



**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
OF GEORGIA**

# Graduate and Professional Education Assessment in South Georgia

**Dr. Tristan Denley**

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
and Chief Academic Officer

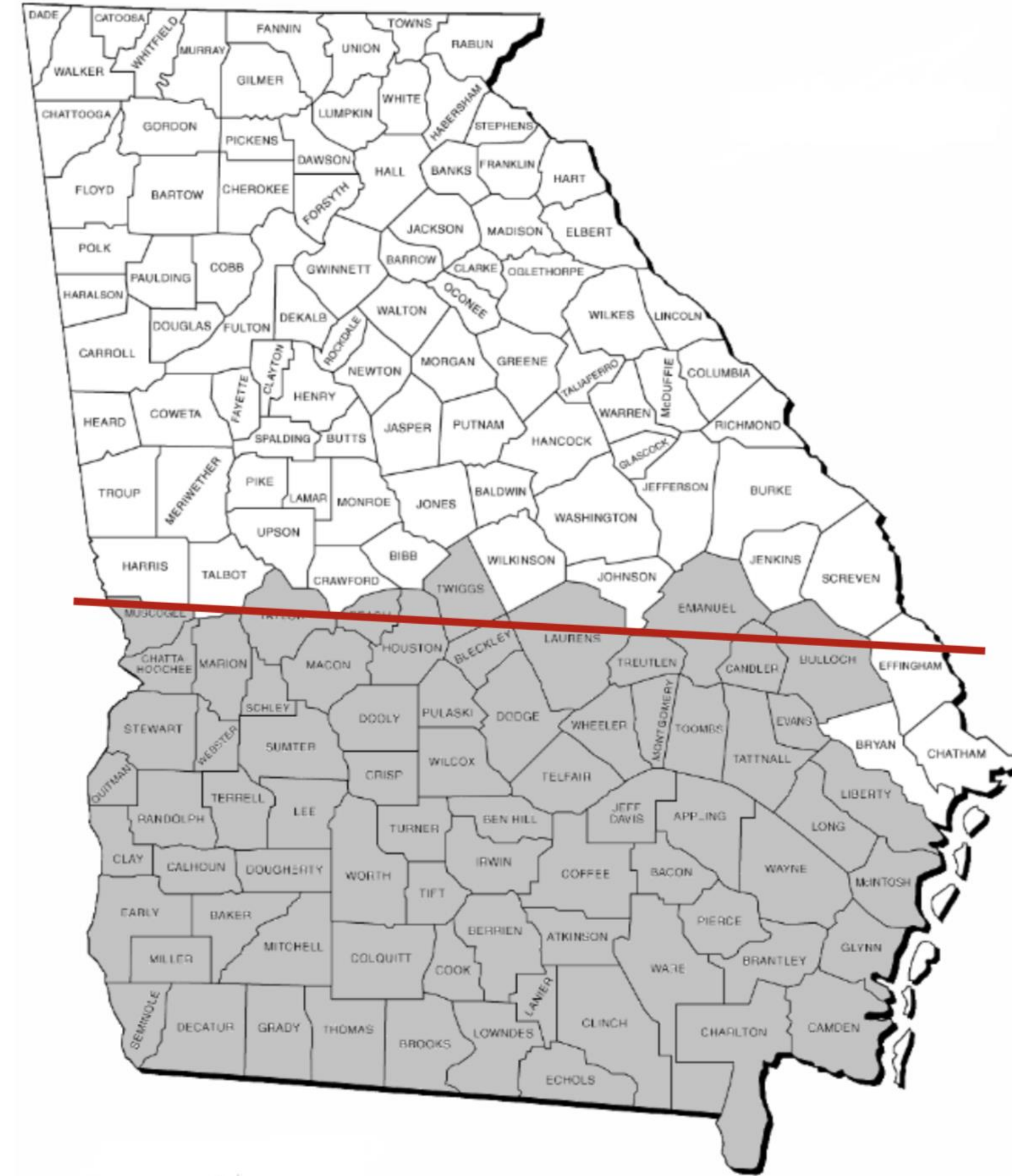
University System of Georgia

[Tristan.Denley@usg.edu](mailto:Tristan.Denley@usg.edu)

