Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that the State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP), the official workplace giving campaign for state employees and the University System of Georgia, is underway for fall 2015. The SCCP gives each of us an opportunity to be an instrument of positive change by supporting health, human services, environmental and educational charitable programs, such as United Way, the American Heart Association and other agencies important to our community. This year's theme is "Ready, Set, Give!" I give to SCCP because I believe that the agencies supported by the campaign are making a difference in our community, our country and around the globe.

The SCCP invites every state employee to take advantage of the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of others by donating to any of the more than 1,300 charities available. You have a real choice in where your donation goes. Follow your passion or support a cause that resonates with you personally. In selecting the payroll deduction option, you will be able to effectively budget your donation through incremental deductions and ensure charities are receiving a continual cash flow throughout the year. For as little as \$1 per month, you can make a difference. Now, more than ever, charities need our help.

Our local SCCP campaign will run until Nov. 15, 2015. During the campaign, I encourage you to take a few minutes out of your busy day to attend the Wellness & Benefits Fair on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the GRU Wellness Center (1459 Laney Walker Blvd.) when some local charities will be present. Please visit with their representatives to learn about the vital services that nonprofit organizations are providing in our community. For new employees or first-time givers, please complete a pledge form. To previous SCCP donors, thank you for your generosity!

The efforts we make today help shape the future for those in need. Please join me and our SCCP Agency Coordinator, Alyssa Haskins (alhaskins@gru.edu), by supporting the 2015 campaign and making this year even more successful than the last.

Thank you,

Gretchen Caughman, 2015 SCCP Honorary Chair Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Georgia Regents University, soon to be Augusta University