

**From:** [ASUINFO](#)  
**To:** ["#Students": #Faculty; #Staff](#)  
**Subject:** ASU In The News: Albany Herald- BOR Awards \$1 million Grant to ASU, Dougherty County, RiverQuarium and SWGA Health Fair and Senior Expo, and ASU Partners with Flint RiverQuarium and Dougherty County to Support Environmental Education and Wellness  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 10:00:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [image012.png](#)

---

[ASU in the News top](#)



May 15, 2017



## Board of Regents awards \$1 million grant to ASU, Dougherty County, RiverQuarium

\$750,000 will be used to complete trail from Albany State University to downtown

[y Terry Lewis](#)

May 12, 2017

BOR awards \$1 million grant to ASU, Dougherty County, RiverQuarium



From left, Flint RiverQuarium official Emily Jean McAfee, USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Dougherty County Commission Chairman Chris Cohilas sign memoranda of understanding cementing a new partnership among the three entities on Friday. (Staff Photo: Terry Lewis)

ALBANY — Albany State University, with support from the University System of Georgia and its Board of Regents, announced at a news conference Friday a partnership between the university, the Flint RiverQuarium and Dougherty County to promote environmental education and health and wellness opportunities for the residents and students of Albany and Southwest Georgia.

The USG will provide \$1 million in grant funding for the partnership. That money was obtained from a grant from GEFA (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority).

The strategic partnerships was established through the signing of two memoranda of understanding — one between ASU and the Flint RiverQuarium and one between ASU and Dougherty County.

Up to \$750,000 will go to Albany State, which will work in collaboration with the county to complete the campus tie-in with the Flint River Trails system. The county will provide modifications to the Broad Avenue Bridge so students and others can safely cross the Flint River and continue down the existing trail system or visit downtown Albany.

Albany State President Art Dunning said the partnership will benefit ASU students, the RiverQuarium as an educational tool, and downtown Albany.

"The ASU partnership with the Flint RiverQuarium gives us the opportunity to increase course offerings in biology, chemistry, forensic science, public administration and science education. We can develop new degree programs and minors and enhance service learning options for students and faculty," Dunning said. "Through our partnership with Dougherty County on the Flint River Trails, ASU will be able to address health and wellness issues while contributing to the economic viability of our area by connecting the campus to downtown Albany.

"I expect others will be looking at us to learn from our experience."

Faison Middleton, a member of the RiverQuarium Board, said the facility expects to benefit with the addition of Albany State as a strategic partner.

"This facility belongs to the entire community," Middleton said. "Last year, the Flint RiverQuarium touched more than 50,000 people, and we think this new partnership will help strengthen those numbers."

USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley added that the new partnerships serve as evidence of the BOR's commitment to the region.

"This investment represents the University System of Georgia's commitment to helping strengthen the Albany community and the Southwest Georgia region, and it will help Albany State and other USG institutions advance our mission of teaching, research and public service," Wrigley said. "We think these are good partnerships."

The ASU-Dougherty County partnership supports health and wellness by further developing the Flint River Trails project to connect the ASU campus, which is situated alongside the Flint River, to downtown Albany. The trail connectivity facilitates the university's role in creating a healthier community by reducing sedentary behavior and enabling easier access to the university's health education program and screening events.

"The trails project identifies more than 20 miles of multi-use trails in Dougherty County with the potential to positively change the landscape of the county, increase tourism, and grow economic opportunities by connecting people to outdoor recreation areas, neighborhoods, schools, restaurants and shops," Cohilas said. "This partnership means we can move quickly in getting the Albany State portion of the trail completed and ready for use."

Former County Commission Chair Jeff Sinyard was instrumental in securing the funding, planting seeds in BOR Chair C. Thomas Hopkins' and former chair Philip A. Wilheit's minds during a trip to South Dakota seven months ago.

Hopkins recalled, "We couldn't go any place without running into him. That guy's a bulldog."

Fittingly, Sinyard offered closing remarks.

"We are excited and appreciate our new partners," the businessman said. "The educational piece of Albany State will strengthen and enhance the aquarium's missions. It will strengthen and enhance Albany State University as we merge and build a better and brighter future. You're forward-thinking, Regents. The educational needs of Southwest Georgia — especially as it relates to water — are incredibly timely. We know what the water wars are, we know where we're located and we know farming is the biggest revenue generator in Georgia.

"We know the study of water and water resources in this aquarium will have a big impact on Georgia."

© Copyright 2017 Albany Herald, 126 North Washington Street Albany, GA

###



### **SWGA Health Fair and Senior Expo conducted Saturday at Albany Mall**

The Albany Herald hosted the SWGA Health Fair and Senior Expo on Saturday, and organizers say they were pleased with the turnout. The event at the Albany Mall included free health screenings and information on



community resources, senior housing options, financial planning, lifelong learning, home needs and nutrition....Albany State University gave out information concerning health care education programs it offers. . [Read more](#)

© Copyright 2017 Albany Herald, 126 North Washington Street Albany, GA

###

Albany CEO



### [ASU Partners with Flint RiverQuarium & Dougherty County to Support Environmental Education and Wellness](#)

**Albany CEO**, 05.15.2017

**Albany State University**, with support from the University System of Georgia (USG), announced Friday a partnership between the... [Read more](#)

Copyright © 2017 Albany CEO

cid:image014.png@01D0CE98.5D2C9CA0