Twitter: @TDenley

# Graduate and Professional Education Assessment in South Georgia

- Study carried out by **MGT Consulting**
- **72 County** area in South Georgia
- Economic, demographic and educational data
- Input provided by Legislators
- **Eleven** regional focus groups involving more than 100 regional stakeholders



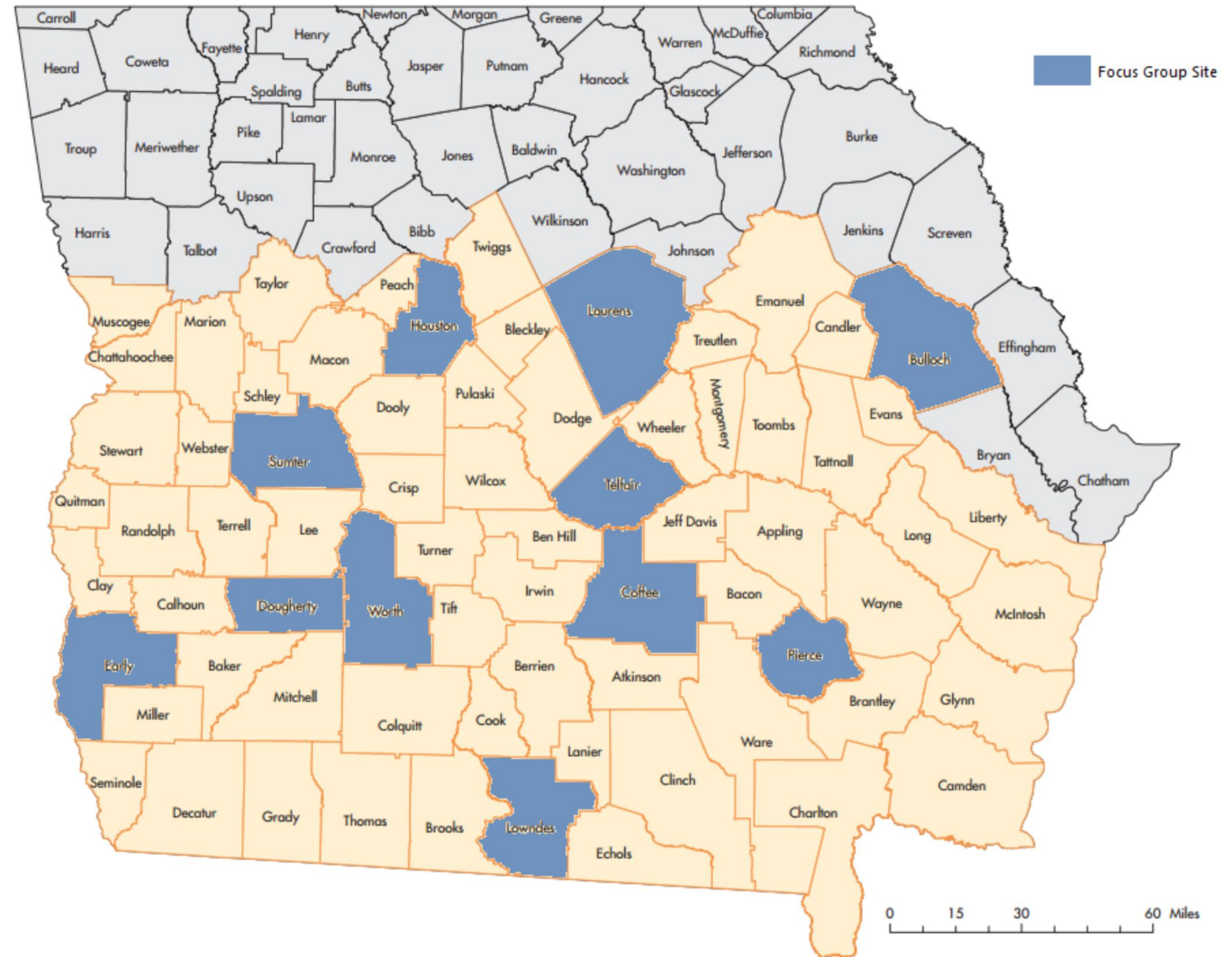
# Graduate and Professional Education Assessment in South Georgia

