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Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants
Educator's Night
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Introduction:

Every January, my best friend is Marc Scott. Do you know who Marc Scott is? That's right, he is my accountant. Marc has helped me with my taxes, my personal investments, and the sale of my home. It would be reasonable for me to say that I feel very safe when I around Marc. Marc lives in California, which is where I lived before taking on the position of president of Georgia Perimeter College, so I've been feeling a little less secure lately. But a few months ago, I met this nice guy, a college student, who offered to take me down the Chattahoochee to catch some trout. When he told me he was majoring in accounting and actuarial science, well you know, I just knew I'd be catching a boat load of trout on that day. That was Justin Loadholt.

Now.....I understand that I am among “The Best and the Brightest” tonight -- not only with the established accountants who are present, but also among the Georgia Perimeter College alumni, and our recent graduates who will receive scholarship awards this evening.

I salute each and every one of you this evening, not only for striving to become certified public accountants, but for the early success you’ve shown academically. I am pleased to stand beside you as you receive your scholarship award from the North Perimeter Chapter of the Georgia Society of C-P-A’s and the Georgia Society Educational Foundation. Congratulations students [lead audience in applause].

I appreciate the opportunity to be with all of you this evening ... and would like to extend my appreciation to Ellen Sweatt for the invitation. For those of you who don’t know, Ellen is our outstanding accounting professor at G-P-C and under her

leadership more than 125 G-P-C students have received financial support from the Educational Foundation. Thank you Ellen.

Body:

As I shared with you, I moved to Georgia about 8 months ago. In the process of getting here I heard many people tell me that GPC is the best kept secret in Georgia. As I heard this, I was quite surprised because Georgia Perimeter College has quite a reputation for being an outstanding college on the national front.

Shortly after arriving here, my wife and I were unpacking our boxes, and we wanted to recycle those used cardboard boxes - so I drove to the local Reclamation Center. Being new to the area I missed the Center, got lost, and ended up at the river...where I saw to ladies fishing. I asked them for directions to the Center and they pointed the way. I then thought I would ask them about GPC – just to quench my curiosity. I asked them if they knew about Georgia Perimeter College, they said “Oh yes” it’s a small, private 4 year college located in Dunwoody.

So, that's what they knew about GPC. And the greater number of people I talk to about GPC, the more I learned that as the new college president, I had to tell the "correct" story about GPC to anyone who will listen.

So, here's the scoop about GPC:

We are the largest two-year college in Georgia. Actually we are the third largest institution in the state. Only UGA and Georgia State University are larger.

We have more students enrolled on-line than all of the other institutions combined.

And, we have more high school students enrolled in our joint-enrollment program than any institution in the state.

Our economic impact on our communities tops \$550m/yr.

Let's look at this information another way: UGA has 5,700 freshman, Georgia State has 3,700 freshman, and Georgia Tech has 2,300 freshman. GPC has 11,800 freshman. Actually, we had

11,800 freshman last fall. This fall we have over 13,700 new applications.

GPC is an institution which is grounded on what we call the four pillars:

1. accessibility
2. affordability
3. teaching excellence; and
4. student achievement.

Each pillar is strengthened by partnerships ... partnerships that work. And, based on the numbers I've just shared with you, these partnerships are working very well. Like our partnership with the North Perimeter Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPA's and the Georgia Society Educational Foundation, or our more recent partnership with Newton County, where we just opened our latest campus. Just two weeks ago we welcomed 1,300 students to our newest campus on day one of our late start summer session. We expect to see as many as 3,000 students there on August 15th.

Our 20 year affiliation with the Georgia Society, North Perimeter Chapter, and the Educational Foundation has brought nearly \$300 thousand dollars to Georgia Perimeter and has educated hundreds of public accountants who have looked to GPC faculty to provide them with mandatory continued education courses each year.

Because the professors donate their instructional time, the entire tuition is paid back to the college. Those funds are then used to improve our technology and to provide scholarships... all to the benefit of our students.

For an example, tuition fees earned for Georgia Society accredited classes, taught through GPC, have enabled us to build smart classrooms, and provide endowed scholarships.

We would be hard pressed to find a better partner and on behalf of the entire Georgia Perimeter College community, I thank you for helping us to make a difference.

Conclusion:

The highly successful Georgia Perimeter story adds a new chapter daily. And, it's because of former students and alumni like you plus organizations like the North Perimeter Chapter of G-S-C-P-A that I am able to tell it so well.

And, if you'd like to help tell our story, please let others know how Georgia Perimeter is moving forward with new plans to strengthen our nursing program, to build-out our newest campus in Newton County, to strengthen advising, transfer, and graduation rates, to incorporate service learning into our total educational experience, **and** to roll out innovative economic development and *civic engagement* programs – all of which will take the capital of the college (our faculty) to the communities we serve - with the goal of cultivating win-win partnerships for everyone involved.

And finally, the question has been asked: “What can the Georgia Society do for Georgia Perimeter College?” I would say – continue doing what you're doing now, as our college grows to

meet the demands of metropolitan Atlanta we will always look to the Georgia Society as our partner.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this evening, and I would be very happy to entertain any questions you might have about our plans for the future.