Certificate of Career Development.

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YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

Give CHOICE a Call Today!

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