- Study carried out by **MGT Consulting**
- **72 County** area in South Georgia
- Economic, demographic and educational data
- Input provided by Legislators
- **Eleven** regional focus groups involving more than 100 regional stakeholders



# Graduate and Professional Education Assessment in South Georgia

- Study carried out by **MGT Consulting**
- **72 County** area in South Georgia
- Economic, demographic and educational data
- Input provided by Legislators
- **Eleven** regional focus groups involving more than 100 regional stakeholders



# Economic and Demographic Data

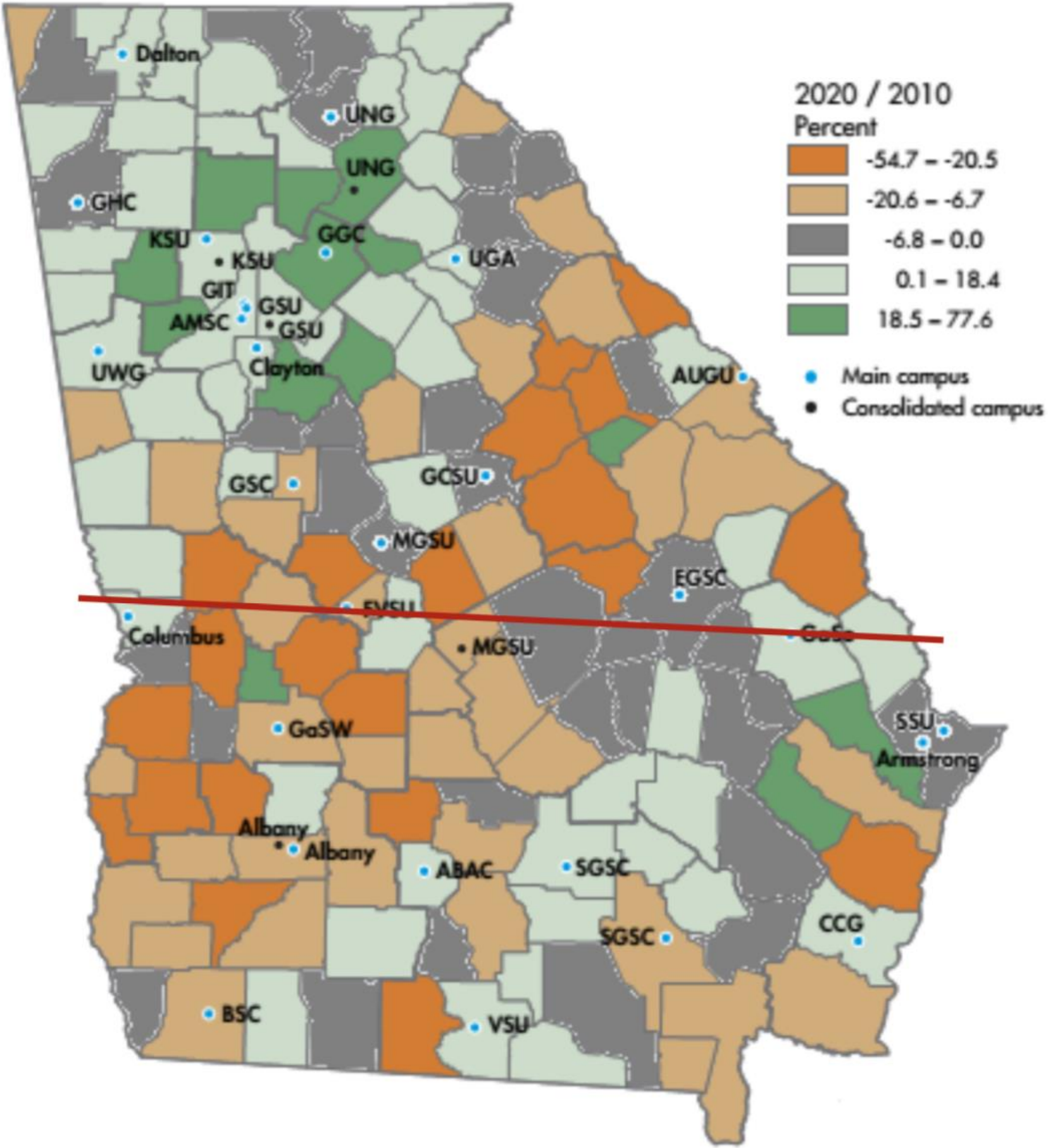
	Entire State	Study region
Population	10 Million	1.9 Million (19%)
Population Density	288 persons/sq mile	63 persons/sq mile
Per Capita Income	\$42,159	\$31,000



