



Georgia-Cumberland Academy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GCA Experiencing Leadership Changes ***Gerard to Retire; Gariepy to Become Principal***

CALHOUN, GEORGIA, January 19, 2022— Greg Gerard has announced his retirement as principal of Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) after 45 years of service in the field of education. Serge Gariepy, currently GCA vice principal, will step into the role of principal after Gerard's departure at the end of June 2022.

Gerard has overseen significant changes and growth during his 20 years at GCA. Under his leadership, the school grew in enrollment from 216 students in 2002-03 to 303 students at the beginning of the current school year. He helped undertake a major capital campaign that raised a total of \$21,648,025 for much needed facility additions on campus and for student and program support. Above all, he focused on creating a school environment that nurtures students both academically and spiritually.

"GCA has been blessed by many generous people who believe in our school and in Adventist Education," said Gerard. "The generous support of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference has allowed us to help many young people be part of the GCA family."

Gerard's career in education began in 1977 when he was hired as a teacher at Shenandoah Valley Academy. He then served as principal at Midland Adventist Academy and Great Lakes Adventist Academy before becoming Director of Development at Andrews University, and later Vice President for Advancement at La Sierra and Olivet College. As he prepares to step down from his fulltime role and into part-time work as an education consultant at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, he feels confident in the direction GCA is heading.

"The future of GCA is bright, with strong leadership in place for next year and the promise of God's blessing," said Gerard.

Serge Gariepy is a key component of the future leadership at GCA. Gariepy has worked at the school for 14 years, the first six as a teacher, and the last eight as vice principal. As he prepares to become principal, his hope for GCA is that it will continue to be a place focused on the mission of knowing, loving, and serving God. A product of Adventist schools himself, Gariepy understands the most important aspect of Christian education.

“I love connecting with students and helping them build better relationships with Jesus,” said Gariepy.

A retirement celebration for Gerard will be held on Saturday, April 2, during GCA’s Alumni Weekend. More details will follow.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-ed boarding high school located in scenic Northwest Georgia that is dedicated to preparing students for their future, both spiritually and academically. More information can be found at gcasda.org.