



South Georgia State College

STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Okefenokee Swamp Park and South Georgia State College Education & Training Alliance

Okefenokee Swamp Park, a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization located in Waycross, Georgia, seeks to establish a strategic alliance with South Georgia State College, a public higher education institution with campuses in Douglas and Waycross Georgia. Each shares an educational mission:

“South Georgia State College ... is a multi-campus, student-centered institution offering high-quality associate and select baccalaureate degree programs. The institution provides innovative teaching and learning experiences, a rich array of student activities and athletic programs, access to unique ecological sites, and residential options to create a diverse, globally-focused, and supportive learning environment.”

“The mission of the Okefenokee Swamp Park is to promote ecological tourism and education by providing a convenient point of entry into the Okefenokee offering an authentic opportunity for learning about the wildlife, culture and natural beauty of the “Land of the Trembling Earth”

This statement of strategic alliance identifies the roles and responsibilities of the parties in development of an education and training alliance that will define a more formal business relationship between the parties. Nothing in this agreement is intended to create rights and/or obligations to third parties or persons.

Vision

The Okefenokee Swamp Park and South Georgia State College Education & Training Alliance is poised to contribute to the City of Waycross and surrounding communities, the University System of Georgia, South Georgia State College students, and Okefenokee Swamp Park visitors.

The Okefenokee Swamp Park and South Georgia State College Education & Training Alliance will offer training necessary to respond to the needs of the community as well as state, national, and international markets. This vision is understood by both parties to be a potential driving force to successfully accomplish its mission.

Mission

The mission of the Okefenokee Swamp Park and South Georgia State College Education & Training Alliance is to bring together available local intellectual, financial, and educational resources capable of achieving the outcomes set forth in its vision statement.

The mission's overview consists of:

- Partnering with educational institutions, business entities, and state agencies for educational development;
- Providing networking and other social opportunities for local workforce development concerns;
- Pursuing funding opportunities from business, industry, and government that will help to further the Okefenokee Swamp Park and South Georgia State College Education & Training Alliance mission.

Purpose & Scope

It is the parties' intent that the training alliance efforts will foster multiple uses for professional skills enhancement development, educational purposes, and workforce development. The alliance activities include, but are not limited to, the following programs and activities:

Faculty & Staff – The alliance will be a concerted effort to utilize both parties' faculty and staff in a productive manner in alignment with the alliance mission and purpose.

Training & Facilities – The alliance will create partnership arrangements with South Georgia State College and Okefenokee Swamp Park in order to provide relevant work-based learning opportunities for the College's students and community workers. Customer support, entrepreneurial training, small business development, and other areas will be explored for possible projects.

Responsibilities

Each party is responsible for providing input into development of the alliance based on their respective areas of expertise.

Termination

This agreement shall remain in effect until terminated by either or both parties. Both parties agree that neither party has nor will have any financial or other support obligations to the business entity other than as set forth above or later agreed to in writing. Should either party choose to terminate its involvement in the alliance or future business partnership endeavors after fulfilling its commitments set forth in the Agreement, it shall do so in a manner to avoid disruption of existing activities and in such event shall have no further liability to the alliance or the other party.