# Population Projections

POPULATION CHANGE AGE 15-24 BETWEEN 2010 TO 2020, BY COUNTY

Projected Population Growth by 2030		
	Entire State	Study region
All ages	12%	5%
15-24 year olds	12%	<b>-5%</b>
24-44 year olds	9%	3%

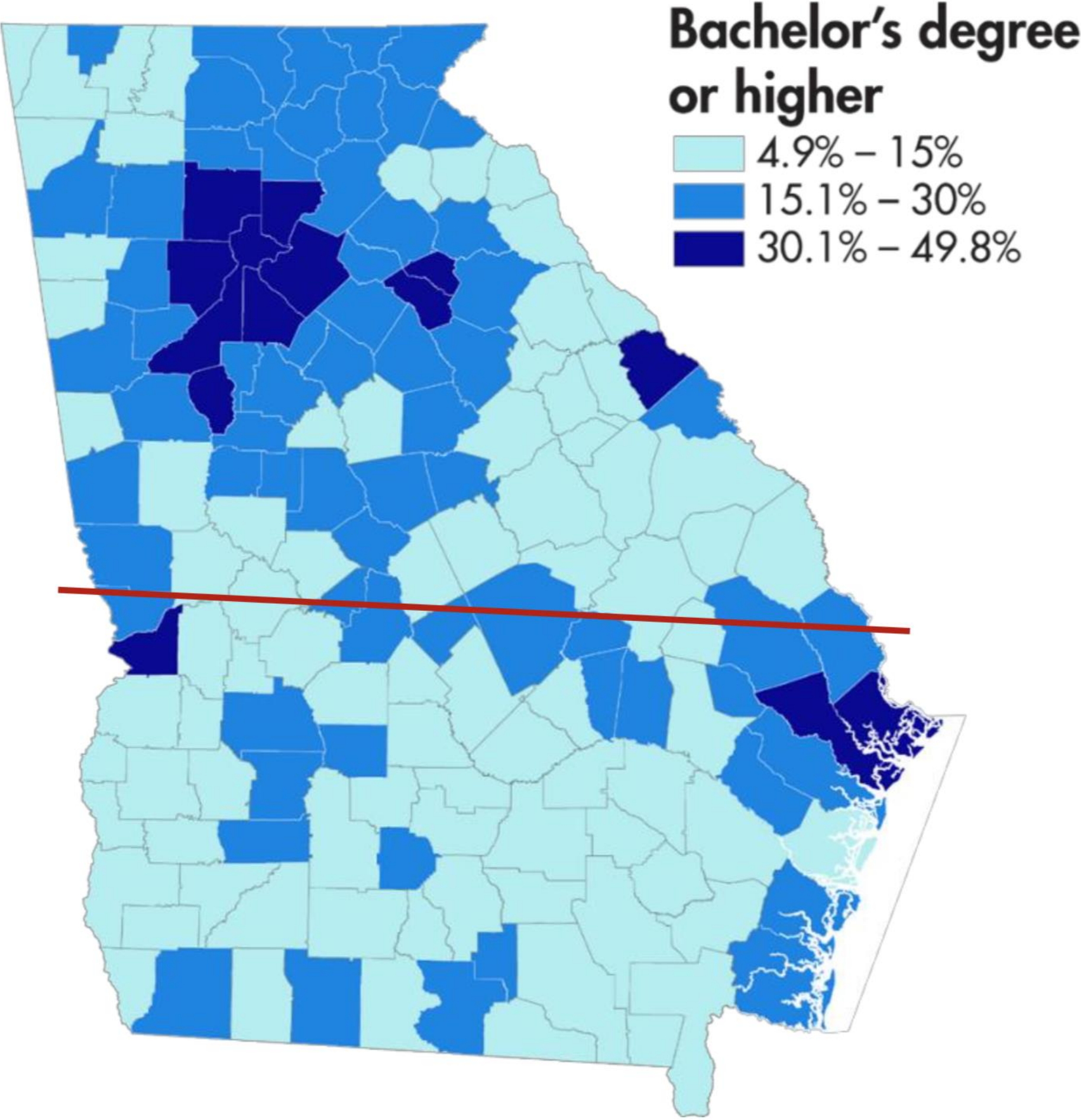


Source: University System of Georgia, 2018.



# Underlying Educational Attainment

Projected Population Growth by 2030		
	Entire State	Study region
Graduate or Professional Degree	11%	7%
Bachelors Degree	18%	11%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2018.



# Market Demand: Future Workforce Needs through 2024

- Approximately 1% of all annual job openings (330) will require doctoral or professional degrees
- Approximately 0.8% of all annual job openings (260) will require master's degrees
- The data and the focus groups agreed that the greatest need was for more residents with Bachelor's degrees.

Occupations with largest workforce need through 2024		
Doctoral Professional Degree	Physician/Surgeon	570
	Physical Therapist	290
	Lawyer	220
Master's Degrees	Nurse Practitioners	310
	Healthcare Social Workers	220
	Educational Administrators	100
	Speech Pathologists	90
	Physician Assistants	70





# Current USG Graduate and Professional Education Trends

- Six USG institutions have their main campus in the 72 count region
- Together the institutions offer 42 Post Baccalaureate Certificate programs, 86 Master's degrees, 12 Educational Specialist degrees and 12 Doctoral degrees
- Graduate Degree awards in the study region have increased 26% since 2011
- USG awards 20% of annual graduate degrees to residents of the study region
- Enrollment in online graduate degrees in the study region has increased 80% since 2011

# Recommendations from MGTs Report

- ❖ **#1** - The University System should not develop new physical sites to serve the South Georgia region with regard to graduate programming.
