Georgia Tech Campus Families

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**Background**

**Target Population:** Students with partners and/or children.

**Motivation:** Provide support to students and postdocs for overcoming challenges arising from managing professional and personal life of self and dependents (immigration challenges, childcare, family responsibilities, etc.)

**Objective:** To understand and identify issues, create a family-oriented community, increase visibility, and establish a support network.

**Initiatives**

**Family Storytime**

**Purpose:** To create a moment and space for campus families to meet

- Family Storytime is a registered youth program at GaTech.
- We met weekly from August 29 to November 22, 2019 for reading followed by crafts at the library.
- Volunteers from the Spouse’s and Women’s club read weekly, with about 3 participants of ages 1-5 per session. At least 10 different families participated in the program.

https://library.gatech.edu/news/campus-parents-find-unique-opportunity-library

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**Survey**

**Purpose:** To better understand the needs of campus families

**Outcome:**

- Was family life something you considered when deciding to apply or accept a position at GT?
- Please comment on how supported you feel about family life at GT

- "The GT spouses partner and family group and the English class for spouses/partners from language institute was the first support that I got from GT."
- "I don't feel that GT is supporting my family life!"
- "I appreciate the Facebook group and the postdoc social events. I wish there were more changing tables on campus for when I bring my daughter in to the office."
- "I would like to see more events for children."

**Facebook page for students and partners**

**Purpose:** To create an online community to share information and connect families.

**Outcome:**

- Currently 39 members.
- Our posts have an average of 15 views.
- The responses to our posts suggest that people are engaged but not participating.
- A couple of instances of people asking for help, expressing their opinions and taking the lead in meeting/getting to know more people.

**Future steps**

- Centralize the initiatives under the Family Student Club. Recruit more people and ensure it is an organization that can roll on its own.
- Continue to understand and find avenues of support for the community.

**Family Student Club - GSFPF At Ga Tech**

**Purpose:** To create a club recognized by GT.

**Benefits of becoming a register organization:**

- Visibility (campus publicity),
- Ability to host events,
- Ability to get funding

**Outcome:**

- We are in the process of chartering this student organization.

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