

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Strayer University Expands to Savannah



L-R: Buddy Carter, State Rep., District 159; Tina Bonifacio, Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce; Otis Johnson, Savannah Mayor; Kim McClendon, Campus Director; Aaron Ard, Campus Dean; and Robert S. Silberman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Grand Opening Ceremony for University's Eighth Georgia Campus Focuses on Adult Higher Education Strayer University, a leading post-secondary adult education institution, opened

a campus in Savannah on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 with a grand opening luncheon focused on the role that higher education plays in strengthening the regional economy. The program included remarks by Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson; state Rep. Buddy

Carter, District 159; and Tina Bonifacio, vice president of workforce and economic development of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

"As today's economy continues to embrace globalization, attaining a bachelor's or master's degree has become essential for professionals to gain a competitive edge and for long term career advancement," said Robert Silberman, chairman and chief executive officer of Strayer Education Inc., the holding company for Strayer University.

"Strayer University's strength lies in helping working adults gain the education they need while they continue on their career paths," he said.

Johnson noted that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 20 percent of adults in Savannah have a college education; statewide the figure is only 24 percent of adults with a degree.

"The only thing standing between our citizens and career advancement is a college degree," Johnson said. "The need for a degree has never been more urgent than it is today, and I am pleased to welcome Strayer University to Savannah as a partner in higher education."

For Carter, an educated workforce is what makes a community attractive to prospective employers.

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Early Learning Center to open in Midtown Savannah January, 2009

Savannah will welcome a new option for progressive and unique early childhood learning in January of 2009. BEST Academy is an exciting, new endeavor that will offer young children and families of Savannah a fresh choice in early childhood education. The philosophy and motto for Best Academy is Better Education Starts Today.

Nancy Isaacson, a long-time resident of Savannah, has leased the educational building of True Light Bible Institute for the purpose of opening this unique early learning center in Midtown Savannah. Nancy is quick to point out that "The church and congregation have been very supportive of our project, even though Best Academy will be a totally secular and diverse school. Every child should have the opportunity for quality education and our goal is to be affordable and welcoming to all."

The first step was to build a clean, safe, invigorating facility with room to grow. The facility has been totally remodeled so that it will be bright and inviting for the students. BEST Academy will include a twelve thousand square foot playground that will offer

students exercise, interaction and fun! They believe in a complete education of the body, mind and character.

BEST's curriculum is based on a program called ScienceStart. Science is exciting for young children because they are naturally interested in the every day world around them. From this base, language, vocabulary, reasoning, math and curiosity are all integrated into the daily lesson plans. The daily program also includes dance, yoga, dramatic play, arts, and music.

"We understand that what we offer to our students and the community will be taught and implemented by our staff. We are fortunate to have found and hired Keara Reilly as the director of BEST Academy," Mrs. Isaacson said. Keara shares the commitment and philosophy for the children of BEST Academy, and Savannah as a whole. Keara has a degree in early childhood education and is young and passionate about providing the best education and the best developmental environment for early learning.

Nancy and Keara invite you to arrange a visit to the school. You may contact them at best.academy1@gmail.com.



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Learning
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