- ❖ **#2** - The USG should explore ways to deliver more graduate programming and the ability to complete an advanced degree through existing USG educational sites across South Georgia, paying particular attention to those sites located in the geographic “access gap.” As appropriate to respond to demand, the USG should consider utilizing the full cadre of physical assets at its existing delivery sites across the region.
- ❖ **#3** - Access to the USG’s extensive existing portfolio of baccalaureate programs could be improved in the region if residents were more fully informed about ways to make pursuit of four-year degrees affordable and manageable. Baccalaureate enrollments will need to increase before
- ❖ **#4** - The USG should continue the existing delivery options for advanced degrees and credentials for teachers and education administrators currently available to residents of South Georgia, and explore how those models could be adapted to provide access to other existing advanced degree programs.
- ❖ **#5** - Establishment of advanced healthcare degree programs in the area, particularly a medical school, is not recommended. This action would not fully address the issue of physician shortages in the region and would be unlikely to provide significantly greater medical education access to local residents. A more direct way of impacting physician availability in the region would be the development of additional medical residency and clinical opportunities throughout South Georgia.
- ❖ **#6** - The USG should continue to develop and refine alternative delivery models (hybrid or multi-modal access) available to South Georgia residents, leveraging its multi-institution resources and physical assets to offer graduate programs to a geographically distributed cohort. This effort would complement the growing on-line delivery options and could be achieved in combination with the expansion of face-to-face offerings and/or periodic touchpoints at existing sites in the region.



# UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

**Dr. Tristan Denley**

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
and Chief Academic Officer

University System of Georgia

[Tristan.Denley@usg.edu](mailto:Tristan.Denley@usg.edu)

Twitter: @TDenley